



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

Vol. 377 No. 6

Published Once A Month

June 1, 2024

June



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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM

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“Created for Rhythms of Work and Rest”

Pastor Emily Raasch

May was a beautifully busy month for the church. JOG met as usual for their monthly luncheon. The May speaker, Denney Premkumar, shared how God transformed the way he sees all people by drawing him back to faith through his atheist professor. He told the group that her care for him reminded him of Christ and reminded him to see all people as children of God. A week later, the women of the church met for their luncheon and heard updates about NorthEast of the Well and their anti-human trafficking outreach. I invite you to read the Missions’ Corner article in this newsletter for a thorough update about their ministry and ways to support their work.

May included our monthly visit to Meridian Senior Living—to visit with residents and provide a time of worship. The Church Council met for their annual Planning Retreat—an encouraging time of unity as we considered the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities in the life of our church. Finally, the month closed as we finished our small group study on Old Testament Characters. Pastor Jim and I have appreciated the honesty and laughter woven into small group discussions. It has been a joy to be present this month with our church family and to see what God is doing among us!

Summer is here and the pace is changing. The activities of the church will of course continue, but we will pause small group studies for the summer and enjoy time to rest. We are looking forward to more relaxed opportunities to enjoy time with one another during these long, beautiful summer days. *(Continued, Pg. 7)*

Connect

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45am on Sundays

Sunday School

Sunday School is held every Sunday in the Griffith House during worship. Teachers & students are dismissed from worship to go to Sunday School just before the message.

Connect Online

Facebook: Anaheim Chapel at First Congregational Church of Anaheim.

YouTube: First Congregational Church of Anaheim

Instagram: FCCAnaheim

Website: www.fcca.org

JOG: Just Ordinary Guys

Monday, June 10th

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

Guest Speaker: Clyde Waite
\$12, First-time guests free

Women’s Lunch

Wednesday, June 12th

11:30am at Terry Browning’s:
315 S. Citron St.
Anaheim, CA 92805

4th of July at Peralta Park!

Food & Entertainment: 3-9pm
Fireworks: 9pm

RSVP to the church office to receive text updates about the group’s location in the park.

FCCA News & Events

Women's Lunch

Wednesday, June 12th from 11:30-1pm

Location: Terry Browning's home; 315 S. Citron St., Anaheim, CA 92805

Terry Browning has graciously offered to host a women's lunch at her home in June! Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend (fccaoffice@gmail.com; (714) 776-0960).

Meridian Senior Living: We have been providing a time of worship for residents at Meridian Senior Living once a month. It has been a blessing to meet residents and hear their stories. If you would like to join, contact the church office.

NACCC Annual Meeting & Conference: Pastor Jim and Pastor Emily will be attending the Annual Meeting & Conference for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches June 22-25th. We are excited that Pastor Lincoln Skinner from the Congregational church in Oneonta has agreed to come and preach while they are away.

4th of July at Peralta Park

Food, Activities and Entertainment: 3-9pm

Fireworks: 9pm

Pastor Jim plans to setup a small area for anyone from the church who would like to gather for an afternoon in Peralta Park before enjoying fireworks at 9pm! If you plan to join, RSVP to the church office to receive text updates about the group's location in the park.

Multi-Cultural Festival

Saturday, August 3rd from 12-6pm

Unlimited Church is spearheading a summer Multi-Cultural Festival for all of the congregations on our property to participate in and enjoy! We look forward to this opportunity to connect with the community on our campus and with the broader neighborhood. Mark your calendars, join us for the fun and let the office know if you would like to volunteer!



JOG Luncheon

Featuring Guest Speaker, Clyde Waite



Meet Clyde Waite! Film maker, teacher, book writer, and poet. Ever since his conversion to Christ, Clyde has been diligently sharing his faith with others. His ministry is called GoClyde Productions and can be easily found on YouTube. Clyde retired in 2021 from a fifteen-year career as a Senior Maintenance worker with the North Orange County ROP Career Center. Clyde and his wife, Liz, are joyful seed planters and when they are not sharing their faith online they can be found enjoying time with their eight children and thirteen grandkids.

When: Monday, June 10th, 2024

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 have an excellent meal planned, and tables are 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

Missions' Corner

Featuring NorthEast of the Well

A Letter from Linda Freud, Mission Chair



This month I would like to share some information about a special outreach of the mission known as NORHTEAST OF THE WELL. NorthEast has been gathering here at FCCA on Monday nights for dinner and worship for many years. Our Women’s Luncheon group was blessed to have Irma and Lorena join us in May to update us on their human trafficking ministry. They are the director and coordinator of this particular ministry. They gave moving personal testimonies and shared the “what and why” of this ministry.

NorthEast of the Well meets people in their “before”—before they are sober, before they are healed, and before they know Christ. They go to more than 22 transitional programs, shelters, safe houses, jails and drug treatment programs weekly sharing God’s Word, worship, and testimonies in a way that leads to deeper connection with Him. They offer the hope of the Gospel to the most desperate and marginalized in our communities. When the lost and hurting experience Jesus’ love for the first time, their hearts are transformed, and this transformation takes time. That’s why they also stay with people in their “after.”

Missions' Corner Continued...

Recovery is a process that can only happen in community. As people leave the treatment programs and residential centers, they stay connected through weekly gatherings and discipleship. NorthEast of the Well sets people on a path to discover God's love and experience the freedom that comes from knowing Him. "We do discipleship," explains Executive Director and Founder Laura Suk. "We don't just meet people where they are, we form a community." NorthEast of the Well makes disciples of men and women who then become disciple-makers themselves.

A significant number of those that NorthEast serves have been trafficked during their lifetime. This is one of the many reasons why they have chosen to step onto the frontlines of trafficking sites. On Friday nights, between 9pm and 12am, a team meets with over 45 girls being trafficked; shivering, barely clothed, waiting for the next "John" to objectify them. They are putting boots on the ground to empower the women by showing up as "the Church," praying with them, and offering next-step solutions as well as care-packages that assure them they are seen, known, and loved by God. The battle against trafficking speaks to the heart of NorthEast of the Well's mission to bring God's Word into hard-to-reach places.

From the beginning, prayer has been the heartbeat of NorthEast of the Well. Through prayer, God led them to see the needs of the people in the community. Thirteen years later, God continues to send them out to meet people where they are so they can preach the good news. As they continue to reach more people, one thing that has not changed is their commitment to prayer. I invite you to pray for the Human Trafficking outreach of NorthEast of the Well. If you want to help with a monetary donation, please mark your check or offering envelope for NorthEast of the Well Mission. We also know that they need handwarmers, bracelets (the expandable, stretchy kind), lip balm/chap stick, and encouraging scripture verses written on notecards for the care packages. Donations of these items would be gratefully accepted, and will be passed onto the Human Trafficking Outreach Team.



June Birthdays

- 4-Jun Roger Bowers
5-Jun Gisela Frannea
5-Jun Sadie Hoke
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 fccoffice@gmail.com.

(Pastor's Article Continued)

Women are invited to a lunch at Terry Browning's home this month. Church members are welcome to join Pastor Jim and Penny at Peralta Park for 4th of July entertainment and fireworks. You may RSVP to the church office to receive updates on July 4th regarding their location in the park. We look forward to scheduling a night or two in July and August when church members may enjoy local concerts in the park. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for a Multi-Cultural Festival here at the church on Saturday, August 3rd from 12-6pm!

Each week, God invites us to Sabbath rest:

Exodus 20:8, 11

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

I believe there is a constant rhythm in life of enjoying work and rest in God's creation. Sometimes the rhythm is not just about six days of work and one day of rest. It can apply to moments, times and seasons. None of us are able to hit the grind indefinitely. We need work and rest to ebb and flow. As summer begins with its beautiful, long days, I have felt the pull to stop and enjoy God's creation—to remember that I am not God and that I have a God who holds the world. Lately, Ricky and I have been soaking up the evenings outside—enjoying grilled food, the sound of the birds, and music playing as the sun goes down. These moments have felt like worship to me. It is time to simply be and enjoy the goodness of creation. I pray each of us can find moments of simple worship and joy being with God and enjoying creation this summer.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Emily

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Member: Cal-West Association – Since 1964

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.
Please contact the Church Office for details at 714. 776.0960