

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
ANAHEIM



The
Call

"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"

Vol. 376 No. 5

Published Once A Month

May 1, 2023

May

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"Grateful for the Past—Hopeful for the Future!"

A Letter from Pastor Emily

Leading up to Easter, small groups studied Jesus' farewell message to the disciples from John's Gospel. Jesus emphasized that he would not leave the disciples orphaned. He promised to send them an advocate—the Holy Spirit. This gift from Jesus is one of the most precious gifts we have. Jesus tells the disciples that if they fully understood, they would realize it was for their benefit that Jesus was going to leave them. After his death and resurrection, they would not just be friends and followers—the Holy Spirit would dwell within them. Their relationship with God would not be more distant, it would actually be more intimate. To live into this relationship, Jesus asked that they obey his teachings and commands. The greatest commandment Jesus gave was this: "Love one another the way that I have loved you."

Following Easter, I love to spend time in the resurrection stories of Jesus. They remind me that our faith is not merely symbolic—Jesus made it clear to the disciples after the resurrection that His life was tangible. According to Acts, Jesus appeared to the disciples over 40 days. He wanted them to KNOW that He was risen. Women met Jesus in the garden outside the empty tomb. Disciples walked miles with Jesus along the road to Emmaus before they finally recognized who He was as He broke bread and blessed their meal. Jesus made amends with Peter over a grilled fish breakfast on the beach, and He solidified Peter's call to take care of God's people. Jesus showed up to Thomas and allowed him to see and touch where the nails had pierced Him. Jesus even appeared within a locked room where the disciples were hiding in the aftermath of the crucifixion. Jesus made it abundantly clear to them that *He is Risen Indeed!* This certainty gave the disciples, who became apostles charged with spreading the Good News, the strength to endure hardship and persecution that came as a result of their faith and their message. Their relationship with God was real, and so was their commitment. *(Continued Pg. 7)*

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Join us in person or online! You may join worship live at 10:45am on Facebook.

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fccanaheim.org

NorthEast of the Well

Every Monday, 6-8pm

Dinner: 6pm, Hall

Worship: 6:45pm, Sanctuary

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, May 8th

12:00-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

\$12 for lunch

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 14th

Email the church a photo of your mother if you would like her photo included in a slideshow honoring and remembering our mothers.

Women's Lunch

Monday, May 15th

11:30am-1pm, McKenzie Hall

FCCA Updates & Events

Holy Week and Easter!

This Holy Week we marked the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples during our Maundy Thursday Candlelight Service in the Griffith House Chapel. It was intimate time to sing hymns, hear a meditation from Pastor Jim and share communion together. On Easter morning, it turned out to be a beautiful day for breakfast on the lawn. What a joy to celebrate that Christ is risen! The kids had fun with the bounce house and enjoyed an Easter egg hunt during Sunday School. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped us with setup, serving and cleanup! We constantly thank God for this community of people.



Women's Lunch: Women Who Eat, Pray and Love

Monday, May 15 from 11:30am-1:00pm in McKenzie Hall

Ms. Sandya Costa, Director of the Montessori Academy of Anaheim that meets on our property, has offered to cook for the May Women's Lunch! Ms. Sandya is from Sri Lanka and is a fabulous cook. During our time together, we will also work on a project for NorthEast of the Well's outreach to women on the streets. They have provided note cards and examples of encouraging scriptures for us to write on the cards. These cards are part of the care packages that they pass out to women.

Mother's Day: Honoring Our Mothers

Robbie Robinson found a beautiful old photo of his mother, and it sparked an idea for the church! On Mother's Day, we will have a slideshow honoring our mothers. If you would like to share a photo in honor of or in memory of your mother (or a woman who has poured into your life), email the church office at fccaoffice@gmail.com. We thank God for women who have given us life in body and spirit!

Children's Sunday School: Sunday School is offered every Sunday! *Children who would like to participate in Sunday School are welcome to leave worship with the teachers before the sermon. Sunday School is held in the first room of the Griffith House (the couch room).*

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Alexander Emoghene



Alexander grew up in the city of Jos, Nigeria. As a teenager, he migrated to the city of his birth, London. His career as a stylist allowed him to work in the glamour hair and beauty industry for over 28 years. In 2011 he opened his business, Alexander for Healthy Hair, in Rotterdam. He specialized in training future stylists in advanced skills to start up their own businesses. Alexander is an author, speaker, businessman, and the assistant pastor at Claypot Church International. He has been involved in several businesses and ministries where he teaches leadership development. Alex is a dynamic speaker that you won't want to miss!

When: Monday, May 8th, 2023

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Where: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

515 North State College Blvd.; Anaheim, Ca 92806

Cost: \$12

Enjoy the music of singer and guitar player Bob Goodrich, as well as the humor from Normandy Veteran, Jack Gutman, and football coach, Tom Meiss. We have an excellent meal planned, and tables are always filled with good fellowship.

Please RSVP via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or
Call Chuck at 714-350-8983 or Mike Austin at 714-425-2649

JOG



Of Orange County

Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions' Corner

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bethlehem and from the East Jerusalem International Church (below)! On Easter Sunday, the Arabic language greeting among Christians here is **Al Messih qam! Haqqan qam!**



Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Because Jesus has risen from the dead, he has broken the hold of all the forms of spiritual death and destruction that ravage societies and appear to be intractable. Because of Christ's victory, we can see with eyes of hope beyond pervasive hatred between peoples to a day in which even "the wolf will lay down with the lamb," and warring will cease (Isaiah 11.6). We can see a day when cynicism gives way to faith, despair to joy.

We are working toward the fulfillment of that vision. There has never been a time in which peacemaking has been more critical in Israeli and Palestinian societies than in the present. Israel and Palestine have been wracked with upheaval and conflict during the last few weeks. The largest demonstrations in Israel's history recently brought the country to a standstill as Israelis protested the overreach of the ultra-right government to limit the authority of the country's highest court.

In Bethlehem in recent weeks, we have worked hard to build bridges and foster peacemaking. We have met with key educators and students in the Muslim and Christian communities to encourage peacemaking ideas among Palestinian university students (pictured). *(Continued on Next Page)*



(Missions' Corner Continued...) This week we will conduct an online session with Attorney Jonathan Kuttub, who is an influential Palestinian Christian peacemaker. In a few weeks, we will have a similar session with a Jewish Israeli human rights organization. Every day we want to walk in Jesus' call to be peacemakers (Matthew 5.9), and to pray for peace.

Occasionally, we take a day off from our usual seven-day-a-week responsibilities. On Friday, we hiked down into Wadi Qelt, the deep valley east of Jerusalem in the Judean wilderness, to visit an ancient monastery built in the 5th century. In the middle of the desert where Jesus was tempted, it was a blessing to pray and reflect on God's work through his people through the centuries.

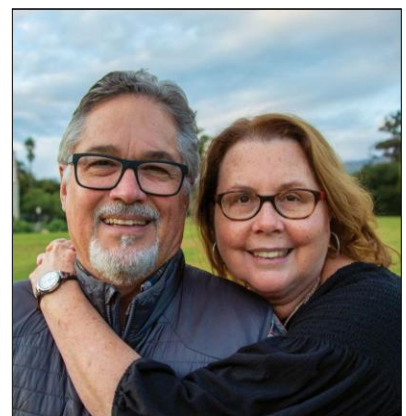
Last Sunday in the East Jerusalem International Church, we praised the Lord and sang Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King of kings! Instead of palms, we waved cuttings from our church garden's olive trees!

Finally, we want to thank you so very much for your financial partnership which helps us work for peace in the Holy Land...

Have a joyful Easter celebration! Christ has risen!

Blessings!

Andrew and Karen





May Birthdays

3-May Diego Zavala
5-May Carlos Luquez
5-May Daniel Hoke
9-May LaneII O'Neill
14-May Cheryl Cook
15-May Jayden Krishna
23-May Isy Martin
25-May Danielle Morookian
26-May Maggie Santos
28-May Helen Gilmore
29-May Gini Castellano
29-May Jasmine Williams

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or fccaooffice@gmail.com.

(Pastor's Letter Continued...)

In the wake of Easter, how does the reality of Jesus' life change the way we engage with the world? How does it change the way we approach our enemies, the way we handle anger and hurt feelings and the way we choose to love? In a lesson with the Montessori school kids, we talked about the reality of the "helper" Holy Spirit. We talked about hard conversations we sometimes need to have because of our love for God, for others and for ourselves. Sometimes we have to say hard things like, "I am sorry," "I forgive you," or "I feel _____ when you do _____." In difficult moments, we can ask God for help, and the Holy Spirit within us will help us find courage and words.

I shared pieces of Corrie Ten Boom's life recently in an encouragement video. Corrie's family harbored resistance fighters and Jews during World War II. Eventually, the Ten Boom family was caught. Corrie and her sister were taken to a concentration camp. There, they launched nightly prayers using an old, tattered Bible they had smuggled in. Corrie described the warmth and light they felt huddled around the Bible with visuals that brought a campfire to mind. When they reached verses about giving thanks in all circumstances, they weren't sure how they could give thanks for the fleas that infested their room. Then, they realized that the fleas kept the guards away and provided them space to gather and read scripture. In later years, Corrie was speaking at a church and a man came up to her, grateful for her words about forgiveness. He had been a guard at the concentration camp. Corrie was unable to bring her hand to meet his. She breathed a silent prayer asking God to give her His forgiveness, and she reached up to shake the man's hand. As their hands met, warmth and deep love flowed through Corrie's body. She realized that it is God's Love and Grace that flows through us and holds all together. Her faith demonstrates the power of a faith that believes to its core that God is real, God is with us and God is for us.

May we experience this kind of life-giving faith as well, Pastor Emily

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