First Congregational Church of Anaheim
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The Call

First Congregational Church of Anaheim

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

Vol. 378 No. 11 Published Monthly November 1, 2026



"Grateful for the past — Hopeful for the future"

A Letter from Pastor Emily



What does it mean to worship God? It's a question we've been exploring together throughout October, and one that invites us to think beyond what happens during our Sunday morning services. Worship is about our relationship with God—how we come before God, how we respond to God's presence, and how we live in light of who God is.

Pastor Jim opened our worship series by reminding us of the importance of waiting on God and the power of worship to recalibrate our souls. Over the following two weeks, I explored what it means to bring our whole selves honestly into worship and to remember that we worship God—not for a particular response or for what God might give us, but simply because of who God is.

This past Sunday, Fabio Iqbal joined us again as a guest speaker and drew our attention to worshiping in spirit and in truth, even when times are difficult and we don't have clear answers from God. Fabio focused on Paul and Silas, who worshiped God and sang hymns while sitting in shackles in prison. God orchestrated an incredible turn of events, but they were worshiping before they knew how it would all unfold. What a testimony of love and faith!

(Continued on Pg. 7)

Connect with us

Sunday Morning Worship
Sundays, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery Care

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
Email us at fccaoffice@gmail.com & ask to be added to our e-news for regular updates and opportunities!
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

Pastor's Letter Continued...

It was a privilege to hear Fabio's testimony during the October JOG luncheon and then to hear him speak during worship at the end of the month. His faith in Jesus is tangible, and he is also a wonderful example of what it looks like to let love lead the way we share Jesus with others.

October was an exciting month on multiple levels! We now officially have a church nursery where our littlest ones can go during worship, and we are continuing to offer Sunday School. This past Sunday, we had several children enjoying the nursery, and I know my husband was thrilled to sit down and listen to a sermon all the way through for maybe the first time in a year and a half! We hope this opportunity will be a blessing to other families as well.

In October, we also began a Women's Bible Study! I have had so much fun with it already. It's a special space to open the Bible together and explore details that can be difficult to get into on Sunday mornings. I have especially loved how our conversations enrich the process of discovery as we read together. So far, we have explored the women who appear in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, as well as the story of Ruth. Our next study will focus on Esther. All are welcome! We have coffee, tea, and simple treats to begin our mornings together.

And now, the holidays are upon us! We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together as a church on Sunday, November 22. We invite you to join us after worship for our Thanksgiving feast. Friends and family are warmly welcome!

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, my hope is that we continue to grow as a community that worships God with our whole hearts, gives thanks for God's faithfulness, and makes room for others to experience God's love among us.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Emily

November Birthdays

- *10-Nov* *Susan Fraker*
- *18-Nov* *James Purvis*
- *23-Nov* *Alissa Williams*
- *26-Nov* *Bob States*
- *30-Nov* *Tom Mena*

Church Updates & Events

Women's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Mondays of the month from 9:30-11am in the Library

We are excited to be offering a Women's Bible Study at the church! Let us know in the church office if you're interested, or simply show up and join us sometime!

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Meets the 2nd Monday of every month

12-1:30pm in McKenzie Hall

See page 5 for more info.

In October, Fabio Iqbal spoke both for the JOG luncheon and during worship. We are grateful for the encouragement his testimony and his message gave us.



GriefShare

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

Second Set of Sessions: October 7-November 18th

GriefShare is a caring support group for anyone naviagating 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.

MomCo

2nd Tuesdays of the month

10:30am-12pm in the Library

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.

Women's Lunch

Monday, December 7th at 11:30am, Teri Rider's Home

For more information, see updates in the enews and December CALL or email the church.

Mission Corner

It is already time to think Christmas!

Every year, the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana raises money to offer school families Christmas Food Baskets to help carry them through the winter break when students are home full time. This time of year can be particularly hard on families financially. We will be collecting funds through November that we will then send on to the school to support this mission. Any amount helps! Please make contributions to FCCA with a note that it is for "Christmas Food Baskets." See the next page for more information about the Panamerican Institute.



Mission Corner Continued...

The Panamerican Institute

Opening Doors of Opportunity in Tijuana, Mexico



Just across the border in Tijuana, Mexico, the Panamerican Institute has been making a difference in the lives of young people for more than 60 years. Founded in the early 1960s by Rev. Edgar S. Welty, the school was established to provide quality education to children from families with limited financial resources.

Today, the Panamerican Institute serves students in grades 7–9, offering an education that goes beyond the classroom. In addition to their academic studies, students have opportunities to develop practical skills, explore science and technology, and grow in character and responsibility. The school's mission is not simply to educate students, but to equip them with the knowledge, confidence, and opportunities to build a brighter future.

One particularly meaningful part of the Panamerican Institute's story is that many of its teachers and staff are former students who have returned to invest in the next generation. Having experienced firsthand the difference the school can make, these graduates are now helping other young people discover their own potential.

The school relies on the generosity of individuals, churches, and other supporters to continue its work. Donations help make education accessible to students whose families might otherwise struggle to afford the costs associated with attending school.

The Panamerican Institute's care for its students also extends to their families. Each December, the school distributes Christmas Food Baskets, providing practical assistance and encouragement during the holiday season. This is one of the ways our congregation has an opportunity to come alongside the school and share God's love in a tangible way.

Through education, encouragement, and practical care, the Panamerican Institute continues to make a lasting difference in its community, one student and one family at a time.

