

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
ANAHEIM



The  
Call

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

Vol. 377 No. 10

Published Once A Month

October 1, 2024

## October

**ICF QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE**  
**THESSALONIKI, GREECE**  
**GRAND HOTEL PALACE, THESSALONIKI, GREECE**  
**MAY 22-26, 2025**



**JOIN US...**  
**AS CONGREGATIONALISTS FROM**  
**AROUND THE WORLD JOURNEY TO**  
**THE BIBLICAL CITY OF**  
**THESSALONIKI GREECE!**

**COST:**  
**FOR 6 DAY STAY,**  
**CONFERENCE FEE & ACTIVITIES:**  
(PRICES BELOW DOESN'T INCLUDE AIRFARE)  
**\$1,350 USD DOUBLE ROOM**  
(DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)  
**\$1,850 USD SINGLE ROOM**

### 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  
October Calendar 2  
FCCA News 3  
JOG Flyer 4  
Missions' Corner 5  
Birthdays 7

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

## **“Join Us in Greece!”**

A Letter by Pastor Jim



Last May, my brother, sister and I traveled to Greece. It was an incredible trip! We spent a number of days with our friend Pantelis Sidiropoulos who showed us in and around the ancient city of Thessaloniki which is the second largest city in Greece. It is known for its natural beauty, views of the sea and youthful atmosphere. Over 100,000 university students reside in the city which is vibrant with life. We were so impressed with the archaeological sites, museums and with the genuine hospitality shown to us by members at the churches we visited.

I am so grateful we've been invited to attend the ICF (International Congregational Fellowship) QUADRENNIAL CONFERENCE IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE! Since 1977, the ICF has hosted international conferences bringing together adults, youth, clergy and laity from churches all over the world.

*(Continued Pg. 7)*

**COST:**  
**FOR 6 DAY STAY,**  
**CONFERENCE FEE & ACTIVITIES:**  
(PRICES BELOW DOESN'T INCLUDE AIRFARE)

**\$1,350 USD DOUBLE ROOM**

(DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)

**\$1,850 USD SINGLE ROOM**

**RATE INCLUDES:**

- ✓ ALL ACCOMMODATIONS (EXCEPT AIRFARE)
- ✓ ALL LAND TRANSPORTATION
- ✓ ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FEES
- ✓ PROFESSIONAL TOUR GUIDE SERVICES
- ✓ OTHER CULTURAL EXPERIENCES
- ✓ TWO MEALS PER DAY (BREAKFAST & DINNER)
- ✓ TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM AIRPORT

## **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](http://www.fcca.org)

### **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

*Monday, October 14th*

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

### **Guest Speaker:**

Pantelis Sidiropoulos

\$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*

Meeting Oct. 2nd, Oct. 30th,  
Nov. 6th and Nov. 13th

### **Women's Lunch**

*Monday, October 21st*

11:30am-1:00pm

Bev Aye's Home

# FCCA Updates & Events

## **WOMEN'S LUNCH**

***Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:30-1:00pm at Bev Aye's Home***

It has been a delight to enjoy women's lunches in home settings the last few times we have gathered! Terry Browning kicked off summer with a women's BBQ at her home, Cindy Hamann hosted a women's tea in August, and now Bev has volunteered to host our October women's lunch! I understand Bev and Carol will both be our gracious hosts. Thank you to the many women who make our time together special! \*Email the church office at [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) to RSVP and receive directions to Bev's.



## **SMALL GROUP STUDY**

This fall, small group is reading and discussing "The Lord's Prayer" by Adam Hamilton. Small groups are a great way to connect with others from the church, study Scripture, pray together and draw close to God. It isn't too late to join!

***The second half of the study will resume on the following Wednesdays at 6:30pm.***

Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - (Discuss Chapter 4)

Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> - (Discuss Chapter 5)

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> - (Discuss Chapter 6)

***Group meets in the church office or via Zoom. Email [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) for information.***

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO THANKSGIVING**

***Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – 10:45am Worship, Thanksgiving Feast to Follow***

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Celebration! The church will provide main dishes and encourages members to contribute a side to feed 8. Thanksgiving is also a wonderful opportunity to volunteer! Contact the church office at (714) 776-0960 or [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) if you would like to help with setup, serving or cleanup.

# JOG Luncheon

## Featuring Guest Speaker, Pantelis Sidiropoulos



Born in Katerini, Greece, Pantelis immigrated with his family to the US. He received a B.A. in Education from Gordon College and a M.A. in Religious Education from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He taught in the Boston public schools while serving as Director of Christian Education at the Greek Evangelical Church of Boston.

In 1983, he returned to Thessaloniki, Greece with his wife and three children, to work as a Youth Pastor with the Greek Evangelical Church. He ministered for fifteen years with Agape Greece, (CRU) “Family Life Ministry” and continues to be involved with Macedonian Outreach, a ministry to the Balkan Countries.

Now, as a retired grandfather, of six grandchildren, he participates with Legacy Coalition, an international Christian Movement, to assist and train grandparents to be more effective in their role in “Intentional Grandparenting.” In July 2023, he and his wife, Roula, celebrated fifty years of marriage.

**When: Monday, October 14, 2024**

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](mailto:chuck@penningtons-inc.com) or call Chuck at 714-350-8983



Of Orange County

**Just Ordinary Guys**

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month

# MISSION CORNER

News from Grandma's House of Hope



## New Home Opening: A Sneak Peek

BIG NEWS! Our next home is opening in mid-October, and we couldn't be more excited. This house is a safe haven for men battling mental illness and/or substance use disorder. It's designed with HEART and HOPE.

But that's not all...

By the end of this year, ANOTHER home will open its doors. Two homes in just three months! That's right. TWO NEW HOMES for a total of four new homes this year! Even more opportunities for people to restore their lives!

This new haven will provide interim housing and trauma-informed care to more individuals in need. Imagine the impact. Imagine the smiles. Imagine the healing!

We're putting the finishing touches on our next home. Here's a sneak peek:

These homes are more than just buildings. They are SANCTUARIES.

Each home is a beacon of hope, transforming lives one step at a time. With your support, we are making a real difference!

Stay tuned for more updates. We're on a mission, and you are part of it!

At Grandma's House of Hope, we believe in the power of community, compassion, and commitment. Together, we're building a safe place to call home for those who need it most.

We invite you to take this journey with Grandma's House of Hope. A journey of hope, healing and restoration. Together, we can EMPOWER the INVISIBLE POPULATION of ORANGE COUNTY!



Irene Basdakis, Esq.

CEO, Grandma's House of Hope

# MISSION CORNER Continued...

An Excerpt from Andrew and Karen Bush's Latest Newsletter

## Dearest Friends

### Greetings! We pray God is blessing you every day!

**In the Middle East . . .** Life in the West Bank is increasingly difficult. The roads between cities in the north are becoming unsafe to travel. One of our Palestinian Christian friends recently tried to visit friends in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. She and her family were shocked to be stopped on the highway at gunpoint en route back to Bethlehem. They were permitted to eventually move on and arrive home, but their children were terrified by the encounter. They've decided to stay within the confines of Bethlehem. The Palestinian Christian community is deeply concerned because the violence on the West Bank is looking more and more like that in Gaza. The beautiful Makhmur Valley west of Bethlehem is a route hikers enjoy, such as this group we led in May. (That's Karen with the blue backpack!) This month I would think twice before hiking along its ancient aqueducts. Plans for a new Israeli settlement in the valley have spiked tensions in the area.



**An important thought . . .** Recently I shared in a church in the US about the humanizing power of the cross of Christ. I noted that what enables people to take human life so easily is the prior dehumanization of the victims. On the cross Jesus identified with – and thus highly valued – humanity in its frailty, brokenness and marginalization. To be crucified with Christ is to value and serve others. Serving the “other” is a powerful antidote to dehumanizing them. (Philippians 2.5-8)

**Thank you! We love you -**

**Andrew and Karen**



## October Birthdays

3-Oct Camila Zavala

16-Oct Rudy Marderos

17-Oct Pastor Emily Raasch

23-Oct Nancy Clark

24-Oct Pam Evans

24-Oct Jon Ryan Hill

30-Oct Penny Schibsted

30-Oct Lucas Rider

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](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com).

*(Pastor's Article Continued)*

I've had the privilege of attending many of these conferences, meeting wonderful people from various countries who often attend. Please take a few moments to look at the flyer. During the first 6 days (May 22-26) meetings during most mornings will be held at the Grand Hotel Palace in Thessaloniki. Later in the day we will travel in a comfortable air-conditioned bus to various archaeological sites. Following the conference, (May 27-31) there is the option of traveling to Southern Greece visiting beautiful places on our way to Athens. Following the footsteps of the Apostle Paul will give us a new appreciation of the letters written to the early churches. **I hope you can join us** for this wonderful opportunity to visit Greece! Registration forms will be distributed in the coming month.

Looking forward to this journey,  
Pastor Jim

### 2025 CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE EVERYDAY, ALONG WITH OUR JOURNEY THROUGHOUT BIBLICAL SITES

#### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- ✓ TRIP INTO THE CITY OF THESSALONIKI
- ✓ VISIT TO THE REFUGEE CARE CENTER
- ✓ ALL DAY TRIP TO PHILIPPI & NEAPOLIS (KAVALA)
- ✓ VISIT TO VERIA VERGINA
- ✓ OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SITES

#### OPTIONAL PART 2:

MAY 27-31 2025

CONTINUE YOUR ADVENTURE WITH A VISION TOUR IN THE BIBLICAL LAND OF GREECE INCLUDING:

- KALAMBAKA
- ARAHOVA & DELPHI
- ATHENS
- CORINTH
- OPTIONAL: ADD'L DAY CRUISE TO 3 GREEK ISLANDS

#### APPROXIMATE ADDITIONAL COST:

\$1,350 USD PER PERSON FOR 5 DAYS.

\$1,250 USD PER PERSON FOR 4 DAYS.

\$120 USD EXTRA FOR CRUISE AND LUNCH.

+600 USD FOR SINGLE ROOM



[www.internationalcongregationalfellowship.org](http://www.internationalcongregationalfellowship.org)

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806  
phone 714.776.0960; email [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com)  
Check us out on the web at [www.fccanaheim.org](http://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