

March 1, 2026 **Faith Builders** Issue #38

Special Faith Chapel 70th Anniversary Newsletter

Faith Chapel

Mission - "Culture Like Christ" + Vision - "Jesus."

Scripture of the Month

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

This Month

Mar. 1 - Annual Business Meeting 6:00pm

Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Sunday Service

Mar. 2 & 16 - Food Distribution and Meet the Need

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - Young Adults 7:00pm Activity Center

Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Midweek Encounter

Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Youth 6:00pm Student Center

Mar. 7 - Faith Chapel 70 Year Anniversary 5:00pm

Mar. 8 - Day Light Savings Time

Mar. 8 - FC Kids Pajama Day

Mar. 9 - Faith Academy Royal Welcome 6pm

March 15 - Salt and Light 8:30-9:30 Rm. C209

Mar. 20 - Legacy Builders "Meet to Swap"

Mar. 20 - Midnight Hour 8:00pm -12:00am

Mar. 22 - Next Gen Service 10:00am

Mar. 27 - Men & Women's Movement 6pm

Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday, Baptism, Communion

Mar. 29 - Heart for the House

Pastor's Perspective

Hey Family,

What a sacred and joyful season we're in together! Can you feel it? Can you see what the Lord is doing in our midst! I'm just so excited! As I'm writing this, I'm celebrating my 40th birthday, a personal milestone meriting so much joy in my heart to the Lord and to the people around me. I've been pondering through His faithfulness to me in the different decades of my life. Phew...that's intense and glorious at the same time. For the church, we are preparing to celebrate 70 years of Faith Chapel's existence. Seven decades of worship, prayer, preaching, sacrifice, and kingdom impact in this region. That is no small thing. That's a legacy we can all be proud of. As we've been praying into these milestone moments, one phrase has continued to rise to the surface: Honor the Past, Discern the Present and Ride the Future. Psalm 145:4 says, "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts." We honor the past because God has been faithful. There were prayers prayed long before we ever stepped into this story. There were seeds sown in tears that we are now reaping in joy. We stand on the faithful shoulders of those who have gone before us. Perhaps not perfect shoulders, but a contribution to what the Lord has done, is doing and will still do here at this great church. We are a family. We run together. We don't stand alone—we stand side by side. Hebrews 10:24-25 calls us to stir one another up to love and good works, encouraging each other all the more. That's what I see happening in this house. When one presses in, it provokes another. When one grows deeper, it calls others higher. As Psalm 42:7 says, "Deep calls unto deep." The deep places in you are responding to the deep places of God and others are being invited into that journey as they're provoked. If all that wasn't enough...Easter is coming right around the corner. We are stepping into the season where we celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A powerful season of triumph. His victory is our victory! This is the moment that changed everything. Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 15:57, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Church...family...friends—it's harvest time! Wow. Wow to everything in the rear-view mirror, in the sober moment we're in and WOW for what's to come! The best is yet to come.

With gratitude and bold expectation,
Lead Pastor Josiah Elias

February Paramount Points

A reminder of the important takeaways from Pastor's Messages.

- ❖ February 1 - "The breakthrough must lead to a deeper following."
- ❖ February 8 - "Faithfulness in the fire releases closeness to His presence."
- ❖ February 15 - "You can't hide forever."
- ❖ February 22 - "Know Him and what He says about you. Let it shape your thinking. Believe it. Then blitz the culture with the love and power of God. It's waiting for you-to reveal him."

March Prayer Night

No prayer night on March 1st due to scheduled Annual Business Meeting.

Faith Chapel's 70th Anniversary

Faith Chapel's Mission

Faith Chapel's mission is defined in three words, "Culture like Christ" What does that mean? Culture can be a noun and a verb. As a noun, we see the term culture showcasing a lifestyle and an environment whereby we are carrying what He carries. It's something tangible that we can see and sense all around us. Just like Jesus created a culture all around Him that was unmistakable, we aim to do the same. We are aiming to cultivate ourselves to be like Jesus. We should be saying what Jesus said and doing what Jesus did. We should be following His commands and looking to Him as our great example. If we will, then we'll begin to culture others all around us and through the ministries of Faith Chapel the same way Jesus did to the world around Him as He walked the earth. This mission becomes the filter everything we do flows through. That is the function of the mission. To help us filter and decide what Faith Chapel should or should not do. It's a guide, a compass to keep us on track with where God is taking us. Thus, the Pastors, the Elders, and Board members need to protect the mission. We need to be careful that a good activity does not get Faith Chapel off track from the mission; to have and to "Culture like Christ".

Faith Chapel's Vision

Faith Chapel's mission is defined in three words, its vision is defined in one, "Jesus." The vision is very simple yet powerfully deep. "The vision is JESUS." An enlarged period after Jesus is intentional and powerful. In Him, we'll satisfy everything we need to know about the Lord and all that He's called us to do. (Colossians 2:9) We're aiming to keep our eyes on Jesus and to not change the subject to something else. Keep peripheral things in the periphery and keep the absolute epicenter of all we do about Jesus. Parallel to keeping the word pure, we need to keep our vision (where we are going) pure-Jesus. 1 Corinthians 2:2 states it well. "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." In Greek "determined" means to choose or to prefer. We choose and prefer Jesus above all else. Philippians 3:8-9 states "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with Him..." We need to keep Him the affection of our hearts. For Jesus embodies love, generosity, selflessness, humility, surrender, discipling, power, honor, obedience, the Kingdom and so much more! As we keep Jesus our vision, we gain the generations to follow. The success of Jesus' ministry was contingent upon the faithfulness of the disciples. They had to carry the Gospel message to the world after Jesus accomplished everything needed at the cross. Suffice it to say, without passing on the message of the Gospel to the next generation, this message would ultimately die out after a short time. The reason we're here thousands of years later still giving our lives to the message of the Gospel is because the power of the Gospel is still moving in our spirits, souls and bodies. Jesus is alive and well! His Spirit is moving in the earth and we are declaring His message to the lost and dying world all around us. Especially to the next generation. "Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good. It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; For God gives rest to his loved ones. Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:1-3 (NLT)

The vision is Jesus.

Faith Chapel - From There to Here

- 1956 - Faith Chapel was established by Pastor Troy Blair in a store front on El Cajon Blvd. in La Mesa. The first service was held on March 4th in the upstairs lodge hall with 35 congregates in attendance.
- 1961 - The first church building was constructed on 4.5 acres at the end of Dexter St. in La Mesa.
- 1966 - Steady growth led to the building of a new Sunday School wing.
- 1971 - The State of California purchased the first building and property for highway expansion. Work began on a 1,000-seat auditorium located at 8691 Echo Drive.
- 1972 - Faith Chapel, Echo Drive was dedicated. "Whosoever Will, May Come" was marked on the front of the building as an inviting place to worship.
- 1986 - Faith Chapel moved to its present location on Campo Rd. in Spring Valley, opening on September 28th.

Faith Chapel's Pastors Through the Years



1956 - 1963

Pastor Troy Blair

Along with 35 others, Pastor Troy Blair began Faith Chapel in the upstairs Lodge Hall in Central La Mesa on March 4, 1956. Faith Chapel constructed and moved into their first building in 1961, under Pastor Blair's leadership, where they remained for a decade.



1963 - 1991

Pastor George Gregg

Pastor George Gregg took the Pastorate position at the age of 34 and faithfully led Faith Chapel for 28 years. Under Pastor Gregg's leadership, Faith Chapel saw multiple building projects, thousands of salvations, and great generosity toward Missions both home and abroad.



1991 - 1993

Pastor Charlie Gregg

Pastor Charlie Gregg was the third Pastor of Faith Chapel. His ministry was one of gentleness and compassion. Charlie's kindness toward the wounded was a catalyst in developing ministries for healing and mending of broken lives.



1993 - 2002

Pastor John Vertefeuille

Pastor John Vertefeuille opened new avenues of outreach to the community surrounding Faith Chapel. The church doors swung open for the hearts of the people in our neighborhood.



2002 - 2007

Pastor Gary Jones

Seeing a great harvest during 40 Days of Purpose, Pastor Gary Jones led Faith Chapel to new renovations. A remodeling of the children's building, creation of a coffee shop, and remodeling of the student center brought a freshness to Faith Chapel.



2009 - 2022

Pastor Brian Ross

Pastor Brian Ross's leadership was towards reaching the lost. Through multiple outreaches, a pre-school, and new ministries, we saw the growth and greater influence in our community. Pastor Brian's vision for others led to a special relationship with Lugar de Encuentro, our Spanish congregation.



2023 - Present

Pastor Josiah Elias

Pastor Josiah Elias is a visionary leader whose heart burns for revival and whose mission is simple yet profound—Jesus. His passion is to cultivate a culture that reflects Christ, drawing the hungry and the passionate closer to the heart of God. Honoring the past, discerning the present, and pressing toward the future, Pastor Josiah is committed to radical obedience and modeling Christlikeness within the church by raising healthy shepherds for generations to come.



Women's Ministry

Cynthia Baroni is the new leader of Women's Ministry here at Faith Chapel. She is a born and raised San Diegan and first came to Faith Chapel in 2021. Cynthia currently serves faithfully in kids, media, altar ministry, Shalom healing rooms, evangelism every week, and anywhere God leads her. Her passion is to serve and help people step into their fullest potential through the power of the Holy Spirit. She will be leading the monthly Women's movement on the last Friday of each month and other women's events. So, when you see her, give her a hug and a great big welcome.

And a huge thank you to Hauhna Hicks for her service in women's ministry over the last several years.



Cynthia Baroni

Men & Women's Movement

March 27, 2026

Friday, February 27, 2026, marked the beginning of men and women sharing a meal before breaking into their respective groups for a night of worship and Godly encounters. Going forward this event will occur each month on the last Friday of the month. This is a time to tune out the noise of the world and refocus our hearts on Jesus, and the Word of God. Every gathering is a chance to realign with the truth and walk away renewed and refreshed. As Jesus said in John 15:4, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine." If you're feeling distracted, weary, or hungry for more—this night is for you to gather and focus on Jesus. We will focus forward, fix our eyes on Jesus, become aligned, refreshed, equipped and empowered. I invite you to join us as we—go deeper, grow stronger and fuel fire—in the only One who never changes, Jesus." *Note: The men will meet in the Activity Center and the women will meet in the Sanctuary after the meal.*

Faith Academy

A promotional graphic for Faith Academy's "The Royal Welcome" event. The background is a dark red with a subtle pattern. On the left, the Faith Academy logo (a stylized 'A' with a crown) is shown above the text "The Royal Welcome". Below this, it says "EXPERIENCE WHAT MAKES FAITH ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL ONE OF A KIND". At the bottom left, the date and time "March 9 6PM" are displayed in a gold banner, followed by the address "9400 Campo Rd. Spring Valley, CA". On the right, there is a photo of a smiling woman (the principal) and contact information: "faithacademysd.com", "admin@faithacademysd.com", and "(619) 631-4862". A text box on the right says: "Meet our principal, lead pastor, and dedicated staff, explore our beautiful campus, and experience the heart and vision of Faith Academy. Discover how we partner with families to equip students for 'Culture and Kingdom Impact' and learn about enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year."

Small Groups Bible Study

Bible study groups are not merely an intellectual exercise.
They are a profound enterprise in building the community of our church.

Walt Harrison - Legacy Builders
Sermon Based Discussion
Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Choir Suite

Bill Lorenz
Wednesday Nights 6:00pm Room C211
January 14th - Evidence Demands a Verdict

Jon Cohen
Wednesday Nights 5:30pm Room C214
The Book of Numbers - Starts March 10th

Linda Wise - Women's Bible Study
"As Silver Refined"
Tuesday's 9:30am in the Ruby Room

Jason Baltzley - Revelation
Tuesday - 7:00pm
Zoom

Eric Madril
Sundays - 8:30am Room LL4
"Paul's Prison Epistles"

Rose Necoechea
The Book of Acts
Sundays 9:00am in the Hospitality Suite

George Elias in Home
Studying Spirit-led topics.
Thursdays at 7:00pm

Bobby Delozier - In Home
"Living in Light" - 1 John
Thursday Nights

Judy Lorenz - Women's Bible Study
"The Proof of God's Amazing Love"
Thursdays 9:30am - Lorenz Home

Church Membership

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12: 4-5

Membership in the church is a very important part of belonging to Faith Chapel. Church membership is a way of identifying oneself with a local body of believers. Church membership is a statement of solidarity and like mindedness. If you would like to become a member, please fill out the membership form on the FC APP.

Faith Chapel's Newest Members

Honey Durruthy, Mika Henry, Lisa & David De Le Cruz, Sam Karp, Cruz Ramos,
Samantha Flores, Lyna Flores, Vincent Oliver, Van & Vanessa McMullen

Words to Live By, Consider and Ponder - From the Writings of Genesis

• **Genesis 4**

- God evaluates both our motives and the quality of what we offer him.
- When we give to God and others, we should have a joyful heart because of what we are able to give.
- We should not worry about how much we are giving up, for all things are God's in the first place.
- Instead, we should joyfully give to God our best in time, money, possessions, and talents.
- The next time someone suggests you are wrong, take an honest look at yourself and choose God's way.
- We cannot master sin in our own strength.
- We must turn to God to receive faith for ourselves and faith and strength from other believers.
- The Holy Spirit will help us master sin.
- God judges all sins and punishes appropriately.
- It is not out of vengeance because he desires to correct us and restore our fellowship with Him.
- When you are corrected don't resent it, instead renew your fellowship with God.

The Twelve Disciples

Each month we will investigate the life of one of the disciples. Information about their names, occupation, outstanding characteristics, major events in their life, what Jesus said about them, and a key lesson from their life is presented.

Thaddeus

Thaddeus was one of the original twelve disciples chosen by Jesus Christ. Thaddeus, whose name is also spelled *Thaddaeus*, is somewhat of a mystery apostle. For one, Thaddeus is hardly mentioned in the Bible. To complicate matters, Scripture refers to Thaddeus by a few different names. *Judas* was a popular name in New Testament times. It means, “Jehovah leads.” Bible scholars suggest that *Judas* was likely the name given to Thaddeus at birth, while *Lebbaeus* and *Thaddeus* were nicknames. *Lebbaeus* translates as “heart-child,” and *Thaddeus* means “breast-child,” so it’s possible these were terms of endearment given him by family members. John MacArthur proposes in his book *Twelve Ordinary Men* that these nicknames suggest Thaddeus was a gentle soul with a tender, childlike heart. His occupation is unknown. The only recorded words of Thaddeus are in [John 14](#). Jesus and the twelve disciples were gathered together in the Upper Room for the [Last Supper](#). The Lord was speaking to them about the troubling matter of His impending death. The apostles had questions and concerns. Jesus promised to give them the Holy Spirit to help them and to dwell within them. Then He said, “Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me.” Confused, Thaddeus asked Jesus, “Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?” ([John 14:22, NLT](#)). Thaddeus’s question reveals a few things about the man. First, he felt comfortable enough in his relationship with Jesus to interrupt Him with a question. Second, Thaddeus wanted to know why Jesus would treat the disciples differently from the world. And third, like most first-century Jews, Thaddeus was expecting a Messiah who would reveal Himself in power to the world. The answer Jesus gave Thaddeus was simple: “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me” ([John 14:23–24](#)). Nothing more is revealed about Thaddeus in the Bible. We know Thaddeus, like the other disciples, left his former life to follow and serve Jesus Christ faithfully, enduring hardship and persecution. Some scholars believe Thaddeus wrote the book of Jude, although the more widely accepted view is that Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, penned the book. Extrabiblical literature says that, after [Pentecost](#), Thaddeus took the gospel message north, where he performed miracles, preached, and founded a church in Edessa, an area in modern Turkey. One tradition says that he was either clubbed or axed to death for his faith, and another that he was crucified. **A key lesson from his life: Christians follow Jesus because they believe in him; they do not always understand the details of God’s plan.**

Jesus Calling

Devotion from the book *Jesus calling*, enjoying peace in his presence by Sarah Young. This devotion is meant to be read slowly, preferably in a quiet place with your Bible open. Remember that Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Enjoy his presence and his peace in every increasing measure, as you read this as if he was speaking directly to you.

I am a God who gives and gives and gives. When I died for you on the cross, I held back nothing; I poured out my life like a drink offering. Because giving is inherent in my nature, I search for people who are able to receive in full measure. To increase your intimacy with me, the two traits you most need are receptivity and attentiveness. Receptivity is opening up your innermost being to be filled with my abundant riches. Attentiveness is directing your gaze to Me, searching for Me in all your moments. It is possible to stay your mind on Me, as the prophet Isaiah wrote. “Through such attentiveness you receive a glorious gift: my perfect peace.”

[Philippians 2: 17](#) [Mark 10: 15](#) [Isaiah 26: 3](#)

Legacy Builders Meet to Swap Potluck?

Legacy Builders will meet in the Youth Center on March 20th at 6:00pm for a “Meet to Swap” event where you can bring the “good” things you no longer want or for which you have no use. Items selected by the group are “purchased” by a monetary contribution to support the FC youth. So, bring some, take some, and contribute.

Great Escapes in the Bible

In Judges 16:1-3 it is said that Sampson spent the night in Gaza. The people of Gaza were told, "Samson is here!" So, they surrounded the place and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, "At dawn we'll kill him." ³But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron. But this escape merely postponed Sampson's self-destruction because of his lack of self-control. **Application: Without dependence on God and his guidance, even great ability is wasted.**



FC Sports



BASKETBALL
WEDNESDAYS
Open Gym || All Ages
5:00-6:00pm
FAITH CHAPEL GYM - ACTIVITY CENTER



VOLLEYBALL
MONDAYS
Open Gym || 9th & 10th
6:00pm
FAITH CHAPEL GYM - ACTIVITY CENTER



KARATE
TUESDAYS UPPER - C CLASSROOMS
THURSDAYS ACTIVITY CENTER
First class: 6:00-6:45pm
OPEN TO ALL AGES, BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED BELTS
Second class: 7:00-7:45
OPEN TO ALL ADULTS AND YOUTH GOLD BELT OR ABOVE
Third class: 7:50-8:30
OPEN TO SENIOR RANKS BROWN, RED, AND BLACK

SPORTS | fc

ALL SPORTS ARE FREE!

Daylight Savings Time

March 8, 2026



When local Standard Time is about to reach 2:00 AM turn your clocks ahead one hour to 3:00 AM. Sunrise and sunset will be about one hour later on March 8th than the day before. There will be more light in the evening and less light in the morning. This change is also called spring forward and summertime. Don't be late for church

Change Your Smoke Detector Batteries



If your smoke detector is the type that needs periodic battery replacement, it's that time of year. Change the battery each time you move your clock forward or backward for daylight savings time in March and November. If you don't have smoke detectors in your house or apartment, get some. The life you save may be your own. Check the Internet for the type of detector you need, where to buy them and how to do the installation. And while you're at it, pick up a fire extinguisher or two also.

God's Creations



Faith Chapel

9400 Campo Rd. Spring Valley, CA 91977
(619) 461-7451

Follow us at:

FC App

faithchapelsd.com

YouTube

Instagram

Twitter

Facebook