

First Congregational Church of Anaheim
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Phone: 714-776-0960 Email: fccaooffice@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at www.fcca.org

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Please contact the Church Office for details at 714-776-0960

The Call

First Congregational Church
of Anaheim

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



Vol. 378 No. 9

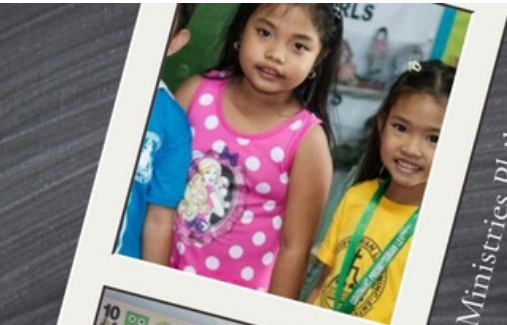
Published Monthly

September 1, 2026

September Newsletter

Inside:

- Opportunity to Help Mission Ministries Philippines!
- Fall MomCo
- Just Ordinary Guys
- Youth Day
- Grief Share & more!



Mission Ministries Philippines

WWW.FCCA.ORG

“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

Church Updates & Events

MomCo this Fall!

Starting this month (September), MomCo will resume meeting on both the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 10:30am-12pm. MomCo is a great way to connect with other moms and find life-giving community! Session topics include parenting, the motherhood experience, relationships (friends, marriage, etc.), spiritual life and more.

Youth Day - Camelot

We are looking forward to a fun day on Saturday, September 12th! Our young people will meet at Camelot in Anaheim for "Saturday Morning Mania" from 9am-12pm, with unlimited mini-golf, laser tag and arcade access. Then, we will have a pizza lunch and devotional time at the church. If you know anyone ages 7-15 that would like to join us, please contact the church office at (714) 776-0960 or fccaoffice@gmail.com.

GriefShare

Wednesdays from 2:15-3:45pm in the church office or online via Zoom

August 12th-November 18th (Group will not meet on September 23rd & 30th)

GriefShare is a caring support group for anyone navigating the loss of a loved one. Through video teaching, group discussion, and personal reflection, participants are supported and given tools for the journey of grief. Whether your loss is recent or years in the past, you are welcome to join us as we walk together toward hope and healing.

Recommended Donation: \$40 to help cover the materials

Women's Lunch

We had a wonderful women's lunch at the end of August, enjoying taco salad, mango-pineapple iced tea, and tasty treats. The luncheon opened with a devotional encouraging us to remember how God has been there for us in the past. We considered how ancient Israel was encouraged to remember God's past faithfulness in order to help them trust God for the future. Group laughter closed the luncheon, as Carol Peterson shared jokes! October luncheon date coming soon!



Mission Corner

Exciting Opportunity for Mission Ministries Philippines!

For those who have not "met" Mission Ministries Philippines, we want to introduce you!

Mission Ministries Philippines serves community and the poorest by partnering with churches, Non Government Organizations, community based groups and authorized individuals in setting up, or enriching, an existing Early Childhood Development Program.

MMP believes education is a way out of poverty. Their experience has proven that the cycle of poverty many of the poorest children inherit can only be eradicated by initiating better education choices for children at an early age. This is even more prevalent in the slum communities they serve.



Last month, we received the following from MMP:

"Mission Ministries Philippines, Inc. (MMP) has long prayed for a permanent home from which we can expand our ministry. For many years, we have faithfully served from a small rented office within the Asian Theological Seminary. We remain deeply grateful for God's provision and the seminary's generous hospitality. However, our limited space has also limited our capacity to grow our ministry, conduct trainings, and serve more churches, teachers, and children.

(Cont. on Pg. 4)

Mission Corner Continued...

"After much prayer and seeking the Lord's direction, we sensed that 2026 was His appointed time to take a step of faith. In His wonderful providence, God opened the door for us to purchase a 208-square-meter property in Project 4, Quezon City. Strategically located near Cubao and easily accessible from all parts of Metro Manila, we believe this property is an ideal location for MMP's future ministry center, training facility, and administrative office."

The owner graciously discounted the purchase price for MMP by roughly \$150,000! MMP has until September 30th to pay the remaining balance. **Your gifts could make a difference for MMP!** If you would like to give, you may mark your offering envelope or online gift "MMP."

An Invitation to Partner from Mission Ministries Philippines

Mission Ministries Philippines humbly invites churches, organizations, foundations, businesses, and friends to prayerfully partner with us in this God-given vision.

Together, we can:

- Establish a transformational ministry hub that will serve future generations.
- Invest in the holistic development of children and families.
- Expand access to SPED, Guidance, and Child Development services for underserved communities.
- Strengthen Christ-centered education, discipleship, and evangelism.
- Build a sustainable ministry model that will continue equipping churches, schools, and communities for years to come.

Your partnership—through prayer, financial support, professional expertise, or ministry connections—will help make this vision a reality and leave a lasting legacy for God's Kingdom.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory...throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

— Ephesians 3:20–21



Specially designed courses & seminars to train teachers.
Workshops to help parents strengthen a child's home life.

JOG LUNCHEON

★★★★★ Featuring Guest Speaker, ★★★★★

GLEN TENOVE

2011
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NATIONALS

Meet **Glen Tenove** and come hear his powerful testimony. A professional weightlifter that holds hundreds of records. On his **70th Birthday**, he beat every **Linebacker** in the **2025 & 2026 NFL draft** at bench-press reps of 225 lbs.

Glen is an **overcomer**. Fourteen years ago, he went from stage-4 cancer (doctors gave him six months) to **winning 7 annual World age Powerlifting Championships in a row** (breaking hundreds of World Records in five different weight classes). He was then inducted into the Strength Sports Hall of Fame.

Glen will share, "It's not important that you remember my name, but you should remember the story. At some point in your life, you will be told, you're done, it's over or it can't be done. Remember, **ALL** things are possible with God."

*"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." **Philippians 4:13***

WHEN:
Monday,
September 14th, 2026
12:00 pm – 1:30pm

WHERE:
First Congregational Church of Anaheim
515 North State College Blvd
Anaheim, CA 92806
(Located one block south of La Palma on the west side of State College in the city of Anaheim)

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**

Just **JOG**

Of Orange County Ordinary Guys
Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

A Letter from Pastor Jim



“FCCA: A Knife and Fork Church”

One day I was talking with my friend, **Pastor Peter St. Don**, and he said something that caught my attention. He said, “**FCCA is a Knife and Fork Church.**” I asked Peter, “What does that mean?” He explained that in Canada, a “Knife and Fork Church” describes a church that gathers around food. Because sharing a meal is an important part in the life of the congregation. People come together to eat, enjoy fellowship, build relationships, welcome others, often sharing a short devotional or prayer. The more I reflected on his words, the more I realized: **Peter is right. FCCA really is a Knife and Fork Church!**

This past week gave us wonderful examples of what that means at FCCA.

A Week Around the Table

Sunday (August 23rd), after worship, we gathered in the library and enjoyed some delicious snacks together. Later, a number of us continued the fellowship by going to **Mr. D's** for lunch.

Monday: Our Women's Fellowship gathered together for a Taco Luncheon. **Pastor Emily shared a devotional** and the women enjoyed meaningful fellowship. (Continued on Pg. 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays, 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

Church email:

fccaoffice@gmail.com

Church Office Phone:

714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, September 14th
12-1:30 pm (See page 5)

MomCo

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month
10:30am-12pm
Registration: \$37
(See page 6)

Grief Share

Wednesdays 2:15-3:45pm
August 12-November 18
Break: September 23rd & 30th
(See page 6)

Youth Day

Saturday, September 12th
9am-1:30pm
Email for more information
(See page 6)

Pastor's Letter Continued...

Monday night: We gathered for a meal in McKenzie Hall. **Northeast of the Well** prepared the meal as people from the community—including those struggling with various addictions and some experiencing homelessness—came together around the tables. Following the meal, we shared a precious time of worship and prayer.

Tuesday: I had lunch with a church member. Sometimes having a meal with one person allows us the opportunity to slow down, listen, encourage one another, and share what is happening in our lives.

Wednesday: Every Wednesday, a group of men gathers at **Polly's Pies for lunch**. We eat, drink coffee, laugh, and most importantly, share what's really going on in our lives with one another. The freedom to talk about our families, work, struggles, joys and faith is life giving. These aren't simply lunches but are opportunities for friendship and pastoral care.

Thursday: I shared lunch with one of our missionaries. Again, the table became a place to hear someone's story, learn about God's ministry in other parts of the world, encourage one another and pray.

Once a month on Thursday nights there is a special leadership gathering with **JOG—Just Ordinary Guys**. Enjoying a homemade dinner at **Coach Meiss's home** is meaningful time. Good food, conversation, laughter, fellowship and time to strengthen the relationships among the men helping lead this ministry reminds us that we are a team working together to share God's love with others.

On **Sunday, August 30th** following our worship service, there was a **free chicken lunch for the entire church family**. As we look at the life of Jesus, we often see him eating with others. He ate with His disciples and accepted invitations into people's homes. Though criticized by the Scribes and Pharisees, he still ate with people others rejected. Jesus fed hungry crowds and some of His most meaningful conversations happened around meals.

Jesus understood the symbolism of the table which says, “There is room for you here, come and sit with us.” When the church sets a table for people who are struggling, hurting, lonely or forgotten, I believe we are living out the gospel. Pastor Peter was right. Let's embrace being a Knife and Fork church as we show hospitality to one another. Pastor Jim

September Birthdays

- 1-Sep Carol Peterson
- 4-Sep Michael Villa-Real
- 4-Sep Desi Williams
- 4-Sep Aiden Williams
- 5-Sep Jay Ramsay
- 8-Sep Laurie Donahue
- 8-Sep Maria Mena
- 18-Sep Amy Eades
- 18-Sep Jennifer Mc Gonigle
- 20-Sep Billie Honaker
- 24-Sep Stacey Cohee
- 24-Sep James Richard Henri
- 28-Sep Bunnie Haas