

# Jan. 1, 2026 **Faith Builders** Issue #37

## A Faith Chapel Newsletter

### *Faith Chapel*

***Mission – “Culture Like Christ” + Vision – “Jesus.”***

## Scripture of the Month

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms  
because we are united with Christ.”

**Ephesians 1:3**

## This Month

Jan. 4 – Intentional 21 Day Fast Starts  
Jan. 4, 11, 18 – Intentional Prayer Night – 6:00pm  
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, - Sunday Service  
Jan. 5 – Synergy Groups Start Romans Chapters 1-5  
Jan. 5, 19 – Meet the Need & Food Distribution  
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 – Young Adults Gathering  
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 – Youth Gathering  
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, - Midweek Encounter  
Jan. 16 - Legacy Builders Potluck  
Jan. 18 – Salt & Light 8:30am Room C209  
Jan. 25 – Heart for the House – Meet Pastor Elias  
Jan. 25 – Baptisms and Communion  
Jan. 30 – Men’s Core 6:00pm

## Pastor’s Perspective

Dear Faith Chapel Family,

As I look back on 2025, my heart overflows with gratitude and awe for all the Lord has done among us. Truly, to God be all the glory. Souls were saved. Disciples were made. Hundreds were baptized. Countless lives were impacted by the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. I must tip my hat off to this amazing team we have at Faith Chapel. From our volunteers to our staff pastors, everybody shouldered what they needed to and just look at the fruit! What a team! We didn’t just attend church this year, we became the Church! Alive and active, carrying His presence into every space God entrusted to us. When I reflect on where we have been, I can’t help but feel a holy excitement for where we’re headed. If 2025 is any indicator of what’s ahead, then family...brace yourselves. 2026 is going to be remarkable! Not because of hype or ambition, but because of His faithfulness to us as we aim to please Him in all things. These aren’t educated guesses; this is faith at work anchored in present reality. Here’s what I believe God has made clear to us: we are going deep before we go wide. If we go wide first, people are only invited into something shallow. That’s not who we are. We square up against casual, surface-level Christianity. We must refuse a thin faith. We are committed to depth. Because when we go deep, those we reach are invited into the deep with us. **Psalm 42:7 says, “Deep calls unto deep.”** The deep things of

humanity calling out to the deep things of God. That's the kind of church we are becoming. A deep and mature body, rooted in truth, formed by the Spirit, and anchored in the word. A church that sets a high benchmark, a holy standard found solely in the life of Christ who is our vision. As we step into this new year, we are launching into our Intentional 21 season of fasting. This isn't a ritual, it's an alignment. We're choosing to slow down, consecrate our hearts, and posture ourselves both personally and corporately to engage deeply with God. We want our hearts ready, our spirits sensitive, and our lives surrendered. Because what God has planned next will require a people who are prepared, not distracted, nor shallow, but deeply formed in Him. This goes for me too. God give me strength. Faith Chapel, I believe the Lord is calling us deeper and closer. He's inviting us to ride the wind with Him in a way that transforms us before it transforms the world around us. And from that place of depth, He will expand our reach in ways only He can orchestrate. So, let's step into 2026 with faith, expectation, and holy resolve. Let's stay hungry. Let's stay humble. Let's go deep. I can't wait to see what the Lord has next. Are you ready? I am. Let's do this. To God be the glory. Lead Pastor Josiah Elias

## **December Paramount Points**

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

- December 7 - "Don't let pain suffocate your faith."
- December 14 - "Don't get lost in the question when you can be found in the answer."
- December 21 - "The grateful return with exuberant praise on their lips and salvation is their gift to be received."
- December 28 - "Stand against sin."

## **Intentional 21**

We're inviting the whole church to join us on a 21 day fast from January 4<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. God is doing some remarkable things within our church, and this is not a moment to slow down. We must stay engaged with what the Spirit of God is doing in our midst and follow Him closely. Fasting is a powerful tool. The benefits of that tool are enormous when used properly. Setting aside seasons of time to fast and pray (WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS GO HAND IN HAND), deny the flesh and invests in the spirit. It's a time of rearranging. It's a time of rearranging priorities and ensuring the focus of your heart is on God and not on peripheral things. Be intentional with your time and with the Lord during this season even if there's no change in what you eat. Bottom line, do what you feel the Holy Spirit is leading you to do. Just provoke and challenge yourself to remain engaged with Him with great intentionality during the season. An email will be sent out daily with a "Daily Engagement" created by staff and leaders within the church during this time. It will act as an encouragement and guide for you each day. We want to equip you to engage with God with tools we've found helpful in our own pursuits with the Lord.

## **Words to Live By, Consider and Ponder – From the Writings of Genesis**

### ***Genesis 6***

- God shows his great patience with us.
- He gives us time to quit living our way and begin living His way, the way He shows us in his word
- Turn to God to forgive your sins.
- God feels sorrow when people choose sin and death instead of a relationship with Him.
- Our sins break God's heart.
- Seek favor in the eyes of the Lord despite sin that surrounds us.
- Wholeheartedly love and obey God.
- Be an influence on others and not be influenced by them.

- God's covenant is established with us.
- He is our salvation, and we are kept safe through our relationship with Him.
- Don't expect people to welcome or accept the message of God's coming judgment on sin.
- Those who don't believe in God will deny his judgment and try to get you to deny God as well.
- Let this inspire you to trust God for deliverance in the judgment that is sure to come.

## **The Twelve Disciples**

### **Bartholomew**

Also called Nathaniel, his occupation is unknown. He was honest and straight forward. He initially rejected Jesus because Jesus was from Nazareth, but he acknowledged him as the “Son of God” and the “King of Israel” when they met. Jesus called Bartholomew an “Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” A key lesson from his life is that Jesus respects honesty in people-even if they challenge him because of it. Tradition holds that Bartholomew undertook missionary journeys to various regions, including India, and Armenia, where he is said to have preached the Gospel and established Christian communities. As one of Jesus’ disciples, Bartholomew witnessed His ministry and teachings firsthand. Although he is not mentioned extensively in the New Testament, he is

recognized as a significant figure in the early Christian church. After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, Bartholomew, along with the other apostles, played a crucial role in spreading Christianity. His martyrdom is often depicted in art, with accounts suggesting he was flayed alive. His role as an apostle and missionary highlights the importance of the early disciples in the establishment of Christianity, and he is remembered for his dedication to spreading the teachings of Jesus. In summary, Bartholomew the disciple, is a pivotal figure in Christian history, known for his commitment to the faith and missionary efforts.

## **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 Robert Nelson**

## **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

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

Bill Lorenz  
Wednesday Nights 6:00pm Room C211  
January 14<sup>th</sup> – Evidence Demands a Verdict

Linda Wise - Women’s Bible Study  
“As Silver Refined”  
Tuesday’s 9:30am in the Ruby Room

Jason Baltzley – Revelation  
Tuesday – 7:00pm

Zoom

Rose Necoechea  
The Book of Acts Starting January 11th  
Sundays 9:00am in the Hospitality Suite

Bobby Delozier – In Home  
“Living in Light” – 1 John  
Thursday Nights

Eric Madril –  
Sundays - 8:30am Room LL4

“Paul Prison Epistles”

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

## **Jesus Calling**

Come to Me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to the old ways as you step into a new year. Instead seek My face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely; My thoughts embrace you with everlasting love. I also know the plans I have for you; plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My presence.

[Psalm 27:8](#)   [Romans 12:2](#)   [Jeremiah 29:11](#)

## **Living the Christian Life**

Living the Christian life demands all our energies. We can forget the past and strain to reach the goal because we know Christ promises eternity with Him at the race's end. Attracting others to Christ, will pay dividends in both

this life and the next. The Christian life is a fight against evil forces from without and temptation from within. If we stay true to God through it all, He promises an end, a rest, and a crown.

## **FC Kids Ministry – News**

And just like that 2025 is behind us. 2025 was full of good times. This past month with the children's ministry we had a couple of events. We went to Starlight Circle and enjoyed the many Christmas lights and displays. We went to the movies and saw the film, David which was a great retelling of David's early life and gave the kids a different look at his story and provided several Christian type views of how to live in a manner that is after God's own heart. Both events were attended by over 50 people. Families from both the church and from the preschool accompanied these outings. We are excited to get right into the new year. We have begun planning new events that will be happening in 2026. We're excited to see what God is going to do in the children's ministry and the blessings that will come.

Pastor Michel

## **FC Youth Ministry – News**

### **GOOD NEWS FROM THE NEXT GENERATION**

God is doing something special with our youth, and it's been amazing to watch. In a world where so many students are searching for identity and hope, we're watching God draw the next generation closer to Himself. Week after week, students are growing deeper in their relationship with Jesus, asking meaningful questions, and

leaning into faith with curiosity and courage. What's especially encouraging is that this movement isn't staying inside the church walls. God is opening doors into schools, friendships, and leadership spaces where the gospel is being shared and lived out. God is planting seeds and we believe there will be fruit for years to come.

### **Youth Ministry Highlights**

- Students are growing deeper with Jesus, showing hunger for Scripture, prayer, and worship.
- New students are joining and becoming curious about who Jesus is.
- We're stepping into schools for evangelism and relationship-building through partnerships with Young Life and Urban Youth Collaborative. There was even an evangelistic Christmas Club on our campus, and I was able to share the gospel with over 150 students!
- New leaders are stepping in to serve, answering God's call to invest in the next generation.
- A new growth group for leaders has been launched, creating space for spiritual depth, unity, and development.

Every one of these moments is evidence that God is working. He is shaping lives, building faith, and raising up the next generation of believers and leaders.

### **Prayer Requests**

As we continue to move forward, we ask you to pray with us for the following:

- Continued spiritual growth in students and leaders.
- God to draw new students and leaders into the ministry
- Financial provision to expand what God is doing and to dream boldly for this year.

Thank you for believing in the next generation, praying faithfully, and celebrating what God is doing. We cannot do this without God and our church family! The story isn't over, it's just beginning.

Pastor Franklin

## **FC Young Adults Ministry – News**

December marked the conclusion of our series through the book of **Titus**. We chose to move slowly through this letter, taking time to really examine the principles Paul laid out for Titus—principles about leadership, integrity, and how to live faithfully in a culture that doesn't always reflect God's values. Much like Crete, the world we live in today calls for discernment, maturity, and intentional living, and this series gave us space to wrestle with what that

looks like in real life. Earlier in the month, our Young Adults hosted their **own worship night**, fully planned and led by the group. From start to finish, they took ownership of the vision, the logistics, and the execution. It was encouraging to watch them step into leadership and create space for people to encounter God in a genuine way.

Looking ahead to **2026**, we're excited to launch two new ministries: **Pathways**, a Young Adult discipleship initiative, and **The Secret Place**, a new ministry specifically for Young Adult women. We see God growing this community, broadening its impact, and raising up leaders who are ready to serve and lead well. Thank you for continuing to pray for FC Young Adults. Maria and I are grateful for the opportunity to serve at **Faith Chapel** and to walk alongside this generation.

Pastor Tim & Maria

## **Faith Chapel Learning Academy**

Over the month of December, Faith Chapel Learning Academy focused on the meaning of Christmas as everyone learned about the Angels message, the shepherds' roles, the wise men's gifts, and, most important of all, the birth of Jesus. Some other highlights were the annual Christmas program where each class performed a special Christmas song and making parents Christmas gifts. This Christmas program was the biggest yet, we had 210 people attend! As we close out 2025, FCLA is looking forward to the rest of the school year and seeing what the Lord has planned for 2026. FCLA is so blessed by all the families that have chosen to embark on this educational journey with us, and we are excited for the second half of the school year!

### **Faith Chapel Safety Team**

Leticia Riordan, alongside her husband Michael Riordan, lead the Safety Team Ministry at Faith Chapel. Our vision for this ministry extends beyond just physical safety; while that is a top priority, we also emphasize the importance of spiritual safety within our church community. We intercede for our church and use discernment when dealing with issues that arise. The Lord is doing amazing things at Faith Chapel, and with those blessings comes a great responsibility to steward our ministry well. The Safety Team is committed to being the watchmen for Faith Chapel. We do our best to protect the church and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the Holy Spirit to freely move. We are looking forward to another year full of God's blessings!

### **FC Homeless Ministry.**

Greetings FC family. Thank you for your support this past year. We would not be able to serve our friends without your support. We have a huge praise report! Recently, we have seen several of our friends get into housing. We have also seen numerous friends go into rehab and are now in sober living. One went to Arizona and now living with family. We thank God for these changed lives! On Sunday, we served an average of fifteen people with clothes from Meet the Need, showers, coffee, breakfast and an invitation to church. On Wednesdays we hand out lunches and serve twenty people. While we hand out lunches, we chat, pray and invite them to come on Sundays. We collect blankets, sleeping bags, jackets and pants/jeans. If you are cleaning out closets and drawers, we would appreciate it if you would consider donating to the homeless ministry. We are also looking for individuals who would like to rotate every two months providing breakfast for our friends. Another opportunity is to make cookies for the lunches we hand out. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Joanne Northcutt joannen@cox.net. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

### **The Year 2026 – America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation's past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond. The year 2026 is set to be filled with significant global events, including the FIFA World Cup, Winter Olympics, and various political elections, alongside cultural and technological advancements.

#### **Major Global Events**

**FIFA World Cup:** Scheduled to take place from June 19 to July 19, 2026, this prestigious tournament will be hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, marking the first time the event will be held in three countries simultaneously.

**Winter Olympics:** The Winter Olympics will occur from February 6 to February 22, 2026, in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, showcasing winter sports on an international stage.

**Political Elections:** Several important elections are scheduled, including the Beninese parliamentary election on January 11, the Ugandan general election on January 12, and the Portuguese presidential election on January 18.

**Cultural Events:** The Eurovision Song Contest is also set for May 2026, with the location determined by the previous year's winner, adding to the cultural festivities of the year.

### **Technological and Cultural Trends**

- **Technological Advancements:** Predictions for 2026 include significant developments in AI, the Internet of Things (IOT), and virtual reality, which are expected to transform various sectors, including business and entertainment.
- **Entertainment:** The year is anticipated to feature major movie releases and video games, with fans eagerly awaiting new franchises and collaborations in pop culture.

### **Summary**

Overall, 2026 promises to be a dynamic year with a blend of sports, politics, culture, and technology, reflecting global cooperation and innovation. Whether you're interested in attending events, following political developments, or exploring new entertainment, 2026 will be a year to watch closely.

## **Faith Chapel - 2025 By the Numbers**

The following list reports the many happenings witnessed at Faith Chapel in the year 2025.

- 1 – Wedding.
- 5 – Life Celebrations.
- 5 – All church gatherings.
- 5 – Faith Academy High School Students
- 7 - FCLA Classrooms.
- 7 –FCLA Special Events (since Aug 2025)
- 9 –FCLA Chapel Days.
- 10 – Women’s gatherings.
- 10 – Men’s gatherings.
- 12 – Communion celebrations.
- 15 – Safety Team Members
- 15 – Homeless served each Sunday morning.
- 16 – Guest Speakers.
- 17 –FCLA Staff Members.
- 20 – Homeless assisted with Meet the Need.
- 25 – Testimonies.
- 31 – Red Letter messages.
- 35 – New FCLA Families (enrolled since Aug 2025)
- 35-45 – Youth attendees each Wednesday night.
- 44 – People accepted as new FC members.
- 50 – People receiving help from Meet the Need each week.
- 50 – Youth Camp attendees.
- 55-60 - Young Adults attending Tuesday night meetings. (December 2025)
- 60 – Worship Team members including tech and production.
- 61 - FCLA Students.

**65** –Missionaries supported by Faith Chapel each month.  
**76** – Sunday School Kids each week.  
**78** - Pizzas consumed by FCLA students and teachers. (Since Aug 2025)  
**80** – Young adults attending Tuesday night meetings.  
**83** – Live Stream viewers.  
**100+** - Youth serving in school clubs.  
**133** – Small Group attendees each week.  
**150** – Gathering at the Bay attendees.  
**175** – Mid-week Encounter attendees each week.  
**180** – Vacation Bible School attendees.  
**193** – Baptisms.  
**226** – FC Church Members.  
**232** – The four Faith Chapel Elders have been married a combined total of 232 years.  
**387** – Sunday Service Attendees.  
**475** – Mid-night Hour attendees each gathering.  
**490** - Synergy group attendees.  
**4,000** – Balloons blown up by Jennifer Segura for special events.  
**????** – Number of times Pastor Josiah mentioned food in his messages. (Too many to count.)

## Great Escapes in the Bible

### **Paul and Silas**

While imprisoned, their chains loosened and the prison doors were opened by an earthquake, but they chose not to leave the prison. Paul and Silas did not leave the prison when their chains fell, and the doors opened because they were deeply committed to their mission and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Despite the miraculous earthquake that opened the prison doors and losing their chains, they chose to remain in their cell and continue their prayer and worship. This act of faith and obedience to God's command was a demonstration of their unwavering commitment to their mission and the teachings of Jesus. The possible escape also pointed out the powerlessness of humans before God. **Application: When our dependence and attention are focused on God rather than our problems, he is able to offer help in unexpected ways.**

## Church Bulletin Bloopers

- "This evening at 7:00 p.m. there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin."
- "Twenty-two members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why."
- "Illiterate? Write to the church office for help."
- "Please welcome Pastor Cowden, a caring man who loves hurting people."

### **A Penny Saved**

Hoping to help his church save money, Pastor Jones decided to paint the church exterior himself but all he had on hand was one bucket of paint. So, he collected a bunch of empty buckets and some water to thin the paint enough to cover the building. Then he spent the whole day painting. That night it rained and washed off all the paint. The pastor was so discouraged and asked God, "Why...why Lord did you let it rain and wash away all my hard work?" To which God replied, "Repaint and thin no more!"

## **Sunday Service Sightings**



## **God's Creations**

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