

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 3 323

«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

The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim

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

Vol. 378 No. 8 Published Monthly Aug 1, 2025



IN THIS ISSUE
Message from Pastor Jim
Connect
Mission Corner
JOG Luncheon
Birthdays
August Word Scramble
2025 Photo Album

“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

Photos from 2025



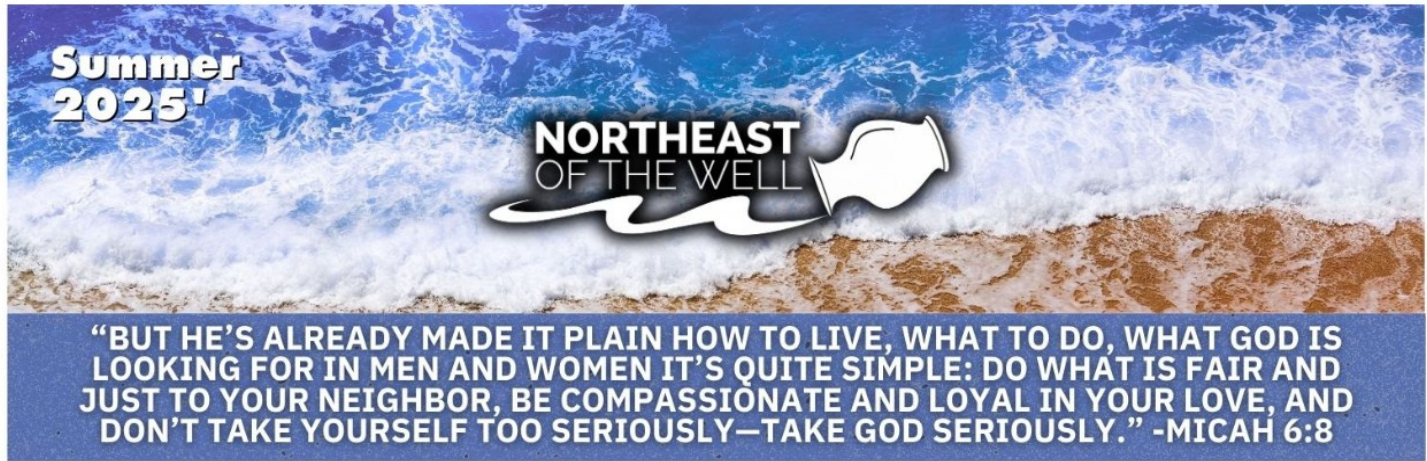
Mission Corner

Linda Freud and your Mission Board

I had the privilege of being part of a Zoom conversation with Rev. Andrew Bush a couple of weeks ago. Pastor Jim arranged this meeting for several members of JOG and me to have a chance to meet Andrew. I asked about Shadi Najar, the pastor whom we had been praying for after the war began. Shadi, his wife and 2 children, had been at the Roman Catholic Church in Gaza with other Christians. They were finally able to get out and are now safely in Australia. Andrew described their harrowing journey from Gaza to Egypt, but praise to God they all made it. Sadly, you may have heard on the news that this Church was hit last week by Israeli forces. We must keep fervently praying for a ceasefire and for aid to reach the people of Gaza.

I also want to highlight NorthEast of the Well this month by sharing their summer newsletter with you. This ministry meets at our church on Monday nights for dinner and worship. They have been called by God to work with people in very hard places. They do amazing things!

Faithfully, Linda Freud



AT THE HEART OF OUR MISSION IS THIS CALL—TO ACT JUSTLY, LOVE FAITHFULLY, AND WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD. EVERY DAY, WE STEP INTO THE HARD PLACES: ADDICTION, INCARCERATION, MENTAL ILLNESS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING. THESE ARE NOT JUST ISSUES—THEY ARE PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO ARE SEEN, KNOWN, AND LOVED BY GOD.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN CONTINUE THE WORK GOD HAS SO CLEARLY CALLED US TO.

(Cont. on p. 4)



“THE OUTCAST BECOMES THE WITNESS”
STEPS TO SUCCESS



Steps to Success offers job training and transition support for individuals impacted by trauma, trafficking, addiction, or homelessness. Through classes and mentoring, participants build soft skills, explore Christian faith, and grow in community. We maintain personal relationships with each participant, aiming to connect them with job opportunities, internships through NorthEast of the Well, or our partner organizations.



KYLEE grew up with her grandparents in Newport Beach in a broken family, which led to drugs at just 12 years old. As her addiction deepened through her teenage years, she resorted to prostitution to keep a roof over her and her grandma’s heads. After losing her grandma to cancer, the addiction spiraled even further. She found herself in several rehabs and sober living homes.

She met NorthEast a year later while at Thomas House Shelter and was brought in as an intern embracing our Steps to Success program, and is learning the values of a job.

“THE OUTCAST BECOMES THE WITNESS”
EMBRACING TRANSFORMATION



“For 14 years, I was trapped in a heroin addiction. By 19, my life was already in a downward spiral, marked by self-destruction, broken relationships, homelessness, and time in jail. Living just to survive, with no hope or direction. In March 2023, I was arrested for my fifth probation violation. That painful moment became a turning point. While in jail, I started getting clean. When I got out, I decided to surrender my life to Jesus, and everything changed. Today, I’ve been clean for over two years. God has restored my life, brought healing to my relationships, and surrounded me with a strong supportive community. I’m involved with Northeast of the Well, where I share my story, invite others to Monday night services, and witness the Holy Spirit transform lives —just like He did mine. I used to walk alone. Now, I walk with Jesus—and I’m never alone again.”



*“For the past 18 months, I’ve had the privilege of **volunteering** at gatherings in Newport Beach, Anaheim, and now weekly in Long Beach. I’ve prayed with men and women at some of their lowest points, sharing hope through the Gospel and the love of Jesus. Serving in this way brings me back week after week. At home, my family always asks, “How did it go tonight?” It’s a joy to share what God is doing through NorthEast of the Well—and even more meaningful to see my daughter inspired to grow in her own faith. As a friend once said, “You can’t outgive God.”*



JOG: Just Ordinary Guys (& Gals)

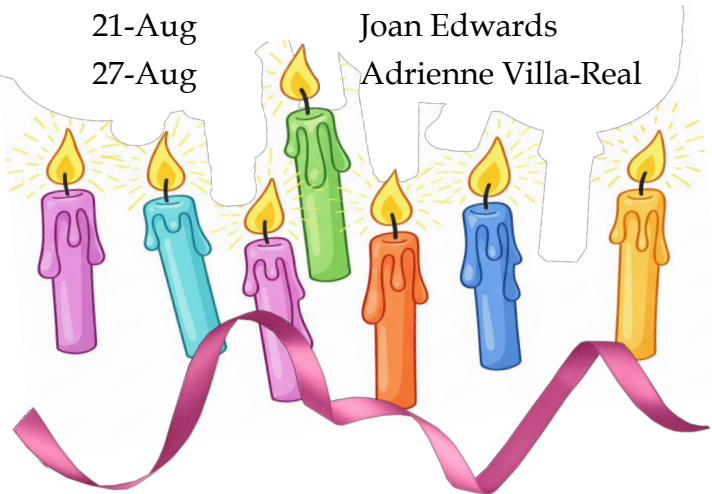
For over 50 years, doctor. Peter G. St. Don has preached, taught, and walked along side those seeking God's direction. Raised in a home where Faith was lived out daily, he learned that true strength is found in trusting God completely. His father's quiet devotion left a lasting impact, shaping Peter's own Journey of Faith and Ministry. From the pulpit to personal conversations, his heart has always been for people—to encourage, uplift, and challenge them to live with purpose and perspective. Through seasons of Trials and triumphs, he has seen first hand how God's truth brings Clarity, healing, and hope.

Monday, August 11, 2025 **12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** **McKenzie Hall**
515 North State College Blvd Anaheim, Ca 92806 (Located one block south of La Palma on the west side of State
Enjoy the music, as well as the humor from football coach, Tom Meiss. There will be an excellent meal and good fellowship. **Please RSVP** via email at chuck@penningtons-inc.com or call Chuck at 714-350-8983

The next Women’s Luncheon will be in September

August Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|---------------------|
| 3-Aug | Paul Canton |
| 5-Aug | Rumyana Staneva |
| 6-Aug | Jonathan T. Yip |
| 7-Aug | Paul Haas |
| 13-Aug | Blake Ramsay |
| 19-Aug | Julia Swagerty |
| 21-Aug | Joan Edwards |
| 27-Aug | Adrienne Villa-Real |



AUGUST
WORD SCRAMBLE

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| NUSYN | _____ |
| GLEASUL | _____ |
| DANS | _____ |
| ECONA | _____ |
| CABLEBALK | _____ |
| FURS | _____ |
| LANISIG | _____ |
| VAWES | _____ |
| HASELLES | _____ |
| TERAURES | _____ |

Sailing, Waves, Seashell, Treasure
Sunny, Seagull, Sand, Ocean, Beachball, Surf,

Message from Pastor Jim



I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for stepping up in such meaningful ways during these past few months. This summer brought unique challenges as we found ourselves short on staff, but thanks to your love, commitment and servant attitudes, we continued to move forward in faith and mission.

Your help in volunteering in children's ministries, keeping the facilities in good working order, helping with JOG and the women's group, preparing meals, filling in on Sunday morning worship, offering prayer and encouragement to those who lost loved ones or had failing health, by being present, does not go unnoticed. Time after time, you showed up with willing hands and joyful spirits, and it made all the difference!

You've reminded me once again that the church is not a building but rather an extended family that serves one another, carries each other's burdens thereby reflecting the love of Christ through action. Thank you for those of you who rearranged your plans, taking on extra responsibilities and giving your time. Your sacrifice was a blessing to many of us!

I am also grateful for those outside our immediate church family who stepped in. Marilyn Keyte, a dear friend, volunteered her time to continue our newsletter, ENews, and bulletin graphics. Dr. George Wood, Rev. Hank

(Cont. on page 7)

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday, 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
FCCA email:
fccaoice@gmail.com
FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys
August 11, 2025
12-1:30 p.m. (see page 5)
Women's Luncheon
September TBD
11:30 a.m. (see page 5)
Other News
August 17
Pastor Emily and Rick's
son, Silas Andrew Raasch, will
be dedicated during Morning
Worship
August 26th
Pastor Emily returns from
leave

Message from Pastor Jim

(Cont. from page 2)

Garcia, and Bishop Taisi Aumua filled in with excellent sermons when I and others from our church attended the International Congregational Fellowship Conference in Greece, and when I was on vacation.

I am looking forward to the dedication service of Pastor Emily and Rick's precious baby, Silas on Sunday, August 17th, and to Pastor Emily's return from maternity leave on August 26th.

On a personal note, I would very much appreciate your prayers, as I've been invited by Bishop Aloysius Kiiza to speak at an Ecumenical Conference in Uganda. Last year, there were 3,000 people in attendance from various countries. Recently, Bishop Aloysius Kiiza was invited to be a part of an Ecumenical Council by the President of Uganda. Pastor Jin Sung from the Oasis Church which meets on our campus, Siew Wen and I will travel together, leaving from Los Angeles on Monday, August 26th and returning on September 3rd .

Thanks again for your prayers and watching over our church. Your faithfulness is a wonderful example of God's goodness and grace.

Gratefully, Pastor Jim

A promotional poster for the '26th Annual World Revival Conference'. The poster features a purple and gold color scheme. At the top, it says 'LIFT UP JESUS GLOBAL MINISTRIES AND WORLD REVIVAL MISSIONS PRESENTS'. The main title is 'THE 26TH ANNUAL WORLD Revival CONFERENCE'. Below that, the theme is 'THE GLORY EXPLOSION' with the scripture 'ISAIAH 40:5'. It lists the hosts as 'Bishop Aloysius & Pr. Margaret Kiiza'. The dates are 'SUNDAY 24TH - 31ST AUGUST 2025'. It also states 'Will be Ministering: PR. JIM SCHIBSTED (U.S.A)'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: '+256 772 887 408 | +256 776 889 560', email addresses 'liftupjesusglobalministries@gmail.com' and 'annualworldrevivalconferences@gmail.com', and the venue 'Kabale Stadium'.

Photos from 2025

(cont. from p. 6)

