

July 1, 2026 Faith Builders Issue #43

A Faith Chapel Newsletter

Faith Chapel

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

Scripture of the Month

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks through him to God the Father."

Colossians 3:17

This Month

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Midweek Encounter

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - FC Youth 6:30pm

July 4 - Independence Day

July 5, 12, 19, 26 - Sunday Service

July 5 - Prayer Night - 6:00pm Activity Center

July 6 & 20 Food Distribution-Meet the Need

July 7, 14, 21, 28 - FC Young Adults 7:00pm

July 17 - Legacy Builders Potluck - 6:00pm

July 19, 26 - Altar Ministry Training 12:30 Rm C215

July 26 - Baptisms

July 26 - Heart for the House - Meet Pastor Elias

Coffee Shop 12:00 - 1:00

July 31 - Women of God Movement 6:00pm

July 31 - Men of God Movement 6:00pm

Pastor's Perspective

Hey Family,

There are moments in the life of a church when you simply have to stop, lift your eyes toward heaven, and say, "To God be all the glory!" Apparently, we live in those moments! Everywhere I look, I'm seeing the fingerprints of God. Lives are being transformed. Families are being restored. People who were once far from God are now passionately following Jesus. New believers are finding their place in the family of God, while seasoned saints are discovering fresh hunger for His presence. It's a beautiful thing to witness. The Lord is faithfully building His Church. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." What an incredible promise. He didn't say we would build it through our own strength or creativity. He is the Builder. Our responsibility is to remain faithful, obedient, and surrendered as He accomplishes His work among us. And that's exactly what we're seeing. Every baptism tells a story of death giving way to life. Every salvation reminds us that the Gospel is still the power of God for salvation. Every testimony declares that Jesus is alive and still changing lives today. Wow! I'm floored time and time again as I gaze upon God's faithfulness to us all. It's staggering. It's easy to become accustomed to miracles and transformations when you're surrounded by them. Don't let that happen. Every raised hand at an altar... every tear of repentance... every person stepping into the waters of baptism... every marriage restored... every child learning to love Jesus... every prodigal coming home... these are miracles worthy of celebration. Keep the awe of God upon your lips and at the forefront of your mind. Luke 15:10 tells us, "There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." If heaven celebrates one, then surely, we should celebrate every single life that Jesus rescues. What encourages me even more is how this is happening. This isn't the work of one ministry, one pastor, or one event. It's the result of an entire church family saying "yes" to Jesus. It's people faithfully serving where no one sees. It's prayer meetings. It's worship. It's generous giving. It's discipleship over coffee. It's Synergy Small Groups. It's children's ministry workers faithfully planting seeds. It's students boldly sharing their faith. It's families opening their homes. It's countless acts of obedience that may seem small individually but, together, are creating an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit is welcomed and lives are forever changed. Faith Chapel, thank you for being the kind of church that loves God wholeheartedly and loves people extravagantly. What a privilege it is to serve alongside you. The future has never looked brighter. Glory to God—for all He has done, for all He is doing, and for all He has yet to do. Let's change the world. Josiah Elias, Lead Pastor

June Paramount Points

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

- ❖ June 14 - "Close is not close enough. A good conscience cannot replace the saving Christ."
- ❖ June 21 - "The seed of rejecting rebellion begins now yet spans into eternity."
- ❖ June 28- To be included in August newsletter.

Prayer Night

Throughout the Bible, we see the power of God move when His people come together in prayer. In [Acts 2:42](#), the early church devoted themselves to prayer, and in [Acts 4:31](#), when believers prayed together, "The place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." There is something powerful and transformative that happens when we unite in prayer, chains break, hearts are refreshed, and God moves in ways we cannot imagine. **Sunday, July 5th at 6pm**, we gather as a church body to seek God's face, intercede, and align our hearts with His will. Come expectant. Come hungry for His presence. Let's lift our voices together and believe in breakthroughs! Let's fill the church together! We'll see you there!

Words to Live by and Consider - From the Writings of Matthew

➤ **Matthew 10**

- Christ calls us today.
- When Christ calls you to follow him, follow.
- God can use anyone no matter how insignificant he or she appears.
- When you feel small and useless remember that God uses ordinary people to do his extraordinary work.
- The Bible clearly teaches that God's message of salvation is for all people.
- Jesus has already begun his Kingdom on earth in the hearts of his followers.
- Freely you have received freely give. Because God has showered us with his blessings, we should give generously to others of our time love and possessions.
- Be receptive to the teachings from God, if you ignore the spirits prompting you may not get another chance.
- We must find a balance between wisdom and vulnerability to accomplish God's work.
- We can be confident because Jesus has overcome the world. And those who stand firm to the end will be saved.
- Jesus tells us to stop worrying.
- Because God places such value on you never fear personal threats or difficult trials. These can't shake God's love or dislodge his spirit from within you.
- Those who stand up for Christ in spite of their troubles truly have lasting value and will receive great rewards.
- Genuine discipleship always involves acknowledging Jesus Christ whether or not we face pressure or persecution.
- Make God your first priority.

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.

James (Son of Alphaeus)

James, son of Alphaeus, was one of three people named James mentioned in the New Testament. He is distinguished from the other Jameses in the Bible by his father's name. James, son of Alphaeus, is also called "James the Less" ([Mark 15:40](#)). The word *less* should be understood to mean "little" or "younger." Some Bible versions call him "James the Younger," but the word may also imply smallness of stature or a lesser importance.

Other than being listed as a disciple, nothing else is known about James the son of Alphaeus. Tradition implies that it was James the Less who may have taken the gospel to Persia (modern Iran) and was martyred there. But other than that possibility, James the son of Alphaeus is the picture of obscure service. The lack of information about James, the son of Alphaeus, is a lesson in itself. This James was just as much an apostle as Peter and John were. James will not be considered “less” in eternity because he was faithful to his calling on earth. James the son of Alphaeus can be an encouragement to those called to lives of obscurity. Our callings are just as sure, just as God-honoring, but few will ever know our names on earth. But God notices. James the son of Alphaeus reminds us that God uses a different set of standards to choose His heroes. He honors faithfulness (Luke 18:8), endurance (Matthew 24:13), obedience (Matthew 7:21), and sacrifice (Galatians 2:20). Our only responsibility is obedience, not the results of that obedience. While some apostles wrote books of the Bible and others were featured regularly in the gospels, it appears that James the son of Alphaeus was quietly faithful to his Lord. For that, he will be equally honored with them for all eternity.

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 Member – Gladys Brizuela

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
Releasing God’s Kingdom Through You

Jon Cohen
Wednesday Nights 5:30pm Room C214
The Book of Numbers

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
“A Life Beyond Amazing” Dr. David Jeremiah
Thursday Nights

Judy Lorenz - Women’s Bible Study
Studying Romans
Thursdays 9:30am – Lorenz Home

Jesus Calling

They 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 measures, as you read this as if he was speaking directly to you.

Make your mind like a still pool of water, ready to receive whatever thoughts I drop into it. Rest in my sufficiency as you consider the challenges this day presents. Do not wear yourself out by worrying about whether you can

cope with the pressures. Keep looking at Me and communicating with Me as we walk through this day together. Take time to rest by the wayside, for I am not in a hurry. A leisurely pace accomplishes more than hurried striving. When you rush you forget who you are, and Whose you are. Remember that you are royalty in My Kingdom.

Psalm 37:7 Romans 8:16-17 1 Peter 2:9

Vacation Bible School



VBS 2026 was a great success with over 80 school age kids attending four days exploring the nature of God. “Rainforest Falls” was this year’s theme where kids learned that God is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever. The week was full of learning bible verses, worship, making new friends, games and stretching their imaginations.

Golf Tournament

Forty golfers and 20 volunteers participated in the first annual Faith Academy Golf Tournament held at Steele Canyon Golf Club on June 2nd. Fun, food, giveaways and prizes highlighted the days’ activities. One fund raising event included the opportunity to fire a golf ball cannon in place of teeing off on a par four hole to receive an automatic hole-in-one further contributing to monies raised during the tournament. Almost \$10,000 was raised in support of the High School.

4th of July



As the 4th of July approaches, Americans across the country prepare to celebrate Independence Day, a day that commemorates the founding fathers’ declaration of freedom from colonial rule. Yet, for Christians, this day also offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the deeper meanings of freedom — both the liberty we enjoy as citizens of a nation and the spiritual emancipation granted to us through Christ. By integrating our faith into our celebration, we can appreciate the full spectrum of freedom’s blessings and responsibilities.

Theological Reflections on Freedom

In Galatians 5:1, Paul states, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” This passage reminds us that Christ’s sacrifice was the ultimate liberation, freeing us from the grip of sin and death. As believers, we are called to live out this freedom responsibly, not for selfish purposes but to serve one another in love (Galatians 5:13). This spiritual perspective enriches our understanding and celebration of national independence, grounding it in the greater context of God’s redemptive plan for humanity.

Gratitude for National Blessings

Living in a country where we can freely express our faith, assemble in worship, and participate in the democratic process is a tremendous blessing. On this 4th of July, let us pause to thank God for these gifts, acknowledging that “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights” (James 1:17). Whether through prayer, song, or service, expressing gratitude deepens our appreciation for the freedoms we often take for granted.

The Role of Christians in a Free Society

Freedom comes with the responsibility to protect and extend it to others. As Christians, we are called to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). This means advocating for the oppressed, participating ethically in public life, and using our liberties to glorify God and edify our neighbors. Our faith compels us to be stewards of freedom, ensuring that it is preserved and respected for all.

Prayers for the Nation

As we enjoy the festivities and fireworks, let us also commit to praying for our nation. Pray for wisdom for our leaders, justice in our laws, and peace within our borders, remembering the promise that “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Conclusion

The 4th of July is more than just a day off work; it’s a day to celebrate the rich tapestry of freedom woven into the fabric of our nation and our faith. As Christians, let us embrace Independence Day with grateful hearts, mindful of the sacrifices made for our freedoms and committed to living out those freedoms in a way that honors God and serves others. May this day remind us of the ultimate freedom found in Christ and inspire us to be instruments of His peace and liberty in our nation and the world.

By Dr. Mike Cunningham

Christian Quotes for 4th of July Celebration

As we gather to celebrate the 4th of July, let’s intertwine our faith with our appreciation for freedom. These Christian quotes serve as reminders of God’s blessings and our responsibility to honor His guidance while cherishing our nation’s core values. May they inspire gratitude, unity, and a spirit of stewardship as we celebrate both faith and country.

- ❖ “In every spark of freedom, let’s see the light of His grace guiding our path.”
- ❖ “True liberty comes from knowing the Lord; may our hearts reflect His love this Independence Day.”
- ❖ “As the flag waves high, may our faith soar even higher in gratitude for His providence.”
- ❖ “Celebrate freedom with a heart full of faith, knowing that every blessing is a gift from above.”
- ❖ “Let us remember that the pursuit of happiness begins with a humble heart turned towards God.”
- ❖ “In our nation’s freedom, we find a reflection of God’s unwavering love and mercy.”
- ❖ “As we honor our country, let’s also honor the Creator who grants us the gift of freedom.”
- ❖ “Unity in faith strengthens our nation; let’s stand together in love and purpose this July 4th.”
- ❖ “Freedom is a divine gift; may we use it to serve others and glorify His name.”
- ❖ “This Independence Day, let our hearts be united in faith and gratitude for the blessings we share.”
- ❖ “In a land of liberty, let’s seek the Lord’s guidance in every step we take.”
- ❖ “Our freedom is a reflection of God’s plan; let’s celebrate with humble hearts and open hands.”
- ❖ “True patriotism is rooted in faith; let’s honor our country with a devotion to God’s will.”
- ❖ “As we gather in celebration, may we also gather in prayer, seeking God’s wisdom for our nation.”
- ❖ “Faith and freedom are intertwined; let’s celebrate them both with gratitude and grace.”
- ❖ “This Independence Day, let’s reflect on the blessings of freedom and the call to serve others.”
- ❖ “In every moment of joy this July 4th, let’s remember the One who’s the source of our liberty.”



Do you feel you are being led to pray with people at the altar on Sunday mornings. If so, you are invited to attend Altar Ministry training on July 19th and 26th at 12:30pm in room C215. Here you will receive training in every aspect of ministering to people in need and the social interactions that accompanies close relationship with men, women, and children. It is required that participants attend both sessions to receive approval for involvement in the ministry. Only those who have been through the training are identified as part of the altar ministry team and will be considered available to pray with those coming forward seeking help and guidance. This ministry has been a blessing to so many seeking a touch of prayer.

Faith Chapel Security

You may have noticed that a new level of security has been implemented at FC in the form of “open carrying.” The term open carry refers to carrying a firearm in a manner that is clearly visible to others. The key aspect of “open carry” is **visibility**, meaning the firearm is intentionally accessible and observable by the public, which can serve as a deterrent to crime or allow faster access in self-defense situations. It has been shown that churches being targeted for acts of violence are often pre-visited by intended persons to determine the vulnerability of the church and its occupants to attack. If would be attackers visually recognize the open carry level of protection employed by church security and safety teams there is a very good chance, they will abandon their consideration of following through with an attack. Open carry also provides for faster response to eliminating an attack should one occur. Faith Chapel open carry security members are trained and certified individuals allowed to open carry. They are identified by specified security clothing and visible firearms. Although the presence of security members carrying visible weapons can be unsettling to some, it also provides assurance that FC leadership is doing everything possible to ensure the safety and protection of its congregants and visitors. These specialized security team members are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding “open carry” or their role as open carry security members.

God's Creations



Faith Chapel

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

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