



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

Vol. 377 No. 11

Published Once A Month

November 1, 2024

November



STAFF

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

IN THIS ISSUE

CALL Article	2
November Calendar	2
FCCA News	3
JOG Flyer	4
Missions' Corner	5
Birthdays	7

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

“Join us for our Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service and Feast!!!”

A Letter by Pastor Jim

Recently, Pastor Emily and I had the joy of meeting with various pastors whose congregations worship on our church campus. Each of these pastors are devoted to God and deeply care about their congregations. While sharing our concerns as well as our joys there was a wonderful sense of camaraderie. Each of the pastors are involved in missions and it was good to hear how people are being helped both locally and in various places around the world. We ate together, laughed a lot and tears were shed as well.

As we gathered together for a season of prayer I was thinking of Jesus' high priestly prayer on the importance of unity out of John 17. *“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me”* (John 17:22-23). I am so thankful for the unity we have with the people who worship on our church campus. Though we differ theologically, politically and come from various cultural backgrounds there is a wonderful sense of doing life together as a family.

I am happy report on Sunday, **November 24th at 10:45 am** some of the churches will join us for a **Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service!** I am looking forward to having musicians from the various churches lead us in song. Following the worship service there will be a **Thanksgiving Feast.**

(Continued Pg. 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Sunday School

Sunday School is held every Sunday in the Griffith House during worship.

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, November 11th

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

Guest Speaker:

Jeffrey Williams

\$12, First Time Visitors: Free

Fall Small Group Study

Participants are reading and discussing “The Lord’s Prayer” by

Adam Hamilton.

Wednesdays at 6:30pm

*Meeting in the Church Office
or via Zoom*

Group concludes Nov. 13th

Thanksgiving Feast

Sunday, November 24th

10:45am Worship With Other

Campus Churches

Thanksgiving Meal to Follow

FCCA Updates & Events

WOMEN'S LUNCH

Next Luncheon: Wednesday, December 11th from 11:30am-1:00pm at Bev Aye's Home

It has been wonderful to meet in homes for the last several luncheons. Each host has offered us a peaceful, hospitable place to enjoy time together. Bev has volunteered to host us again at her home in December. If you would like to host a future luncheon, please contact Pastor Emily in the church office. If you plan to join, RSVP to the church office at fccaoffice@gmail.com.

OCTOBER JOG LUNCHEON

Pantelis Sideropoulos spoke at the October Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals) Luncheon. Janice Bowers graciously introduced Pantelis, whom she met at an International Congregational Fellowship Meeting in Greece. Pantelis is helping to host the next ICF Meeting in Greece this May of 2025.

Contact the church office for more information—deposits are due by December 1st. It will be a wonderful time exploring some of the footsteps of the Apostle Paul.

Pantelis shared his story of faith, which included meaningful fellowship from a very young age. It was humbling to see photos of the stunning Greek Evangelical Church that his community built, prioritizing the house of God above their personal homes as the community was getting established. His story was infused with pieces of life wisdom from remembering to stay humble to serving others with joy to remaining cheerful in the faith. It was refreshing to hear Pantelis share about his relationship with Christ.



SMALL GROUP STUDY

This fall, small group has been reading and discussing “The Lord’s Prayer” by Adam Hamilton.

This study will conclude on Wednesday, November 13th. Small groups will resume after the holiday. Group studies are a great way to connect with others from the church, study Scripture, pray together and draw close to God.

JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Jeffrey Williams



Jeffrey came to First Congregational Church of Anaheim 29 years ago and has served on the Council for many years. He was born in East LA, grew up in Southern California and lived with his grandparents until 4th grade, graduating from George Washington High School in LA. After high school, Jeffrey was a purchasing clerk for Briles Wing & Helicopter in Santa Monica. He married at the age of 19 and, at 22, joined the Air Force, serving for 8 years. In 1988, Jeffrey started working for LA County, working there for 32 years before retiring in 2020. Jeffrey married Stephana in 1989 and is father to 5 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. You will often find Jeffrey playing games like dominos and doing various side jobs.

Jeffrey was raised Baptist, and it seemed like people everywhere would constantly approach him with questions about the Bible. This sparked his curiosity and engaged him in learning more about his faith. Jeffrey's faith in Christ has opened his eyes to better understand the things that happen in the world and why they happen. He trusts that as long as he keeps with his faith he doesn't need to worry too much about other things.

When: Monday, November 11th
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 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



Of Orange County
Just Ordinary Guys

Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions' Corner

Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, Mexico

This month, we are highlighting the Panamerican Institute (PAI) in Tijuana, Mexico. Every December, the school provides Christmas food baskets for school families to help them have enough food during the Christmas break. Students receive food assistance on school days, and the Christmas break can put more pressure on families. If you are interested in giving, the Christmas Food Basket flyer is on the next page.

PAI provides their students (roughly middle school age) with a quality education while looking for ways to support students with needs that extend beyond the classroom. This support can include covering uniform fees, bus fees, home internet costs (particularly during COVID), laptops to enable students to complete assignments from home, and professional counseling when needed. The school slogan is, "Education. Love for Life." The school truly shows love for their students, and the students are grateful. Many of the current teachers and staff at the school are former students themselves. They are so grateful for the future PAI gave them, they are paying it forward by pouring their lives into younger generations.

This month, students were asked to present a restaurant idea. Students created a theme and served food for their presentations. The picture on the right is one student group and their restaurant food.



PAI is run fully by donations, so your gifts matter! If you are able, consider donating toward Christmas Food Baskets this December (the flyer is on the next page), or consider participating in the Adopt-a-Student program for \$35 per month.



PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE
SCHOOL FOUNDED BY THE LATE REV. EDGAR S. WELTY IN 1962

Christmas 2024

Christmas FOOD BASKETS

Continuing our Tradition for the 53rd consecutive year.



Support our students' families during the Holidays for \$60 per 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, toiler paper, soap, tooth brushes and paste.



Send your donation to
Panamerican Institute
780 Dennery Rd. Suite 303-289
San Diego, CA 92154
or online at www.paischool.org

Laura Ramirez, President
Laura.Ramirez@paischool.org
PanamericanInstitute@hotmail.com



November Birthdays

10-Nov Susan Fraker

18-Nov James Purvis

23-Nov Alissa Williams

26-Nov Bob States

30-Nov Tom Mena

CalWest Meeting

CalWest is our Southern California association of Congregational churches. Each fall, the churches gather to address business, be encouraged by seminars and share a meal and worship. All are welcome to join. If you are interested, contact the church office!

Saturday, November 9th

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 Article Continued)

Each church is bringing their favorite foods to share. Our church is providing turkeys, mashed potatoes, salads and gravy. We also encourage our members to bring side dishes for 8 people to share. Help is needed for food preparation that morning and for clean up afterwards. Sign up in the office or following the worship service if you are able to help out. We are also having a food drive to help those in need.

Needless to say I am enthusiastic with all the churches working together to help make a difference in our community. If you have friends who would like to celebrate with us, invite them to



Join us for our Combined Thanksgiving Worship Service and Feast!!!

As David wrote in Psalm 133 thousands of years ago, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity."

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806
phone 714.776.0960; email fccaoffice@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at www.fccanaheim.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANAHEIM, CA
PERMIT # 323

«First » «Last»
Or Current Resident
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Member: National Association of Congregational Christian Churches—Since 1956

Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

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