

First Congregational Church of Anaheim
515 N State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92806
Phone: 714-776-0960 Email: fccaooffice@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at www.fcca.org

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The Call

First Congregational Church
of Anaheim

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



Vol. 378 No. 8

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August Newsletter

Inside:

- GriefShare Starting Aug. 12
- Mission Updates
- August JOG Flyer
- Upcoming Women’s Lunch
- MomCo & More!

WWW.FCCA.ORG

“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

A Letter from Pastor Emily

Pastor's Letter Continued...



This month, I have been especially grateful for God's presence in side conversations. While I treasure our Sunday morning worship, I've been reminded that some of the most meaningful moments of church happen before and after the service, around tables, and in quiet conversations. In recent weeks, I heard precious words shared by Delores Francis' family at her graveside. I received phone calls, messages, and prayers for my dad after he was diagnosed with cancer. I listened as moms had thoughtful conversation while babies babbled on a play mat in the library.

These ordinary, honest moments remind me why I love the church. They are moments of shared burdens, quiet encouragement, laughter, grief, and hope. They remind us that we were never meant to walk through life alone. I have seen God's presence in these conversations, and I am grateful to be part of a community that shows up for one another with love and faith.

That same spirit of encouragement was present at our most recent MomCo gathering. Our last meeting included thoughtful conversation sparked by Psalm 46 about what it means to do what we can while also letting go of our need for control—to trust that God holds it all. (Cont. Pg. 7)

Motherhood, as many of you know firsthand, has a way of pushing us to find that balance. The gathering was a meaningful time of honesty, encouragement, and prayer, and we would love to welcome any moms who are looking for community. MomCo is continuing to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month through the summer and will return to its regular schedule of meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays beginning in August.

That desire to walk alongside one another also lies at the heart of GriefShare. Beginning Wednesday, August 12, the group will meet from 2:15–3:45 p.m. GriefShare is a trusted program that has helped people navigate grief for decades. Whether your loss is recent or happened many years ago, you are welcome. If you are looking for a caring place to process your grief, find encouragement, and learn practical tools for navigating life after loss, we hope you will consider joining us. You do not have to walk this journey alone.

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys & Gals luncheons continue to be a wonderful way to hear a unique story of how God has impacted an individual's life. Lunches are on the second Monday of every month from 12-1:30pm. Come check it out sometime! See the flyer for August on page 5.

We have enjoyed meeting in homes for our women's lunches, but we are also excited to host our August women's lunch in the library at the church. Women, save Monday, August 17th in your calendars. It's always wonderful to have time to enjoy each other. There's plenty of informal time to catch up and we also have someone from the group share a devotional while Carol Peterson tends to be our fabulous leader for group games and activities.

Finally, it was a joy to welcome Fabio Iqbal as our guest preacher while Pastor Jim was in Montana. I heard from many of you how much you appreciated his message last Sunday. His sermon was a timely

reminder to look for God's hand in our entire stories—the God who promises to work all things together for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28). We are grateful for Fabio's willingness to share with our congregation and for the encouragement he brought.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Emily

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.
Sandya 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, August 10th
12-1:30 pm (See page 5)

MomCo

4th Tuesdays for Summer:
June, July & August
10:30am-12pm
*Babies welcome, No childcare.
MomCo exists to connect moms
with life-giving community.
Registration: \$37

Women's Lunch

Monday, August 17th at 11:30am
In the church library
Email the church for more
information at
fccaoffice@gmail.com

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



Church Updates & Events

Mission Corner

GriefShare

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

1st Set of Sessions (6 Weeks): August 12th-September 16

2nd Set of Sessions (7 Weeks): October 7-November 18

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: \$20 for each set of sessions (\$40 Total) to cover the materials

Women's Lunch

Monday, August 17th

11:30am in the Library

Women are invited to join us for lunch at the church! These are great opportunities to get to know each other better in a relaxed environment. Lunches include a devotional time and often include a group game or activity.

Please RSVP to the church office at fccaooffice@gmail.com if you plan to attend and let us know if you would like to contribute a dish.



Summer MomCo

4th Tuesdays from 10:30am-12pm (2nd and 4th Tuesday meetings to resume in September)

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. Contact Pastor Emily at fccaooffice@gmail.com for more information.

Youth Day

We are looking forward to having a youth day for our Sunday School boys on Saturday, September 5th. We'll be having breakfast at the church, some worship and devotional time and then plan to take the boys to do something fun like laser tag. Pray that God moves in our time together and that it's a fun event for our youth. We have some great boys in our church family!

First, I want to thank the congregation for your generous giving to Royal Family Kids Camp during the month of July. Your mission board matched the amount collected so a total of \$600 will be sent to support this amazing camp.

Also, your mission board met at the end of June and decided upon allocations to the following missions that we regularly support: Andrew and Karen Bush, Mission Missions Philippines, Christ to the Villages in Nigeria, Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, the Congregational Mission of Jardin America in Argentina, World Revival Conference in Uganda, CRU, and The Salvation Army of Orange County.

Lastly, I would like to highlight some exciting news about one of our local missions, Grandma's House of Hope, by sharing a recent newsletter I received from them. They are really making an impact for the homeless in Orange County. Congratulations to them.

-Linda Freud, Mission Board Chair

Grandma's House of Hope has been named Best Nonprofit Serving Military & Veterans in this year's Best of Orange awards!

Every veteran who walks through our doors carries a story most people will never fully understand. Service. Sacrifice. And, too often, a return home that didn't come with a safety net. That's where we come in.



Those who served our country deserve the opportunity to heal with dignity. Our dedicated Veterans Home offers a safe, supportive environment for veterans rebuilding their lives after homelessness. Because the needs of every veteran are unique, we also serve veterans throughout many of our other housing programs, meeting them where they are and surrounding them with the care, resources, and community they need to thrive.

Veterans here have on-site access to Case Managers, Housing Navigators, Substance Use Disorder Counselors, and mental health professionals who understand the weight of what they've carried. We work hand in hand with the Veterans Affairs office and other veteran service organizations, so no one has to navigate their next chapter alone.

Mission Corner Continued...

Honoring our veterans isn't a slogan for us. It's daily work: trauma-informed care, consistent staff who show up and stay, and a home that treats healing as something worth taking seriously. Since 2004, Grandma's House of Hope has kept 90 cents of every dollar working directly for the people we serve, and that commitment doesn't waver when it comes to those who served us first.



Stephanie Rodriguez, Assistant Program Manager for our Veterans Home; Dan Slater, City of Orange Mayor; Luis Jimenez, Assistant Program Manager for our Veterans Home

We also want to thank Orange Mayor Dan Slater for his continued support of our mission. His advocacy for our Orange County Veterans helps us make sure veterans in our community have somewhere to turn.

And this news comes on the heels of a remarkable month. In July alone, we received grant support from the Samueli Foundation and Starbucks, and now this. July has been a great month for Grandma's House of Hope, and none of it happens without people like you.

JOG

★ LUNCHEON ★

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

JERRY OWYANG

★ FAITH. SECOND CHANCES. PURPOSE. ★

Jerry and his parents were native born Californians, yet his Grandparents came from China. In 1905 his grandmother became the **first Chinese dentist** in America. His great-grandfather was the **first Chinese Ambassador** to America.

Jerry received degrees in **science** and **chemistry** from the University of California, San Diego and a degree from the University of Santa Clara **School of Law**.

Yet his business career took a dramatic turn when his older brother, a pastor in Chinatown was shot to death. In the past thirty years, Jerry has been in and out of prison; where he has served with the **Kairos Prison Ministry**, a remarkably effective nationwide ministry.

WHEN:
MONDAY,
AUGUST 10TH,
2026
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

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

JOG

OF ORANGE COUNTY

JUST
ORDINARY
GUYS

MEETING THE
2ND MONDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

★★ REAL MEN. REAL STORIES. REAL IMPACT. ★★