

The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim



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

Vol. 378 No. 7

Published Monthly

July 1, 2025



July Events

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

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“Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future”

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A message from Penny Schibsted

Living in community is messy, but also so important for our emotional, spiritual and physical health. God made us in such way that we do better when we work together. Scientists even say animal species that learn to work together are the ones who do better.

Jim and I were moved by so many things we saw on our recent trip to Greece for the International Congregational Fellowship and The Steps of Paul tour. We saw examples both from history and from current day of people making decisions to either work together for the common good or for one group to just power over another and cause destruction.

Today we're seeing a lot of conflict in our country and even local community. Some amongst us, documented or not, are afraid to go to work, school or church because of ICE raids. There have been massive protests about this, too. I have heard and seen detailed descriptions from protestors I know who witnessed the masses being peaceful, but at times some looked like they were getting riled up and started throwing water bottles at police. In video clips seen later on the news more harmful actions were seen to have been done to police and small businesses. These actions were harmful and made the whole protest look bad. My Christian protesting friends believe they need to speak up for public wrongs being done but don't want to promote chaos.

(Cont. on page 6)



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.
Sandya Costa - Montessori Director

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:
fccaoffice@gmail.com

FCCA Office Phone:
714-776-0960

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, July 14, 2025
12-1:30 p.m. (see page 3)

JOG Luncheon



Cris Tenorio is known as Pastor Cris at Ekklesia Today Church, and founder of Crispin Tenorio Ministries (CTM). Their vision: "One Voice, One Gospel, One Soul at a Time." He has been married to Pastor Melinda Tenorio for 18 years. Their one and only son, Jude, just graduated from Beckman High School and is headed to Liberty University to pursue a career in aviation. Pastor Cris, with years of experience as an owner of non-profit and for-profit organizations, uses his skills for the Kingdom of God. He is always learning and holds degrees in Biblical Studies and Theology from Vanguard University of Southern California.

Monday, July 14, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
McKenzie Hall

Address: 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, First-time Visitors: Free

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

Updates

ICE in Our Community

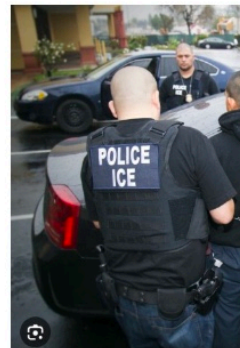
Lately, I have been meeting with the pastors of the churches that meet on our campus, one of which has been meeting here for 30 years.

Many of their members are afraid to leave their homes because of their fear of being arrested by ICE. Last Sunday, one of their fellow churches in Whittier was visited by ICE during their worship service. Another group of individuals were taken away by ICE at the Home depot near our church.

This is a very strange time in the life of our country. We need to pray and do what we can, and trust God during these times of uncertainty. In addition to prayer, we are thinking about shopping for folks that are afraid to leave their homes.

Please pray for these fellow believers who love the Lord.

Thank you. Pastor Jim



Women's Luncheon

The ladies met at Bev Aye's home. The luncheon began with a devotion and discussion led by Cindy Hamann on how we face trials and struggles in our lives. Cindy asked if we consider our difficulties "a gift" as noted in James 1:2. The question opened an inspirational discussion, which allowed everyone a chance to share heartfelt experiences. The group ended with lunch and dessert and a lively discussion on what author, book or movie they would enjoy if they were on a couple months vacation.

Mission Corner

Linda Freud and your Mission Board

This month I am sharing a newsletter from our missionaries Rev. Andrew and Karen Bush. I just received it early in June and it is very specific to the conflict between Israel and Iran, which had just started when he sent it. As we know from the news, things have escalated since then. We all need to pray for peace in the region, for the safety of American service men and women in the area and citizens in Israel and Iran, and for the leaders of all nations involved to act wisely.

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:14

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Matthew 5:9

On a lighter note, Grandma’s House of Hope, which I highlighted last month in the CALL, had a project on June 23 and 24 called “SUDS OF SUPPORT”. They received an incredible donation of 2 pallets of gallon-sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash and more. They needed volunteers to transfer the liquid into individual 8-ounce pump bottles. Carol Peterson, Susan Cannady, and myself enjoyed our 3 hour shift on Tuesday morning, and we left with the lovely scent of coconut and lime on our hands and smiles on our faces.

Faithfully,

Linda Freud

June newsletter from missionaries Rev. Andrew and Karen Bush.

If possible, as far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

Dear Friends,

Greetings from overseas. We pray that you are well, and thank you so very much for your prayers for us. It is undoubtedly a time for prayer as the Holy Land is once again shattered by violence from the outbreak of war with Iran.

During the last half of May, we conducted a two-week residential course in Bethlehem for thirteen brave individuals seeking to grow as peacemakers (pictured below in Jericho) from Hungary, Canada, the UK,



(Cont. on next page)

Mission Corner

(Cont. from p. 4)

Jordan, and the US. The participants heard from Palestinian Christian, Muslim, and Israeli Jewish leaders in the field of peacebuilding. As part of the program, folks visited important sites and organizations.

One of the things we consistently find to be true is that people's conception of what peacemaking involves is often limited. Folks come to the Middle East with an idea of what is needed for there to be more peace, but underestimate the intensity of effort that is required, and this includes the need to listen to people whom they have previously discounted as valid voices.

In early June, Karen and I (below) traveled to Amsterdam for an important international conference of Anabaptist leaders. The theme of the conference was "Reclaiming Radical Witness." The first Anabaptists (re-baptizers) were a radical movement within the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century and are the spiritual progenitors of all who argue for believers' baptism. I gave a talk that was well received on the need for a renewed theology of mission.



Today, we are glad we left the Holy Land when we did for the conference. Friends in Bethlehem are telling us that the violence is nothing like they have ever experienced. One says her building shakes when the missiles strike nearby. Our friends on the West Bank have no bomb shelters and rely on Israeli missile alerts. During the long nights, they are sheltering on the lower floors of their buildings. Flights out of Tel Aviv are cancelled again, and this time, the cancellations are indefinite. Several friends, including our colleague Anne P., have no way of departing the country. None of the experts have any idea how this conflict between Israel and Iran will develop. It is bad now, but it could get much worse.

Let us intercede for a ceasefire with Iran and in Gaza. Today, in all of our speech and actions, let us sow peace.

Much love always -
Andrew and Karen
June 2025

An Opportunity

Pupusas for a Purpose

Medical Mission to Honduras

Iglesia De Dios is selling pupusas for a mission fundraiser to send a medical team to Honduras.

Join in for lunch after church

Sunday, July 6

Library

Cost : 3 for \$10.

They can also be preordered for pick-up by calling Suzana
at 714-728-0247.

“Responding to Conflict”

(cont. from p. 2)

So, how do we as people trying to follow Jesus and be peacemakers respond to conflicts such as the ones we see today? I don't have a pat answer, and I know different ones of us will choose different responses. Here are a few guidelines from my counseling and scriptural backgrounds to consider.

First, after hearing about something and feeling upset, center yourself before God. Take some deep breaths and bring to mind God's presence. Know there is a bigger picture. Ask the Spirit for guidance.

Next prayerfully consider the key teachings of Jesus that have to do with how we think about and respond to others. You might want to write down a few things when you consider these teachings. Such teachings are:

God is like a good Father who cares for all (not just me or my group)

Loving God and loving others are the highest commandments

Caring for the vulnerable (the poor, the hungry, the stranger, the sick and imprisoned) was emphasized so much that Jesus said when you care for these people you are caring for Him.

Jesus said, “Take the log out of your own eye before trying to remove the splinter from someone else's.” I think this is like saying don't jump to judgement. Pause and consider what's influencing your opinion and also consider the other's viewpoint.

Jesus emphasized worshipping God in spirit and truth. He said this was more important than the particulars of how or where you worship. To me this teaching can apply to the way we do a lot of things before God. What is our intent? Are we being honest and trying to figure out what is actually true or are we being influenced by “Influencers”?



Worship through communion in
Evangelical Church in Athens .

Jesus said the peacemakers, the merciful, the righteous and those treated badly for doing things that are in line with Jesus will be blessed. Aim to do the right thing in Jesus' name and with Jesus' help.

Finally, ask God to help you see an appropriate situation where you might be able to work alongside God by responding to it. “Ask and you will receive. Seek and you will find.” When the right moment comes to respond, do so calmly and in love. All we can do is our best! Then hold on to hope even if you think you could have done better or the work is hard. We are always learning while here on earth and Jesus said, “I will be with you always even to the end of the age!”

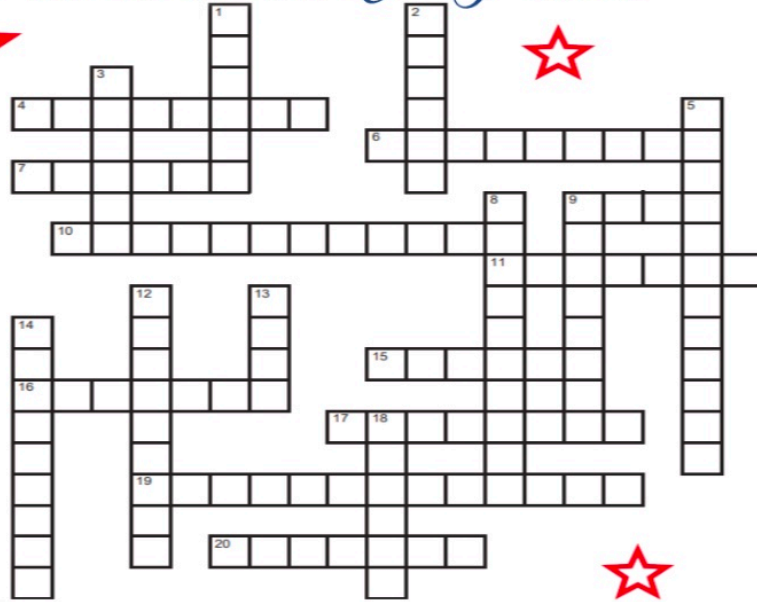
May God be with us all as we seek to grow, serve and follow Jesus!

Penny

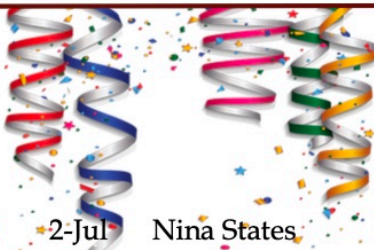
Just for Fun!



Summer Fun



July Birthdays



2-Jul	Nina States
5-Jul	Fernando Diaz
5-Jul	Jeanette Walker
7-Jul	Helen Eliason
9-Jul	Christina Richey
12-Jul	Terri DiCamillo
15-Jul	Jim Schibsted
16-Jul	Terry Browning
17-Jul	Raul Caicedo
19-Jul	Jerry VanderZyl
21-Jul	Jennifer Brunson
22-Jul	Teresa Davies
23-Jul	Ramina Swanson
24-Jul	Ray Craig
25-Jul	Henry Honaker
27-Jul	Janice Bowers
28-Jul	Diana Rowe

ACROSS

4. American President who was born on July 4th, Calvin ____.
6. Founding Father and third President of the United States.
7. Public procession that might occur on July Fourth. 9. Red, white and ____.
10. City in which the Declaration of Independence was signed.
11. Nickname for the American flag, stars and ____.
15. Open air meal popular on July Fourth.
16. Symbol of freedom located in the New York City Harbor: Statue of ____.
17. Number of original colonies that declared independence.
19. Fight for American independence: The ____ War.
20. Famous signer of the Declaration of Independence: John ____.

DOWN 1. Patriotic song often sung on Independence Day: Yankee ____.

2. National anthem of the United States: The Star-Spangled ____.
3. The day of the month on which America declared its independence.
5. Founding document of the United States: The Declaration of ____.
8. First President of the United States. .
9. Cooking outdoors on a grill.
12. Light show often seen on the 4th of July.
13. Month in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed
14. National bird of the United States.
18. Commonly consumed food on July 4th. Jefferson

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