

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
ANAHEIM



The Call

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

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November

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM



JOIN US!
Thanksgiving
Worship & Feast
with live music &
bounce house!
SUNDAY, NOV. 19TH
Worship: 10:45am
Feast to follow (free)



515 N. State College Blvd.; Anaheim, CA 92806

| www.fcca.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

Dr. Jim Schibsted—Senior Pastor
Rev. Emily Raasch—Associate Pastor
Susan Fraker—Office Assistant
Tyler Robinson—Music Director
Angella Kissoon—Accountant
Linda Freud—Missions
Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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STAFF

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

**Living in the Balance:
Giving Thanks & Prayerful Action**

By: Penny Schibsted

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. It's associated with more simple gatherings, less shopping, beautiful Fall colors and pausing to express gratitude. All wonderful things! I have much to be grateful for. Many of us do.

Lately though, while intentionally thinking of and experiencing so many meaningful and joyful things in my life I am also aware that many are going through extreme hardships where it would be so difficult to be thankful. I cannot imagine being a parent in Gaza or Israel right now trying to protect my children. There are conflicts and wars in so many places, and I pray God will intervene, and people will not kill each other. I think at times, "What right do I have to enjoy my blessed life?" Lately the Serenity Prayer has been coming to my mind, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. To change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." So I give to organizations trying to help. I advocate for reconciliation and responsible actions. And I pray. I must put these things beyond my control in God's hands. When I do this I again experience feelings of gratitude. I am grateful to have the presence of God's spirit and the belief that God cares for others much more than I.

Last Sunday Pastor Jim & I were at a church in Montana. The pastor and the people prayed for the needs of others and especially those suffering in Israel and Gaza. Afterwards we were invited to a previously planned event where people use a cider press to make apple cider out of their apples. It was wonderful!

(Continued on Page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

Women's Lunch

Monday, November 6th

11:30-1:00pm, McKenzie Hall

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, November 13th

Speaker: TBA

12:00-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

Service Opportunity:

Meridian Worship

Wednesday, Nov. 15th at 2pm

Thanksgiving

Worship & Feast

Sunday, November 19th

10:45am Worship

Feast to follow

Small Groups

Old Testament Characters

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

November 1st, 8th, 15th

Group Dinner: November 29th

FCCA News & Events

Fall Small Groups Resuming this Month!

Old Testament Characters from LifeGuide

Bible Studies by Peter Scazzero

"This LifeGuide Bible Study introduces you to remarkable lives described in the Old Testament. The stories of these people from the ancient past can help you learn to live well even today."

Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in person or via Zoom.

November 1st, 8th, 15th

Group dinner on November 29th



Thanksgiving Worship & Feast: *Sunday, Nov. 19th; 10:45am Worship, Feast to Follow*

Join us for our annual Thanksgiving feast! Following worship, we will have a feast with United New Life Church. Isy Martin, Jr. will provide background music and we will have a bounce house for the kids. We are encouraging church members to provide a dish to share. Friends and family welcome! The more the merrier. If you would like to share a postcard invitation with friends or neighbors, postcards will be on the fellowship table after worship leading up to Thanksgiving.

Meridian Senior Living Worship Service: *Wednesday, November 15th at 2pm*

Tom Mena will be leading a hymn sing and Pastor Emily will share a message and play some hymns on the violin. All are welcome to join us and to help greet residents who attend.

Women's Lunch: *Monday, November 6th from 11:30 - 1:00pm in McKenzie Hall*

Join the women of the church for fun fellowship, devotional time and lunch together.

JOG (Just Ordinary Guys & Gals) Luncheon: *Monday, November 13th from 12-1:30pm*

Our scheduled speaker is having surgery this month—please keep Bobby Kehl in your prayers. We are searching for another person to speak and will share it in the enews as soon as we are able.

Missions' Corner

A LETTER FROM MISSION CHAIR, LINDA FREUD

Featuring the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, Mexico

As the holiday season approaches, I would like to remind you of a 52 year tradition at the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, Mexico. At Christmas time the school presents each student's family with a basket of staples and food items to help them celebrate the holiday. Their flyer which is attached explains what is in the basket and shows several families from last year with their baskets. The cost is \$60 for each basket. Maybe your heart and budget will allow you to make a donation of \$60, but if not, let's do the math ---- Two gifts of \$30, four gifts of \$15, or 6 gifts of \$10 will provide a basket. So give what you can this November and together with some funds from the Mission Board let's see how many Christmas baskets we can provide this year! Remember to mark your check or envelope "PAI Christmas Basket." God Bless you.

Faithfully, Linda Freud

Pictured: *School staff preparing to organize bags of food for the Christmas baskets a few years ago. Staff volunteer their time to make the food baskets possible, and the Christmas baskets are greatly appreciated by the families of the Panamerican Institute. It is a labor of love! The school has 56 students this year that they hope to help feed over the holidays.*





PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE

SCHOOL FOUNDED BY THE LATE EDGAR S. WELTY IN 1962
CALIFORNIA USA TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION NUMBER: C0513871

Christmas 2023

Christmas Food Baskets

Continuing our Tradition for the 52nd consecutive year.

Support our students' families during the Holidays.

\$60/Basket

Each basket contains:

Pinto beans, rice, wheat flour, sugar, salt, canned tuna and vegetables, margarine, cereal, cooking oil, tomato sauce, cookies, pastas, gelatin, jelly, toilet paper, soap, tooth brushes and paste.

Send your tax-deductible donation to

Panamerican Institute

780 Dennery Rd. Suite 303-289

San Diego, CA 92154

or online at www.paischool.org

Laura Ramirez, President

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Please consider sponsoring an issue of “The Call”.
Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960



November Birthdays

10-Nov Susan Fraker

18-Nov James Purvis

19-Nov Bernie Spear

23-Nov Alissa Williams

26-Nov Bob States

(Article Continued) Lots of apples were brought ahead of time where they were stacked in one family's garage. Stations were set up for the cider making process. Two wheel barrels were next to a hose for washing, one big table with cutting boards was near the washing station. Prepped apples were then taken to the grinding machine. Finally, there was the old apple press and it was constantly going. People standing by it knew exactly what to do and once a batch was done being pressed a man quickly gathered the net holding the left over apple scraps and ran them to his compost bin then returned the net. The full cider catching bucket was quickly exchanged for an empty one and transported to the pouring station where containers were filled. Some were taken home by guests that day. Others were taken to the church freezer where the juice will be enjoyed at gatherings for most of 2024.

What impressed me with this process was 40+ people were laughing, talking and enjoying their time together while also working efficiently on a common goal in a beautiful outdoor setting. They were giving thanks to God for the fruit of the land and for each other.

On Sunday, November 19th we at First Congregational Church of Anaheim will have our own experience of gathering together, giving thanks and enjoying a wonderful meal. There will be people from different churches on our campus sharing ethnic foods they have prepared while we share roasted turkey and mashed potatoes. It is always a special time and will be even more special if you are there with us! Please come and invite a guest. There will be a bounce house for the children.

May God help us all to live in the balance between prayerful action and gratitude this Thanksgiving season.

Grace and Peace, Penny Schibsted

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