

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
ANAHEIM



The  
Call

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

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# June

[HTTPS://MISSIONMINISTRIESPHILIPPINES.ORG/](https://missionministriesphilippines.org/)



## MISSION VISIT, COMBINED WORSHIP & POTLUCK

Sunday, July 9th

Guests from Mission Ministries Philippines

Speaker: Dr. Chonabelle Domingo

Combined Worship & Potluck w/ United New Life

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

## 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  
Mike Austin & Chuck Pennington—J.O.G (Just Ordinary Guys)  
Sandya Costa—Montessori Director

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

## **"What a Great Day!"**

Last Wednesday, I felt so blessed to be a part of our church family! In the morning Pastor Emily and I had a Zoom call with the International Congregational Fellowship Program Committee. It was so good to receive input from members in other places. Through the wonders of technology we spoke with Pantelis Sideropoulos from Greece who offered some good ideas for our upcoming International Congregational Fellowship meeting in Fiji. Six of us from our church along with Simon Gounder (the founder of Global AIM) will join other Congregationalists for this meeting. We are looking forward to this time together!

Following the Zoom call, there were phone calls to return, emails to respond to, facility decisions to be made, and an *Encouragement for Today Devotional* to create. Later I met my good friend Mark Ayres for lunch. Mark and I had the joy of leading pastors' conferences in the Marshall Islands and in Myanmar (Burma) in years past. Next week Mark and his wife Debbie are returning as missionaries to Malaysia. Mark mentioned to me that Pastor Maa was attending a conference in Anaheim and he and Debbie were meeting her for dinner. He invited me to join them. It was an inspiring time. Pastor Maa was the superintendent of many churches in Myanmar. She graciously hosted Mark and me when we led a pastors' conference in Myanmar shortly before the pandemic. Unfortunately, Pastor Maa contracted COVID and was hospitalized for many months. She was in desperate need of oxygen which was very expensive because it was in short supply. When we heard about her need, our church responded by sending her a generous gift to help cover the expense. After many months of fighting COVID Pastor Maa was pronounced dead by the attending physician. Her sister and others continued to pray as people wept over her body. After 45 minutes Pastor Maa stirred. *(Continued on Page 7)*

## **Connect**

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

***10:45am on Sundays***

Join us in person or online! You may join worship live at 10:45am on Facebook.

### **Connect Online**

**Facebook:** Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

**YouTube:** First Congregational Church of Anaheim

**Instagram:** FCCAnaheim

**Website:** [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org)

### **NorthEast of the Well**

***Every Monday, 6-8pm***

**Dinner:** 6pm, Hall

**Worship:** 6:45pm, Sanctuary

### **JOG: Just Ordinary Guys**

***Monday, June 12th***

12:00-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

\$12 for lunch

### **Guest Preacher:**

**Finney Premkumar**

Sunday, June 11th in Worship  
Finney shared at JOG this year, and we look forward to hearing him preach!

### **Mission Ministry Philippines**

**& Combined Worship**

Sunday, July 9th

United New Life will join us for worship & a potluck with MMP guests, Dr. Chona and Aida.

# JOG Luncheon

## Featuring Guest Speaker, Bill Bickers



Bill has been a financial services representative and a chartered life underwriter for over 45 years. A veteran of the Vietnam War, Bill served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in 1970. He struggled emotionally after coming back from Vietnam and dealing with the suicide of his father. A prodigal son, he eventually returned to recommit his life to Christ. He is currently serving as a volunteer, helping boys in the Orange

County Juvenile Hall as well as sponsoring men in AA that are dealing with drug and alcohol addictions. Bill plays the guitar and sings with the Influencer's worship band in Fullerton. His strong faith encourages him to serve others by being a vessel of Christ Spirit and Truth.

**When: Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
12:00pm – 1:30pm

**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 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](mailto:chuck@penningtons-inc.com)  
Or call Chuck at 714-350-8983



Of Orange County  
**Just Ordinary Guys**  
Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month

# FCCA Updates

**Succulents for Mother's Day:** A special thank you to Susan Fraker, assisted by Tom Fraker, for planting over 50 succulents to give away to the women in the church for Mother's Day! Donated succulents were planted and nurtured in the office leading up to Mother's Day.



**May Women's Lunch:** On Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, women from the church enjoyed a lunch cooked by Ms. Sandya Costa, the director of the Montessori Academy of Anaheim. Her curry was tasty! Those who attended also wrote scripture verses on notecards that will be used as part of the care packages that NorthEast of the Well uses in their street ministry to trafficked women.

**Wisdom Series Small Group Study:** We received questions in the office about a next small group study and decided to hold a 3-week study on the wisdom literature in the Old Testament! We studied Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job using videos created by the Bible Project. Discussions were lively! The group will enjoy dinner together at El Torito on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to close out the study.

**Council Celebration Dinner & Planning Retreat:** On Friday, May 19 council members and staff enjoyed an appreciation dinner at Buon Gusto in Huntington Beach—we're glad Pastor Jim knows the owner! Then on Saturday, May 20, the council met at the church to look at where we have come from and to pray about where we are going. It was a blessing to reflect and dream together! We invite you to pray with us for God's continual guidance and provision.



**A Note from Mission Chair, Linda Freud:** I am happy to share this April newsletter with you from Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, Mexico. We hadn't heard from them in a while and this is a nice overview of their entire year. Sounds like it has been productive and successful. Their graduation of 18 third-year students (comparable to our 8th grade) is coming up on July 15th. Let's keep the school, teachers and staff, students and recent graduates in our prayers.

# PANAMERICAN INSTITUTE



SCHOOL FOUNDED BY THE LATE EDGAR S. WELTY IN 1962  
CALIFORNIA USA TAX EXEMPT CORPORATION NUMBER: C0513871

April 2023

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR SCHOOL IN TIJUANA!

Pan American Institute welcomed students back to our beloved school building for the 2022-2023 school year! We are pleased to announce that we have our entire student body, over 76 students attending school in person. We have a lot to share! Please enjoy!

## CELEBRATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

### *The Altar of the Dead (Day of the Dead):*

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, third year students, led by Cinthia Yáñez, made the *Altar de Muertos*. This year the altar was dedicated to their pets. Students presented the altar to teachers and students. They explained the significance of each of the elements that make up the altar. The purpose of this activity is to promote and learn more about our Mexican traditions.

### *Posada:* December 16<sup>th</sup>,

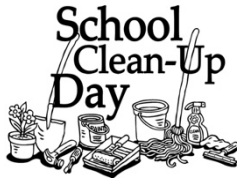
our students had a special program to celebrate Christmas. They prepared a few Christmas performances led by Cinthia Yáñez, our Dance Class Teacher, sang Christmas Carols, led by their English teachers. The Posada ended with a meal and the traditional breaking of the *piñata*.



## CHRISTMAS BASKETS WERE A HUGE SUCCESS!



Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, 2023 Christmas baskets were a huge success! December 19<sup>th</sup>, staff and volunteers from PAI prepared and distributed the Christmas baskets to the families of our students. Parents and students were very grateful because they received enough food to celebrate Christmas. Extra thanks to Ricky & Emily Raasch (Miller-Todd) for joining us to make the Christmas baskets!



### **COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION**

**Clean Up Days:** November 23<sup>rd</sup>, January 17<sup>th</sup>, and February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had a special schedule so students, parents, and teachers could join together to clean the school. Principal Paty schedules this activity once a month to keep the school clean and reinforce good hygiene habits for students at school and at home.

### **FROM THE COMPUTER LAB**

**Welcome** new computer teacher, Alvin Robles!

**First-Year students** are learning Microsoft Word -how to insert items into their documents.

**Second-Year students** are learning Introduction to PREZI and creating presentations.

**Third-Year students** are learning Windows Movie Maker, making video projects.

**Equipment Maintenance:** November, December, and January, was dedicated to the maintenance of the school's computer equipment.

**Purchases:** In December, we bought a new router and printer.

### **STAFF NEWS**

**Workshops:** On October 28<sup>th</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup>, and January 27<sup>th</sup>, our teachers attended training courses. These were organized by Paty and supervised by the staff of the 13th School Zone.

**Teacher Training:** January 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, our teachers attended the training, *Intensive Teacher Training*.

**Administration Connections:** President Laura Ramirez will be attending the:

*Cal-West Meeting:* May date TBA

*NACCC Annual Meeting & Conference:* June 24-27, 2023, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

*ICF Conference:* July 20-26, 2023, Nadi, Fiji

### **CUSTODIAN'S CORNER**

Mauricio works hard to keep the building up to code, safe for students and personnel. Everyday he disinfects after classes are over. Monthly he inventories and checks all buildings, making necessary repairs to keep our building safe and running properly. The water cistern and pump has been very useful because Tijuana frequently has no running water! For example, the day we distributed the Christmas Baskets, our neighborhood had no water, but at PAI, we did thanks to our cistern!

### **GRADUATION CEREMONY**

You are cordially invited to attend our Graduation Ceremony on **Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm**. We hope you can join us to celebrate PAI's **EIGHTEEN GRADUATES!**

#### **Spread the word about PAI**

- *Sponsor a PAI student* (\$35/month)
- *Sponsor a PAI Graduate* with their high school education (\$60/month)
- *Donate any amount* for any purpose! (gym suits, technology, sanitizing supplies, etc. . .)

#### **Contact Info**

Send your Tax deductible donations to: Pan American Institute, PO Box 438972, San Ysidro, CA 92143

OR online [www.paischool.org](http://www.paischool.org) [Click here to Make a Donation](#)

Laura Ramirez, President [auraramirez@paischool.org](mailto:auraramirez@paischool.org)

**Support  
ur  
Students**



## June Birthdays

4-Jun Roger Bowers  
5-Jun Gisela Frannea  
6-Jun Carole White  
11-Jun Katie Purvis  
16-Jun Jon Schibsted  
18-Jun Tom Fraker  
20-Jun Lois Johnson  
21-Jun Gil Owen  
27-Jun Christine Davis  
27-Jun Christian Villa Real  
28-Jun Brandon Poole  
30-Jun Tyler Robinson

If you would like to have your birthday included in the CALL, please contact the church office at 714-776-0960 or [fccaooffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaooffice@gmail.com).

*(Pastor's Letter Continued...)*

The medical staff were shocked - she was alive! We don't know if she was in a deep coma state and they could not detect her heart beat or if she had died. In either case we are so grateful she is alive and doing well. As we dined together last Wednesday she shared that when the doctors pronounced her dead, she felt an incredible peace and deep joy. It was an amazing experience and she didn't want to come back to the life she knew before. Pastor Maa mentioned that words seemed so limited in describing her "out of body" experience. Mark, Debbie and I were filled with awe as she shared her experience with us.

After dinner I attended the Bible Study on "Job." What a great time we had together! Honest conversations filled with laughter and a few tears made for a memorable time. While walking around our church campus following the Bible Study, it was nice to hear singing in various languages as people worshiped the Lord. As I reflected on the day while driving home that evening I thought what a privilege it is to be a part of our church family!

Gratefully,

Pastor Jim

P.S. On Sunday, July 9th at 10:45am, Dr. Chona Domingo and Aida Aquino from Mission Ministries Philippines will join us in worship. I am so glad the United New Life Church (Filipino Congregation) will also join us for worship and a potluck following the worship service on that day. Not only should it be an inspiring service, followed by good food and fellowship, but there will be a bounce house for the children. I hope you can join us for this festive time!

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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