**January 1, 2023**

**Welcome!** *We are so glad you joined us today.*

 *We pray that you will be blessed!*

Speaker: Pastor Mongens

Message: Why the Bible?

Text: Hebrews 4

*Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.*

**A Blessed New Year to everyone!**

Announcements:

1. COMMUNION today. Please prepare bread and juice for those online;
2. We thank everyone who served sacrificially in various ministries: worship, sound and video, usher, prayer meeting, children, youth, helping life others up! May the Lord bless your work as unto HIM!
3. Thank God for our successful membership meeting December 11. The 2021 meeting minutes and 2023 budget both passed. Current elders: Howard Yang and Chit Sang Tsang, and current deacons: Gordon Wu and Paul Lu all reconfirmed.

Special thanks to Ruby for serving as English elder the past 6 years!

We welcome our new English elder Wilfran So and new deacon Gigi So.

1. Our 2023 Church Theme is “Deepening Our Roots.” The 4 areas of emphasis will be knowledge of the Bible, prayer, fellowship and discipleship. The first quarter is Deepening Our Roots in the Bible.
2. Congratulations to Kyle and Giliene Campbell on their wedding December 23 in a private ceremony. The couple is in their honeymoon.
3. Pick up the One-year Bible reading guide or contact Pastor Mongens;
4. Sunday school is 10:30-11:30 am, second floor. “What We Believe” will cover each section from our Statement of Faith in our Bylaws;
5. Our prayer meeting is on Zoom! Please join Wednesdays (8-9:30 pm) to pray for the world, our missionaries, our country and our needs.
6. Please pray for the following:
* Smooth and safe delivery for Pastor Leona;
* Sarah Khaw (skin); Jennifer (kidney); Amber (health and job)



**First Evangelical Church Association**

*A joint & integrative ministry of spirituality, missions, social concern and Church Planting*

 ***FECA Theme for 2022: “Expanding our Horizons:
 Reaching the Unengaged People Groups”***
 January 1, 2023

***The Staff of the FECA office wish you a blessed New Year!***

***“But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the Lord your God cares for; the eyes of the Lord your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.”
~ Deuteronomy 11:11-12***

1. **FECC Decided to Withdraw Its Membership from FECA**

We regret to announce that after two years of struggles, First Evangelical Community Church (FECC) decided to withdraw its membership from FECA, effective Jan 1, 2023. FECA is deeply thankful for FECC’s contribution to FECA as a founding member for the past 26 years (Philippians 1:3-6). We pray for the Lord’s blessings upon FECC’s ministries in the future (Romans 8:28). May the Lord continue to use both FECA and FECC to advance His Kingdom.

1. **FECA General Missions Fund Update**

On behalf of our supported missionaries, thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support from you. As of last November, the General Missions Fund (GMF) and Sending Fund (SF) statuses are stated below. GMF and SF depend entirely on faithful giving by you; these funds are separate from the local church general fund. We encourage you to continue to give generously to GMF and SF. Designate on your check or envelope “FECA Missions.” Thank you once again for your faithfulness. Please contact Edwin Leung at edwin.leung@feca.org for questions.

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| **Funds as of 11/2022** | **2022 giving/income (YTD)** | **2022 Expenses (YTD)** | **Net (YTD)** |
| **General Missions Fund** | **$285,869.25** | **($355,106.99)** | **($69,237.73)** |
| **Sending Fund** | **$140,360.28** | **($147,562.20)** | **($7,201.92)** |

2023 GMF Budget: $560,000.

1. **COVID Test Kits**

The Habibi medical team will need COVID test kits to bring with them in February. Please start collecting these test kits for their forthcoming mission trip next year (expiration date at least in March 2023).

1. **FECA Office Will Be Closed for New Year**

The FECA Office will be closed on Monday (1/2) in observance of the New Year holiday.

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| **Last Sunday's Worship In-Person Attendance and Offering** |
|  | ***Glendale*** | ***SGV*** | ***Diamond Bar*** | ***ACC*** | ***Arcadia*** |
| *SGV* | *HOA* | *Arcadia* | *GCDC* |
| ***Mandarin*** | 104 | 125 | 59 | 98 |  | All Church232 |
| ***Cantonese*** | 16 | 111 |  | 76 |  |
| ***English*** | 130 | 122 |  |  | 61 |
| ***Youth*** | w/Eng. | w/Eng | 12 |  |  |
|  **Total: 1,146** |
|  | ***Glendale******SGV*** | ***SGV*** | ***Diamond Bar*** | ***ACC*** | ***Arcadia*** |
| ***General Fund*** | 28,006.70 | 26,035.65 | 24,802.25 | 735.00 | 16,099.00 |
| ***FECA Mission Fund*** | 2,645.00 | 540.00 | 50.00 |  | 1,150.00 |
| ***Others*** | 8,239.00 | 42,445.00 | 8,030.30 | 10.05 | 17,670.00 |
| ***11/22 Sur./Def.*** | 21,196  | 53,432  | 4,196  | 11,193  | (16,281) |
| ***01-11/22 Sur./Def.*** | 251,173  | (245,305) | (94,826) | 27,899  | (49,806) |