

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



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

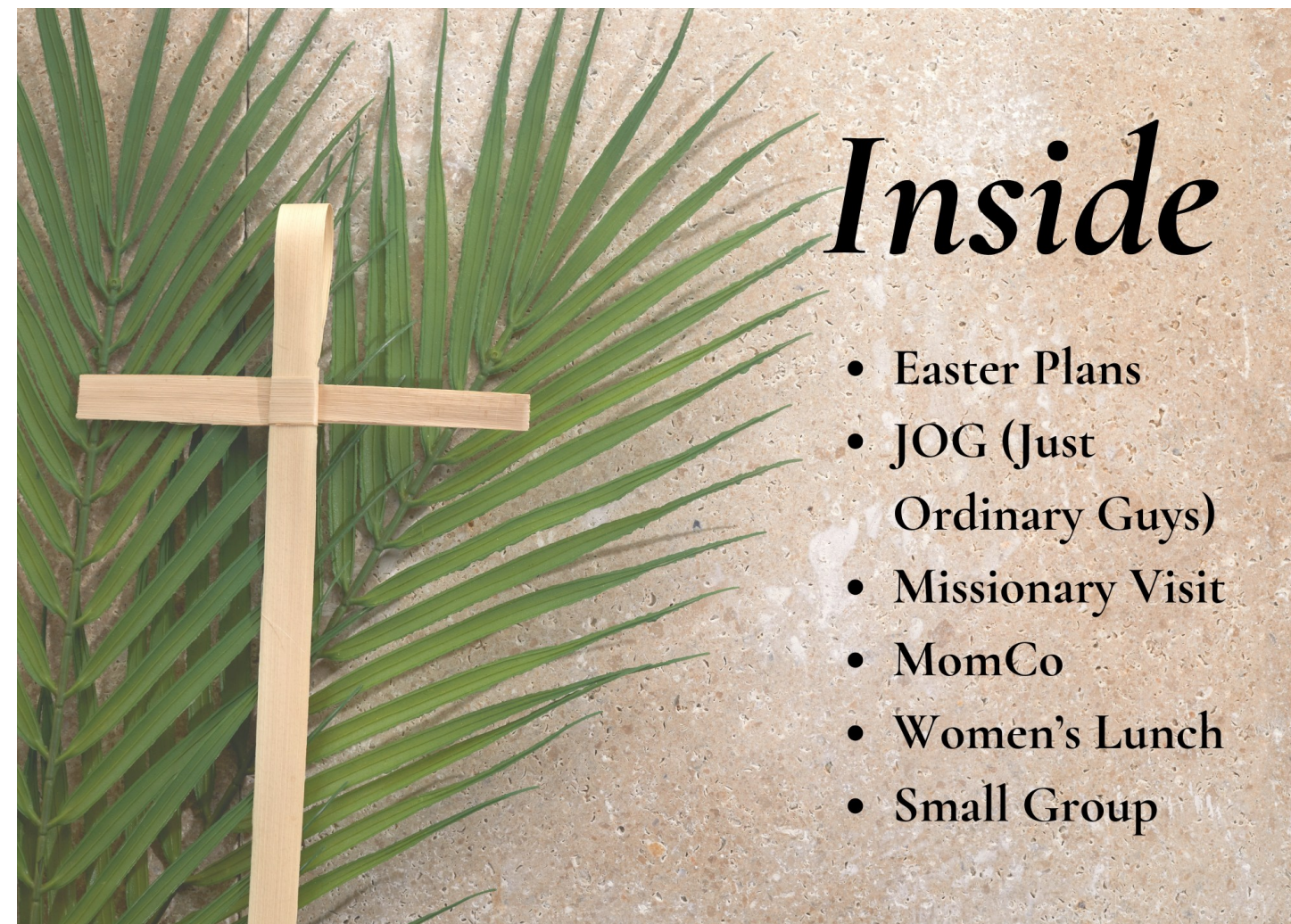
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“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

A Letter from Pastor Emily



As we move toward Easter, plans are coming together for a meaningful Maundy Thursday and Easter morning. On Thursday, April 2nd, we will gather for our Candlelight Communion Service in the Griffith House Chapel at 7pm, remembering the Last Supper and reflecting on Jesus' last moments on earth. Then on Sunday, April 5th, we will gather to celebrate that Jesus is risen! We will have an Easter breakfast on the lawn and during breakfast there will be a bounce house for the kids to enjoy. We will also have an Easter Egg Hunt that will take place during Sunday School. We are inviting interested campus churches to join us for 9:30am breakfast and 10:45am worship. We hope to see you for this special week in the church year!

Our current small group study is on Max Lucado's "How Happiness Happens," and participation has been wonderful! The study's focus on the biblical "one another" verses is encouraging participants to consider where we place our focus. Pursuing happiness itself does not seem to be as fruitful as pouring our energy into loving others well. If you are interested in joining, there is always room at the table (or on Zoom!).

I continue to be grateful that we have launched a MomCo group at the church. Last month, one of the meeting topics invited moms to consider how to nurture resourceful kids. (Continued on Page 7)

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.
Sandy 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:
fccaooffice@gmail.com

FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
Monday, March 9th
12-1:30 pm (See page 5)

MomCo
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
10:30am-12pm
**Babies welcome, No childcare.*
MomCo exists to nurture the heart and soul of moms.
Registration: \$37, Scholarships available

Women's Lunch
Monday, April 20th
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Bev Aye's Home
Please contact the church at fccaoffice@gmail.com to RSVP and for more info.

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

The topic led to meaningful reflection on our own childhoods and how we might meet our children where they are while encouraging them to grow into resourceful adults. Other topics have considered care for ourselves as moms and growth in our relationships. Meetings include good treats, coffee and tea of course! The group also enjoys lighthearted activities to get to know each other and to simply have fun. I am excited to see how this community grows and evolves!

Finally, we are excited to share that JOG (Just Ordinary Guys) is revitalizing this spring. We look forward to welcoming Andrew Bush, who will be speaking both in Sunday worship on March 8th and at JOG (Just Ordinary Guys) on Monday, March 9th. Andrew brings a deep heart for peacemaking and long-standing ministry engagement in Palestine and Israel. His perspectives will offer both challenge and hope for faithful Christian witness in a divided world. We hope you will plan to attend and invite a friend to be part of the conversation.

As I have reflected about where we are as a church this year, I continue to realize how much I love our community. Our strength is and will always be in our love for God and one another. The small group study has been good for my soul, and I hope it has been good for others as well. I really believe our joy flows more freely when we invest in loving well. May we continue to find our strength in the Lord and in our love.

March Birthdays

- 2 **Linda Freud**
- 3 **Samuil Stanev**
- 7 **Donald Stephens**
- 11 **Doug Ramsey**
- 12 **Rishon Krishna**
- 12 **Kevin Rapp**
- 13 **Jim Weddell**
- 18 **Susan Cannady**
- 24 **La Nona Hoke**
- 26 **Noel Hummel**
- 28 **Raffia Thomas**
- 28 **Rachel Haas**
- 30 **Bev Aye**

FCCA Updates

Holy Week & Easter

During Holy Week, we will have a Maundy Thursday service in the Griffith House Chapel on Thursday, April 2 at 7pm. This is a time to gather, remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples and to take communion together. We invite you to join us for this intimate, reflective service.

Then, we look forward to celebrating together on Easter morning! We will have breakfast on the lawn at 9:30am with a bounce house for the kids. Worship will start at 10:45 and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School. We are inviting campus churches to join as well. We hope to see you there!



Small Group Study: How Happiness Happens by Max Lucado

Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm in person or via Zoom through the end of March

“In a world searching for happiness, bestselling author Max Lucado provides a personal plan for a life filled with lasting and fulfilling joy, supported by Jesus' teaching and modern research.”

MomCo

2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10:30am-12pm, *Babies welcome, no childcare

We are excited to have launched a MomCo group here at the church! MomCo exists to nurture the hearts and souls of mothers and to connect them with a mom community. Moms of children ages 0-18 welcome. We are also very grateful to have a couple of Mentor Moms attending as well.

Women's Lunch

Monday, April 20th; 11:30am-1pm

Location: Bev's Home; RSVP at fccaoffice@gmail.com for more information

Join women from the church for lunch, fellowship, a devotion and always a fun activity.

Mission Corner



MISSION REPORT – 2025

In 1982 Chaplain John Lindvall and Mission Ministries formed a bond with our church to emphasize the Great Commission to “*go and make disciples...*” For the past 43 years our church has actively supported missionaries and programs all over the world and here at home.

2025 brought many special mission needs and projects which I will highlight below:

In January, right in our own backyard of Los Angeles County a devastating, history making fire destroyed two cities and many lives. The National Assoc. of Congregational Churches launched a OGHs (One Great Hour of Sharing) campaign. We raised and \$2,012.00 for this cause.

In May, after the International Congregational Fellowship meeting in Greece, our members who attended reported on the outstanding humanitarian job of the Refugee Camp in Thessaloniki. \$1,000.00 was sent to the Greek Evangelical Church of Thessaloniki to support the work they are doing for refugees.

In the fall, Pastor Jim had the opportunity of participating once again at the World Revival Conference in Uganda. We were able to send \$900.00 to support the amazing work at the conference.

Throughout this year generous contributions designated for Mission Ministries Philippines (MMP) were made by FCCA members. Three times this year we were able to send funds to support their preschool educational programs: \$1,615.00 in April, \$470.00 in September, and \$1,050 in December for a total of \$3,135.00.

(Cont. on Page 4)

The year ended with another generous outpouring of funds designated to the Christmas Food Basket project at the Panamerican Institute (PAI) in Tijuana. We sent \$1,480.00 which supplied almost 25 baskets for the students' families.

All of the above giving was what the mission board refers to as designated gifts. That is when members earmark their donation to a particular mission or campaign. Your mission board then allocates that money specifically to your designation. But there are many other missions, both local and international, that have been supported over many years by our church. Funds for those missions come from a general mission fund and in October we were very low in funds to send to these missions. So, to coincide with World Wide Communion Sunday your mission board asked you to remember our missionaries across the world by making a general mission contribution. Also, the Sunday School teachers and students ran a mission bake sale that month and happily our general fund was increased by \$923.00.

\$500 to NACCC for Christ to the Villages, Nigeria

\$500 to NACCC for Panamerican Institute, Mexico

\$300 to NACCC for Congregational Mission of Jardin America, Argentina

\$300 to Macedonia Outreach Ministry, Greece

\$400 to CRU for Mike and Stacy Westover

\$450 to The Salvation Army, Santa Ana Donation Center

\$150 to Grandma's House of Hope

Sharing God's love to others both near and far is what we are called to do. The following Scriptures say it all. Thanks to each and every one of you who make this possible by sharing your blessings through your mission giving.

Luke 10:27 *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Mark 12: 31 *The second is this, "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.*

James 2:8 *If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.*

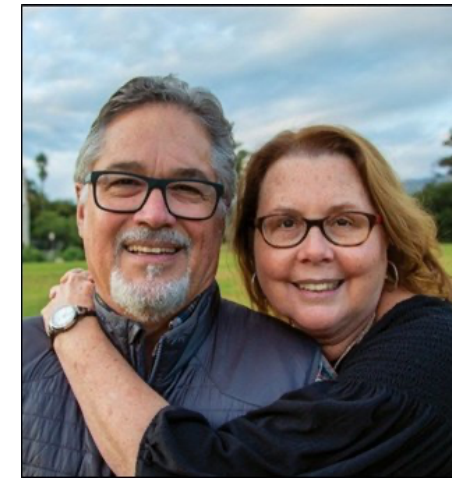
Gal. 5:14 *For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Lev. 19:18 *Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.*

In His service, the FCCA Mission Board, Linda Freud, Chair

Members: Pastor Jim and Penny Schibsted, Pastor Emily Raasch, Mike Villa-Real, Tom and Susan Fraker, Dennis and Lois Johnson

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)



Meet Andrew Bush

Andrew and Karen have felt called to be peacemakers even in the midst of difficult circumstances. They were living three houses away from Yasser Arafat when his house was firebombed. Karen was serving as a midwife in the area when fighting broke out. Due to their decades of experience, Andrew is currently serving on a committee appointed by Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives as they work for peace in Gaza.

Andrew and Karen Bush have served internationally for 38 years. They are career missionaries, serving the church in the Philippines, the United States, and Israel/Palestine. They seek to make the love of Christ Jesus known through servanthood and in the way of the cross.

Below is an excerpt from their most recent newsletter:

*"Your support for the beleaguered Christians in Gaza is so encouraging. The Christians that remain in Gaza – about 400 – either have no route to leave or have decided to stay regardless of their fate. There has been a Christian community in Gaza since the first century. As a result of your generosity, we have sent about **\$12,000 in relief** through Bethlehem Bible College. Wow! Thank you! We will follow up with further reports on the Gaza Christians."*

When: Monday, March 9th

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

or call Chuck at 714-350-8983.