

FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF  
ANAHEIM



# The Call

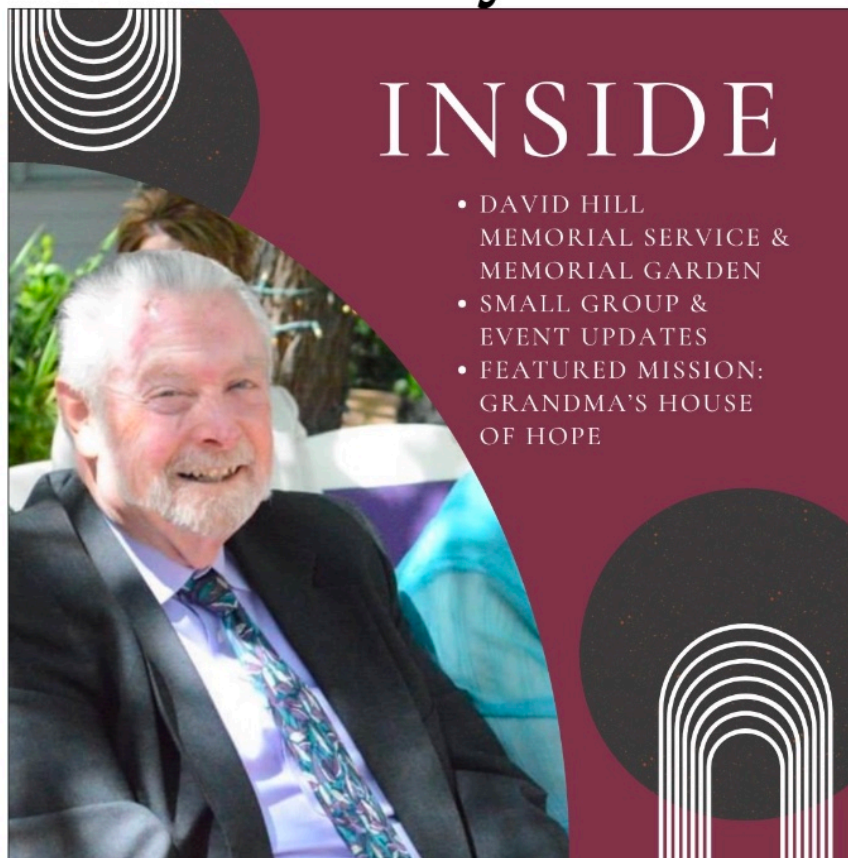
*"To Discover and Grow in God's Grace and Love"*

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## May



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MEMORIAL SERVICE &  
MEMORIAL GARDEN
- SMALL GROUP &  
EVENT UPDATES
- FEATURED MISSION:  
GRANDMA'S HOUSE  
OF HOPE

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

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

## **“In Memory of David Hill”**

**Pastor Jim Schibsted**

Recently I had the privilege of praying with David Hill and his family thirty-five minutes before he passed away. David and his late wife, Linda, faithfully served here at First Congregational Church of Anaheim for decades. In the wake of his passing, I have reflected on the many ways David served the City of Anaheim and this church. He was a blessing to many.

On a personal note, David was a good friend and will be deeply missed. It was fun to watch the Angels win the World Series in 2002 thanks to David's invitation. David and Linda attended all three of our children's weddings. We also had the joy of traveling with David and Linda to International Congregational Fellowship Meetings in England and in Greece.

David served as the Human Resources Director of the City of Anaheim. During his retirement dinner from the city, David was referred to as "The Conscience of Anaheim."

David was not only appreciated at work but was also an incredible gift to this church. David and Linda served and participated in the life of the



church in countless ways. They took part in Bible Studies and grief share ministries, and they served on the church council. David did a great job serving as Council Treasurer for years, and he later served as Moderator. Linda was involved in various women's groups at the church and David was one of the founders of JOG (Just Ordinary Guys). *(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](http://www.fcca.org)

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

*Monday, May 13th*

12-1:30pm, McKenzie Hall

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Denney Premkumar

\$12, First-time guests free

### **Small Group**

*Wednesdays: May 15, 22 & 29*

Small group will meet at 6:30pm in Pastor Jim's office or via Zoom.

### **Women's Lunch**

*Monday, May 20th*

11:30-1pm, McKenzie Hall

# FCCA News & Events

## **Small Group**

In May, small group will complete “Old Testament Characters” by Peter Scazzero. This is not a cumulative study—all are welcome to join regardless of previous participation.

**The last three chapters of the study are:** 1) Esther: Saying Yes to God, 2) David: Loving Your Enemy, and 3) Moses: Seeking Justice

Group will meet at 6:30pm in Pastor Jim’s office or via Zoom on the following Wednesdays in May: May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>. Email [fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Women’s Lunch**

***Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-1pm in McKenzie Hall***

Join women from the church for a potluck lunch, devotion and group game or activity!

Life is better together. See our weekly enews for more information in the coming weeks. If you do not receive the enews and would like to, please email

[fccaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccaoffice@gmail.com).



## **Meridian Senior Living**

Liza Samson, Bob Sayers, Tom Mena, Rev.

Tom Fraker and Pastor Emily have been providing a time of worship for residents at Meridian Senior Living once a month. In April, several from our group ate lunch and visited with residents in the lunch room. It has been a blessing to meet residents and hear their stories. If you would like to join us for worship, contact the church office for more information.

## **Council Planning Retreat**

We invite you to keep the council in your prayers as they meet in May for their annual planning retreat to consider where we have come from as a church and where God is leading us. We thank God for this church and pray for God’s continued tending and guiding presence.

# JOG Luncheon

## Featuring Guest Speaker, Denney Premkumar



As a child, Denney grew up as a ‘PK’ singing in church. He served alongside his brothers traveling with their parents wherever their father spoke. Denney pursued a degree from Azusa Pacific University and led many choral ensembles in ministry and outreach during this time. Recently after five intensive interviews, Denney won out and was awarded the position of Director of Evangelism for the Lake Ave Congregational Church in Pasadena. Denney will lead a leadership team planning outreach events. In addition, Denney will be the lead organizer planning the Global Leadership Summit and the Infinity Summit which is a conference on faith and science. Denney’s passion is being a bridge for those who do not know Christ or have walked away from Christ. His testimony will surprise and amaze you.

**When: Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:chuck@penningtons-inc.com) or call Chuck at 714-350-8983

# JOG



Of Orange County

**Just Ordinary Guys**

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Every Month

# Missions' Corner

*For May I am highlighting GRANDMA'S HOUSE OF HOPE, a local mission FCCA has been supporting for several years. They recently sent some informative and interesting emails which I want to share with you. One was about their new Executive Director and the other was an interview with a recent graduate. This month we also look forward to welcoming the GHH staff to our campus for some training sessions and meetings. Remember if you want to contribute to any of our supported missions just mark your check or envelope with the name of that mission. Your Mission Board will make sure it goes to them. - Linda Freud, Mission Chair*

## ***The Board of Directors welcomes Irene Basdakis as CEO of GHH!***

*"Given the challenges of delivering housing and supporting services to the most vulnerable population of Orange County (those facing homelessness), GHH needed a leader with compassion and business skills to effectively guide the organization in meeting the needs of our clients. Irene is a very gracious leader with incredible executive skills being an attorney, having financial experience and having led other nonprofits. She is a high energy, focused leader who is already making a difference." - Lee Proimos, GHH Board Chair*



Irene has resided in Los Angeles and Orange Counties and has faithfully served her communities for the past 35 years. With a heart for ministry, Irene joined FOCUS North America in 2019 as the Director of FOCUS Southern California, a non-profit Orthodox organization that engages people in Christ's call to serve by providing opportunities and resources for communities in need. Under Irene's leadership, 5,100 volunteers donated over 17,000 hours distributing clothing and essential items, along with 2.5 million pounds of food to help Southern California neighbors in need.

Irene joined Grandma's House of Hope in January 2024 as their Chief Executive Officer. Irene believes that her prior outreach serving others and her life and work experiences prepared her well for the opportunity to lead an amazing organization that provides housing to chronically homeless adult men & women experiencing severe life challenges. Irene is grateful to work alongside her dedicated staff and Board of Directors to empower the invisible populations in Orange County.

## **Missions' Corner Continued...**

### **An Interview with Brandy B.**

#### *2024 Grandma's House of Hope Graduate*

#### **How did you learn about GHH?**

I learned about GHH through a Santa Ana Social Services worker who advised me to contact 211 at a time when I was homeless and living in a motel.

#### **How did GHH help you?**

GHH helped me by providing a safe, warm, and stable living environment that created structure, which has now enabled me to start building a solid foundation to thrive.

#### **How are you doing now?**

I'm doing very well and extremely grateful for the many opportunities provided through GHH, which has allowed me to become a successful real estate student at Irvine Valley College. I have high hopes for success in my future.

#### **What words can you share with our donors and volunteers about the importance of the work GHH does?**

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support of Grandma's House of Hope. Your generosity and dedication played a crucial role in providing compassion, hope, and support during my biggest time of need. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in my life, whether it was providing a warm meal, offering a listening ear during a crisis, or helping me secure stable housing, your support helped meet my needs during a vulnerable time. As donors, your financial contributions enable GHH to expand their reach, enhance programs, and provide vital resources to those that need it most. Your generosity allows them to continue working towards making a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals and families. I'm confident that your continued support of GHH will fuel their commitment to creating a brighter future for all. To the dedicated volunteers, your time, energy, and passion are invaluable assets to this community. Your kindness and generosity inspire me every day to work hard and become successful so that I may reach back to help others.



## May Birthdays

- 3rd Diego Zavala
- 3rd Daniel Hoke
- 5th Carlos Luquez
- 9th LaneII O'Neill
- 11th Dawn Hoffmann
- 14th Cheryl Cook
- 15th Rick Raasch
- 15th Jayden Krishna
- 23rd Isy Martin
- 25th Eliza Samson
- 26th Maggie Santos
- 28th Helen Gilmore
- 29th Gini Castellano
- 29th Jasmine Williams

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

*(Pastor's Article Continued)*

JOG is a men's lunch meeting that continues to be hosted here at the church with men from many different churches and backgrounds. David also served our Southern California Association of Congregational



Churches (Cal West) as Moderator. We are grateful for David's faithful leadership and participation over the decades.

Beyond his participation in church ministries, we are grateful to David for the physical property here that we cherish so much. Thanks to David's expertise and influence we were able to negotiate a fair deal with the city when they bought part of our church's property for the expansion of State College Blvd.

During the pandemic we worshipped outside. Following an outdoor worship service, Linda told me she was grateful that we had such beautiful grounds. After consulting with the Hill family, it was decided to set up a memorial on our church grounds. A large tree and rose garden will be planted in honor of David and Linda Hill. Any extra funds will be used to beautify our grounds. Checks can be written to the First Congregational Church and itemized for the Hill memorial.

A Memorial Service will be held for David here at the church on Monday, June 3rd at 11am. Following service, there will be a catered reception. Pray for his son Jon Ryan, wife Naomi, their many children and the rest of the Hill family.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jim

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ANAHEIM**  
515 N State College Blvd. Anaheim, CA 92806  
phone 714.776.0960; email [fccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccoffice@gmail.com)  
Check us out on the web at [www.fccanaheim.org](http://www.fccanaheim.org)

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Member: Cal-West Association—Since 1964

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Your donation of \$50 can help offset the cost.  
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