

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Member: Cal-West Association — Since 1964



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The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



“To Discover and Grow in God’s Grace and Love”

Vol. 378 No. 6

Published Monthly

June 1, 2026

Pastor Jim & Penny’s

*50th Anniversary
Celebration!*

Sunday, June 14th

10:45am Worship with Guest Speaker
Lunch Celebration to Follow!



“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

FCCA Updates

Pastor Jim Schibsted & Penny Schibsted 50th Anniversary

Sunday, June 14th; 10:45am Worship: Celebrating Love, Lunch to Follow

All are invited to come and celebrate Pastor Jim and Penny's 50th Anniversary! Pastor Jim's brother, Steve, will be preaching on love during worship, and there will be a lunch celebration to follow. Good music, Mediterranean food and Greek dancing are part of the plan! No gifts, please—your presence is the gift.

Delores Francis Memorial Service

Thursday, June 25th; 11am Service with a lunch to follow

Delores Francis warmed our hearts with her smile and with the beautiful afghan blankets she made for so many. *All are invited to come and celebrate Delores's life.*

Women's Lunch: Picnic Theme

Monday, June 15th; 11:30am-1pm; Location: Gini Castellano's Home

Join women from the church for lunch, fellowship, a devotion and always a fun activity. RSVP at fccaoffice@gmail.com for more information.

MomCo

4th Tuesdays through Summer (June, July and August) from 10:30am-12pm

***Babies welcome, no childcare**

MomCo exists to connect mothers with life-giving community. Moms of children ages 0-18 welcome. We are also very grateful to have Penny Schibsted attending as a Mentor Mom.

4th of July

Church members will be gathering at a park in Yorba Linda for the 4th of July. More information to come. Save the date!



Mission Corner

Thank you for participating in the note writing project for the Seafarer's Friends mission. It is good that we were able to participate in some way towards this Intergenerational Project. Also, it is good to learn a little bit about this very long operating mission that is supported by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. I hope you enjoy these articles about Seafarer's Friends. —Linda Freud, Missions Chair

A Note from the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches:

Support the 2026 Intergenerational Mission Project

We need your help to make the 2026 NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference Intergenerational Mission Project a success! This year, we will be filling hundreds of ditty bags for Seafarer's Friend.

Seafarer's Friend is one of the oldest missions of the Congregational Way. Nearly 200 years ago, Seafarer's Friend was founded with the mission of supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the merchant mariners who made life in New England possible. One of the ways they meet those needs is through their ditty bag ministry.

For centuries, sailors have kept small cloth bags known as ditty bags that contain sewing kits, grooming items, spare clothes, and other small personal items. Each year, Seafarer's Friend collects items from numerous churches and community groups to help stock these bags, and, during the holiday season, they pass them out to the seafarers in their ports. While each ditty bag contains different items, they try to ensure that every seafarer gets a similarly packed bag.

This is where you come in. As part of this Intergenerational Mission Project, we will be filling hundreds of these bags, and we need your support in gathering the items that will make them up. From chapstick to deodorant, socks, playing cards, and **much more**, there are many items your church can collect in service of this project. Additionally, we would love for the members of your church to write encouraging letters for the mariners or craft colorful pictures to be included in the bags.

Thank you for enriching the lives of seafarers worldwide!



Seafarer's Friend

NACCC Mission Partner Spotlight

December 2025

Visit www.seafarersfriend.org to learn more!



Seafarer's Friend brings the love of Christ to the New England maritime community through ship visits to seafarers and hosting seafarers ashore.

Their support of seafarers includes addressing concerns onboard their ships with care through advocacy and mediation.



Seafarer's Friend's ministry connects seafarers to a compassionate support network grounded in Christian fellowship and hope.



Through chaplaincy, counseling, and the gift of God's Word, they offer spiritual nourishment and faith-based connection.



Guest Speaker: Jiri Novak



Jiri was born and raised in the former Czechoslovakia, where he served in the military behind the Iron Curtain before eventually immigrating to the United States. In the U.S., Jiri came to know the LORD Jesus Christ as his LORD and Savior—a transformative encounter that forever changed the course of his life. Answering God's call to ministry, Jiri began serving in the mission field as a church planter and radio program founder, dedicated to strengthening and encouraging local believers.

Jiri's ministry experience includes serving as Assistant Pastor at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa under the leadership of Pastor Chuck Smith, followed by his tenure as Senior Pastor of Lincoln Avenue Baptist Church. Building upon these foundations, he went on to establish Koinonia Ministry International, where he continues to serve as Lead Pastor, guiding the ministry's vision, outreach, and commitment to Christ-centered community.

He resides in Orange, California, with his wife, Cristin, and their two children. Jiri's life and ministry remain steadfastly devoted to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, equipping believers for service, and fostering genuine Christian fellowship.

When: Monday, June 8th

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Where: McKenzie Hall

Cost: \$12

Enjoy the music, as well as the humor from the football coach, Tom Meiss. We will have an excellent meal planned with tables always filled with good fellowship.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com

A Letter from Pastor Jim

“Celebrating 50 Years of Marriage!”



This year Penny and I are celebrating 50 wonderful years of marriage. Looking back, I am reminded how quickly life moves and how thankful I am for the journey we have shared together.

It all began in the fall of 1974 during my senior year of college. I met an attractive girl with long brown hair who transferred from Cal Poly Pomona into Azusa Pacific University’s nursing program because she wanted to become a medical missionary. From the very beginning there was something special about her so I decided to ask her out on a date.

On our first date we went dancing at Cal Tech. We laughed, danced, and simply enjoyed being there together. It was such a fun evening I wanted to see her again. When I asked her out a second time, Penny responded, “I don’t want to get serious.”

Without missing a beat, I replied, “It’s not like I want to marry you. I just want to go out again and get to know you.” Thankfully, she agreed to go out again, we fell in love and two years later got married!

Right after returning from our honeymoon, Penny and I packed up with my sister and another friend and drove 54 straight hours to Windsor, Ontario, Canada. *(Pastor’s Letter Continued on Page 7)*

Letter Continued... (Cont. from page 2)

We had accepted summer ministry opportunities through a Presbyterian Church. Along with 16 others, we worked together to establish a youth program for the summer.

It was an incredible experience. Being young, we were full of energy, and excited about serving God and helping others. We learned about teamwork, faith, sacrifice, and trusting God together in another country far from home. Looking back now, those unforgettable experiences helped shape the foundation of our marriage. Those early years of marriage and the years following have been filled with adventure.

Over the past five decades we have faced joys and challenges, celebrated milestones, traveled together, raised a family, served in ministry, and built countless memories. Through every season, Penny has been my partner and encourager, as well as my best friend. We’ve been very blest with three children and their spouses as well as seven grandchildren!

Fifty years of marriage is not built on perfection. Rather, it is built on love, faith, forgiveness, patience, laughter, and commitment. It is learning to walk together through all the changing seasons of life while trusting God’s guidance each step of the way. Forty-four of our fifty years of marriage have been spent at the First Congregational Church of Anaheim. You’ve watched our family grow up and have been so supportive of us over the years. As I was thinking about how to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary I thought I want to celebrate it with our family, friends and the dear people of our church who have been with us on our journey of faith. I hope you can join us on June 14th. My brother Steve will preach on “Love” during our 10:45am worship service. Following the service, we will have a reception on the lawn under the trees. Mediterranean food will be served and a dance floor will be set up for those wanting to learn a very simple Greek dance. Let Penny or myself know if you are able to join us. We don’t want any gifts. Your presence is the best gift of all.

I thank God for bringing Penny into my life all those many years ago. What began with a dance at Cal Tech became a lifelong journey of love, faith and partnership. And after 50 years together, I can honestly say I am grateful she agreed to go out with me again.

Gratefully,
Pastor Jim



Connect

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for Kids
Children are welcome to leave with the teachers before the sermon, and meet in the first room of the Griffith House. .

Staff
Dr. Jim Schibsted — Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Raasch — Assoc. Pastor
Susan Fraker — Office Assistant
Tyler Robinson — Music Director
Angella Kissoon — Accountant
Linda Freud — Missions
Chuck Pennington — J.O.G.
Sandya Costa — Montessori Dir.

Other Ways to Connect
Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube:
First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

FCCA email:
fccaoffice@gmail.com

FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
Monday, June 8th
12-1:30 pm (See page 5)

MomCo
4th Tuesdays for Summer:
June, July & August
10:30am-12pm
**Babies welcome, No childcare.*
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Registration: \$37

Women’s Lunch
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11:30 am-1:00 pm
Gini Castellano’s Home
Please RSVP to fccaoffice@gmail.com.