

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF
ANAHEIM



The Call

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

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Published Once A Month

September 1, 2023

September

FALL
schedule

- 1 Small Groups Begin & Weekly Sunday School Continues
- 2 New Service Opportunity!
- 3 Lunch Fellowship Gatherings

WWW.FCCA.ORG

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

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

A Letter from Pastor Emily

Fall is here, school is back in session and people are settling back into routine after summer trips. Planning is in full swing at the church, and it has been exciting to observe the prodding of the Holy Spirit within our congregation.

Recently, teachers that work with our Sunday School kids each week gathered via Zoom to reflect on curriculum and on plans moving forward. It was a blessing to share and brainstorm together. I caught myself in awe of God's provision. In the past Penny Schibsted and Linda Freud planned for Sunday School, largely alone. Now we at times have 7+ caring adults providing for our kids in a single month. Cindy Hamann began serving on the Council this year as our Christian Education Chairperson, and it has been inspiring to witness her passion for our kids ministry. Please keep our church and this ministry in your prayers as we follow God's leading.

Liza Samson, Membership & Evangelism Chairperson, shared a wonderful idea with the Council to reach out and offer a worship service for seniors at a senior living center. We have contacted Meridian in Anaheim Hills and will offer worship there on Wednesday, September 13th at 2pm. Please contact the church office if you would like to join us! We hope to be a hospitable and caring presence to seniors who attend. Pastor Emily will share a message, Tom Mena will lead hymn singing and Pastor Emily is also planning to bring her violin. It is a blessing to serve, and we pray that God uses this time in a precious way. *(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

NorthEast of the Well

Every Monday, 6-8pm

Dinner: 6pm, Hall

Worship: 6:45pm, Sanctuary

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, September 11

Speaker: Dennis Johnson

12:00-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

Service Opportunity:

Meridian Worship

Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 2pm

Small Groups

Old Testament Characters

Wednesdays at 6:30pm in person or via Zoom starting September 13th.

Women's Lunch

Monday, September 18th

11:30-1:00pm, McKenzie Hall

FCCA Updates

Fall Small Groups

Old Testament Characters from LifeGuide Bible Studies by Peter Scazzero

“Abraham is an unforgettable portrait of faith. Daniel is a classic example of holiness. And through her willingness to risk her own life, Esther shows us what commitment means. 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 around the table this fall! We will split the study into two 3-week sessions + a dinner outing.

Meetings will take place on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm in person or via Zoom.

Wednesday, September 13

Wednesday, September 20

Wednesday, September 27

Group Dinner on Wed., October 4th!

Wednesday, November 1

Wednesday, November 8

Wednesday, November 15

Group Dinner on Wed., November 29th!

Service Opportunity: Meridian Senior Living Worship Service

When: Wednesday, September 13th at 2pm

Where: The Meridian at Anaheim Hills; 525 S Anaheim Hills Rd, Anaheim, CA 92807

What: Worship Service & Visiting

Liza Samson has organized this wonderful opportunity for us to serve our neighbors. Pastor Emily will share a message, Tom Mena will lead hymn singing and Pastor Emily will bring her violin. We would love anyone from the congregation to join us and to help us greet residents who attend.



FCCA Updates Continued...

September Women's Lunch

Monday, September 18th from 11:30-1pm in McKenzie Hall

Lunches often include an ice-breaker to get to know each other better, devotional/prayer time, a group game and of course food! In the past we have done projects for a local ministry, other times we have heard from mission guests and recently we did a project to take home and personally enjoy.

FCCA Sunday School & Children's News

Just before the sermon during Sunday worship, children are welcome to leave with leaders for Sunday School in the Griffith House. In August, it was also a blessing to enjoy Jayden's gifts in worship. He played "Reckless Love" on the keyboard and did a wonderful job!

Caregiver Resource Information

Many individuals in our church are caregivers in various ways. Recently, an individual shared a resource with us at the church because it had been so beneficial in their family. We want to pass the information along in case it also benefits others. Caregivers, you are seen and appreciated and we hold you in prayer. It is an act of love and discipline, and it is a challenging and holy job. The

individual who shared the resource with us has beautifully framed their role in the family in this way, "I have embraced that my role is to walk my loved one home."

Caregiver Resource Center OC Website: caregiveroc.org

Caregiver Resource Center OC is a trusted partner for Orange County families who are coping with the physical, emotional, and financial responsibilities of caregiving. We are a not-for-profit agency therefore our services are FREE to family caregivers. By providing families with individualized supportive services, CRC OC stands apart as the only Orange County agency focusing specifically on the needs of caregivers who are coping with a loved one's chronic illness. Services include family consultation, assessment, care planning, counseling, referrals for resources, psycho-educational seminars, respite planning and community education.



JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Dennis Johnson



Dennis is a retired graphic artist and cartoonist. He is a native from Chicago. He earned an athletic scholarship in track and field at the University of Arizona. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and then went on to work in the graphic arts industry for 20 years. During his art career he has met various famous cartoonists, including Mel Blanc, famous for his Warner Brothers cartoon voice characterizations for Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Porky Pig. He became friends with his childhood comic book mentor Jack Kirby, "The King of the Comic Books." The last of his 20-year career was working and helping kids with learning disabilities in Special Education. Dennis will have a very unique testimony. Come and see.

When: Monday, September 11, 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 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

JOG



Of Orange County
Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)
Meeting the 2nd Monday of Every Month

Missions' Corner

On August 6th your FCCA Mission Board had the privilege and pleasure of allocating **\$6,280.00** to support these following ministries and missionaries:

- *Mission Ministries Philippines, Dr. Chonabelle Domingo, Director*
- *Mission Ministries Middle East, Rev. Andrew and Karen Bush*
- *NACCC Christ to the Villages, Nigeria, Rev. Matthew Oladele*
- *NACCC Panamerican Institute, Mexico, Laura Ramirez, Director*
- *NACCC Congregational Church of Myanmar, Rev. Elvis Sa Do*
- *NACCC Congregational Mission of Jardin America, Argentina, Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker*
- *CRU in the Middle East*
- *The Macedonia Outreach, Greece, Pantelis and Roula Sideopoulos*
- *The Salvation Army, Santa Ana Donation Center*

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:7, “*You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure, ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’*” (NLT)

I truly believe that the FCCA church family gives not only cheerfully but generously, and thanks to all of you the Mission Board was able to send financial support to some wonderful missionaries across the globe. Your giving this summer to Mission Ministries Philippines is a prime example of your generosity. Throughout this upcoming year if your heart leads you to give to missions in general, please mark your check or envelope MISSIONS. You can also name a particular mission, and that gift will be designated for that mission.

Watch for updates and reports about the missions that we support in the Mission Corner of THE CALL each month.

Thank you for sharing your blessings!

The Mission Board

Pastor Jim and Penny Schibsted, Pastor Emily Raasch, Mike Villa Real, Tom and Susan Fraker, Lois Johnston, Zenaida Reyes, and Linda Freud, Chair.



September Birthdays

- 1-Sep Carol Peterson
- 4-Sep Michael Villa-Real
- 5-Sep Jay Ramsay
- 7-Sep Angelina Morookian
- 8-Sep Laurie Donahue
- 11-Sep Delores Francis
- 18-Sep Amy Eades
- 19-Sep Jennifer Mc Gonigle
- 20-Sep Billie Honaker
- 24-Sep Stacey Cohee
- 24-Sep James Richard Henri
- 28-Sep Bunnie Haas

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

(A Letter from Pastor Emily Continued...)

Small groups are starting again this month! I enjoyed the animated conversations sparked by the Wisdom Series we held in May. It was a joy to bring all together in one big group for the study—each person who participated enriched the discussion in a unique way. We also noticed that a short study seemed to go over well. Therefore, this fall we will again meet as one larger small group and we will divide the 6-week study into two shorter segments. We will meet for three weeks in September, followed by a group dinner outing. Then, we will resume the study for three weeks in November, concluding with another group dinner the week after Thanksgiving. See the included insert for specific dates. Our study this fall will be on Old Testament characters—a topic that is sure to be lively. If you think the Bible is dull, it is time to meet these characters and engage with their stories of faith (and imperfection). They are relatable.

If you're looking for additional fellowship opportunities, we invite you to the JOG: Just Ordinary Guys lunches each month or the bi-monthly women's lunch. Dennis Johnson will be sharing his testimony this month at JOG, and last month Isy Martin, Jr. shared! It is a joy to hear from individuals in our congregation.

I think of our church and I thank God for the MANY ways that each individual blesses our ministry as a whole. I think of the private calls that are made as you care for and check on each other. I think of the volunteers that make Sundays and luncheons flow smoothly. I think of the emails, texts and calls that come in from individuals offering support in various ways. I think of those who diligently watch the prayer requests and offer their prayers, in quiet and powerful support. We thank God for each of you and look forward to a meaningful and joyful fall at the church.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960