

Dec. 1, 2025 **Faith Builders** Issue #36

A Faith Chapel **Special Christmas Edition** Newsletter

Faith Chapel

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

Scripture of the Month

“They shall call his name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

Matthew 1:23

This Month

Dec. 1, 15 – Food Distribution & Meet the Need
Dec. 5 – FC Kids at Starlite Circle
Dec. 6 – Women’s Holiday Tea
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, - Sunday Service
Dec. 7 - Prayer Night – 6:00pm in Activity Center
Dec. – No Midweek Encounters in December
Dec. 12 - Legacy Builders Potluck /Caroling
Dec. 13 & 14 – Community Christmas
Dec. 15 – Faith Academy High Interest Meeting
Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm
Dec. 28 – Heart for the House – Meet Pastor Elias
Dec. 31 – The Midnight Hour 8pm – 12am

Pastor’s Perspective

Dear Faith Chapel Family,

As we step into this holiday season, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for all the Lord has done in our midst. This has been a month marked by His undeniable goodness, His steady faithfulness, and His transforming power at work in the lives of His people. Every gathering, every testimony, every salvation, every moment of breakthrough has been a reminder that God is with us. He’s leading and we are following. One of the greatest ways we move boldly into the future is by honoring what God has done in the past. Scripture tells us in: Psalm 100:4 (NKJV) Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, [and] into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him [and] bless His name.” This posture doesn’t just reflect worship—it sets the tone for our entire journey. Thanksgiving is more than words; it is our way of saying, “Lord, we remember what You’ve done, and we trust You for what’s ahead.” This past month has carried some truly significant moments. We’ve watched vision that once lived in prayer and faith begin to take shape as a charted course for our future. Ministry has expanded. Hearts have softened. Lives have been changed right in front of our eyes. People are being saved. Families are being restored. The Spirit is moving. Disciples are being made and that is manifesting in holy lives taking ground while sin loses its influence. And the vision of Jesus is advancing through this entire church family. What a joy it is to lead a people so hungry for God, so committed to His cause, and so willing to walk boldly into all He has planned. I often speak about how much of a joy it is for me to lead the hungry. Pouring into hungry ones is one

of the great privileges of my life! Faith Chapel, you reflect the beauty of a church alive in His presence! Grateful, worshipful, and set on honoring the Lord with every step. Your faith blesses me! Keep it up! In a season of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the close of another year, I want to encourage you: hold onto this spirit of gratitude. Let it shape your perspective. Let it fuel your worship. Let it anchor your faith. Gratitude doesn't only remember what God has done...it positions us to receive what He's about to do! To God be the glory for every good thing.

With thanksgiving and joy,
Josiah Elias
Lead Pastor

Merry Christmas

Pastor Bruce Grecco's Closing Words to Faith Chapel

"The things of the past have been laid to rest. A healing anointing has come upon this house. What was once out of alignment has now been reset. What was formerly blocked is now being released. I am doing a new thing and you are entering a new season of restoration. I will restore the years that the locusts have devoured. I will give back to you territories that were stolen from you. I will equip you, empower you and sustain you. In the very same way I sustained the house of Moses for 40 years in the wilderness while I prepared them for their promise, I have been sustaining this house for the past 40 years for what I am about to do next. I have preserved you for this hour. You are the generation I am raising up to walk in the fulfillment of the promises I made to this house decades ago. Just as I was with the generation of Joshua so I will be with your generation. No longer will this house be known as a house of comfort, for I am making it into a house of conquerors. So be strong and courageous. Every place you set your foot will be yours. This is the promise of your inheritance."

November Paramount Points

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

- November 2 - "Your money can serve your God, but your God will not serve your money."
- November 9 - "Every promise to be captured will come with a problem to be conquered."
- November 16 - "Jesus is the new mercy seat."
- November 23 - "God will rejoice over you with singing."

Prayer Night

Mark Your Calendars: Prayer Night Sunday, December 7th at 6 pm. Join us for a powerful night of corporate prayer as we come together to seek God, align our hearts, and lift up our church, families, and city. There's something special that happens when we pray in unity, so make plans to be in the Activity Center.

Journey toward Christmas Day with a renewed vision and appreciation for the life of Jesus Christ.

Each day of December follow this summary walk through of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.

December 1 - Read Psalm 100.

December 2 - Read Galatians 4:1-7.

December 3 - Read Isaiah 7:14.

December 4 - Read Micah 5:2.
December 5 - Read Isaiah 9:6.
December 6 - Read John 1:1-5.
December 7 - Read John 1:14.
December 8 - Read Philippians 2:1-11.
December 9 - Read James 1:16-17.
December 10 - Read Luke 1:5-25.
December 11 - Read Luke 1:26-33.
December 12 - Read Luke 1:34-38.
December 13 - Read Luke 1:39-45.
December 14 - Read Luke 1:46-56.
December 15 - Read Luke 1:57-66.
December 16 - Read Luke 1:67-80.
December 17 - Read Luke 2:1-5.
December 18 - Read Luke 2:6-7.
December 19 - Read Luke 2:8-14.
December 20 - Read Luke 2:15-20.
December 21 - Read Matthew 2:1-12.
December 22 - Read Luke 2:21-35.
December 23 - Read Luke 2:36-40.
December 24 - Read Matthew 1:18-25.
December 25 - Read 2 Corinthians 9:15.

The True Meaning of Christmas

The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of this incredible act of love. The real Christmas story is the story of God's becoming a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ. Why did God do such a thing? Because He loves us! Why was Christmas necessary? Because we needed a Savior! Why does God love us so much? Because He is love itself (1 John 4:8). Why do we celebrate Christmas each year? Out of gratitude for what God did for us, we remember His birth by giving each other gifts, worshiping Him, and being especially conscious of the poor and less fortunate. The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love.

"But God demonstrated His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Star of Bethlehem

The star of Bethlehem is mentioned as guiding wise men to Jesus' birthplace (Matthew 2:1-12), fulfilling Old Testament prophecies (Numbers 24:17; Daniel 9:24-27). It led these magi, who were likely ancient astronomers, to seek and worship Jesus. They offered Him gifts and then departed by another route after being warned in a dream (Matthew 2:9-12). The star could have been a comet, nova, or other celestial event. Others view the star of Bethlehem as a miraculous light specifically for Jesus' birth. The sign of the star guided the magi; they knew it indicated the birth of the king of the Jews, and they responded. Our worship today should be based on the revelation of Jesus in Scripture. Hebrews 1:1-2 says, "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son." Faith in His Word is key to following Him (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

From the Old Testament

- Biblical prophecies referred to the Messiah or King of the Jews in connection with this time and with a star. Number 24:17 predicts, "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel." Daniel 9:24–27 offered a general timeline that may have given the wise men insight regarding the time period in which Jesus would have been born.

From the New Testament

- The star of Bethlehem is noted in the account of the visit of wise men (or magi) from the East to Jesus and His family (Matthew 2:1–12). The star appeared to mark the birth of Jesus, leading these wise men to seek the King who had been born in the land of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). The men first went to the capital city of Jerusalem and asked King Herod for the location of the one who had been born king of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). Herod in turn asked the Jewish religious leaders, who referred to the prophecy of the Messiah's birth in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:5–6; cf. Micah 5:2–5). The wise men then followed the star to the place Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were staying. There they worshiped Jesus and gave gifts (Matthew 2:9–11). The wise men left by another way as warned in a dream (Matthew 2:12). Jesus and His parents fled to Egypt after Joseph was warned in a dream (Matthew 2:13). When Herod realized the wise men were not returning to tell him the location of the child, he had all boys two years old and under put to death in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16).
- The star was something special in the night sky that these wise men could observe during the time Jesus was born. The Greek word for star (*aster*) (Matthew 2:2) could refer to any celestial body, whether an actual star, comet, or other light.

Implications for Today

The star of Bethlehem was certainly orchestrated by God. It is possible it was miraculous. It is also possible God used an astrological event that is not outside of the laws of nature. These wise men were likely ancient astronomers (often associated with wise men from the east). God gave these men some kind of insight based on light they saw in the sky. Based on this information and leading of God, they became the first non-Jews to worship Jesus. As many say today, wise men still seek Him. We, too, are called to worship Jesus. For us, we do not find Him by following signs or celestial phenomena but by following what is revealed about Him in Scripture. While the star guided the wise men to the Messiah, our guidance comes from the Word of God. The wise men linked what they saw with what they apparently knew from God's Word, and the star prompted them to seek more. Jesus is revealed to us through His Word, by which we are invited to know Him, worship Him, and live according to His truth. As Jesus Himself said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). Our worship is called to be like that of the wise men who followed the star of Bethlehem—by faith in response to the Scriptures, embracing the profound truth that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, the ultimate revelation of His love, and the only way we can be saved.

Three Wise Men?

We assume that there were three wise men because of the three gifts that were given: gold, incense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). However, the Bible does not say there were only three wise men. There could have been many more. Tradition says that there were three and that their names were Gaspar/Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar/Balthazar, but since the Bible does not say, we have no way of knowing whether the tradition is accurate. It is a common misconception that the wise men visited Jesus at the stable on the night of His birth. In fact, the wise men came days, months, or possibly even years later. That is why Matthew 2:11 says the wise men visited and worshiped Jesus in a house, not at the stable. We know that the magi were wise men from "the East," most likely Persia, or modern-day Iran. This means the wise men traveled 800 to 900 miles to see the Christ child. Most likely, the magi knew of the writings of the prophet Daniel, who in time past had been the chief of the court seers in Persia. Daniel 9:24–27 includes a prophecy which gives a timeline for the birth of the Messiah. Also, the magi may have been aware of the prophecy of Balaam (who was from the town of Pethor on the Euphrates River near Persia) in Numbers 24:17. Balaam's prophecy specifically mentions a "star coming out of Jacob." The wise men were guided to look for the King of the Jews by a miraculous stellar event, the "Star of

Bethlehem,” which they called “His star” (Matthew 2:2). They came to Jerusalem and asked concerning the birth of Christ, and they were directed to Bethlehem (Matthew 2:4–8). They followed God’s guidance joyfully (Matthew 2:10). When they arrived in Bethlehem, they gave costly gifts to Jesus and worshiped Him. God warned them in a dream against returning to Herod, so, in defiance of the king, they left Judea by another route (Matthew 2:12). **So, the magi were men who 1) read and believed God’s Word, 2) sought Jesus, 3) recognized the worth of Christ, 4) humbled themselves to worship Jesus, and 5) obeyed God rather than man. They were truly wise men! And we should live by their example.**

Stable, Barn, Cave, Animal Shelter or Tower?

The Bible chronicles Jesus Christ’s birth in Matthew 1:18–25; 2:1–12; Luke 1:26–38; and 2:1–20. At the time of Mary’s pregnancy, a decree by Caesar Augustus went out that “all the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1). This meant that every person in the Roman Territory was required to return to the city of their ancestors to be counted in a census. Joseph lived in Nazareth at the time but needed to travel south to the region of Judea, “to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David” (Luke 2:4). Naturally, Joseph took his betrothed, Mary, to go with him to be counted as a member of his family. Thus, the young couple ended up in the small town of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth. Because so many had returned to Bethlehem for the census, the small city was overflowing with people. There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn, which forced them to take refuge in the only place available—a shelter for animals. (Although the Bible never mentions animals being present at the birth of Christ, Luke does say that the baby Jesus was laid in a manger—and the presence of a manger strongly implies the presence of animals.)

Traditionally, the “inn” referred to in Luke 2:7 is thought to be a kind of commercial hotel. And the place where Mary and Joseph took shelter was a stable somewhere in the vicinity. However, we don’t know for sure if that was the case, because the Greek word translated as “inn” (*kataluma*) can also be translated as “guest room.” This translation would lead us to envision more of a private home filled with guests, plus a separate area used to house the family’s animals. Sometimes the place for animals was located on the lower level of a house, away from where the people lived. So, when Luke refers to “no room in the *kataluma*,” he could have meant there was no room on the upper level, which was already full of sleeping visitors or family. Archaeological findings have also revealed homes that merely had a wall separating the front of the house from the back, where animals were kept safe. Both floor plans imply an indoor animal shelter connected to the house in some way. Regardless, there was a manger or feeding trough in the place where Christ was born, and that was used as a resting place for the newborn Jesus, as stated in Luke 2:7.

There is also a theory that the shelter in which Jesus was born was a place near Bethlehem called Migdol Eder (“Tower of the Flock”). This was a watchtower used by shepherds. According to some theories, the tower would have had a place underneath used during the lambing season to shelter the newborn lambs. Other theories speculate that those lambs were designated to be sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. The prophet Micah, who foretold Bethlehem as the place of the Messiah’s birth, mentions Migdol Eder: “As for you, watchtower of the flock [Hebrew, *Migdol Eder*], stronghold of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem” (Micah 4:8). The Tower of the Flock theory is used to explain why, when the heralding angels gave the sign that the baby would be “wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger,” the shepherds seemed to know exactly where to look. And it would be apropos for the Messiah to be born in the same place where the sacrificial lambs were born. There is no consensus among commentators, however, that Micah’s reference to Migdol Eder is meant to identify an actual tower near Bethlehem. **Whether the actual location of Jesus’ birth was an indoor animal shelter, a separate barn, or a tower used for lambing, the Bible is clear that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born in a humble setting in the town of Bethlehem.**

What ever Happened to Mary’s Husband, Joseph?

The last time Joseph is mentioned in the Bible is when Jesus was twelve years old. Returning from a trip to Jerusalem, Jesus became separated from His parents, who eventually found Him in the temple conversing with the teachers. Ironically, it was at that time—when Jesus announced that He had to be about His heavenly

Father's business—that all mention of his earthly father ceases (Luke 2:41-50). Because Joseph is not mentioned again, most scholars assume he died sometime before Jesus began His public ministry. By the time we get to the wedding at Cana (John 2), Joseph is conspicuously absent. We see Mary there, but no mention is made of Joseph. Perhaps a part of the reason why Jesus remained at home until He was 30 is that He had a responsibility to care for the family. The theory that Joseph had died by the time Jesus was an adult is given further credibility by the fact that Jesus, when He was on the cross, made arrangements for His mother to be cared for by the apostle John (John 19:26-27). Joseph must have been dead by the time of the crucifixion, or Jesus would never have committed Mary to John. If Joseph were still alive, Jesus wouldn't say, "Now, Mother, I'm going to commit you to John." Joseph would have rightly responded, "Wait a minute; it is my responsibility to take care of her." Only a widow could have rightly been given into the care of someone outside the immediate family. It is thought by some that perhaps Joseph died sometime after Jesus began His public ministry. This is unlikely, because, if Joseph had died during the three-year ministry of Christ, that would have been a major event; Jesus undoubtedly would have gone to the funeral with His disciples, and at least one of the Gospel writers would have recorded it. Although we don't know for sure, the most likely scenario is that Joseph died sometime before Jesus began His earthly ministry.

God is with You

This Christmas, consider this amazing truth; the indescribably awesome, infinite Lord of all that exists took on a form like yours and walked the earth so He could know what it is like to be you. (Hebrews 2:17). Consider the love he exhibited on your behalf as He "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and ... humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even det on a cross" (Philippians 2:7-8). Not only that, He gave you His own Holy Spirit to counsel and comfort you in every situation you ever encounter. Friend you are never, ever alone or helpless. God himself is with you. Regardless of where you are or what you experience, you are absolutely assured of His wonderful and loving presence. This is the amazing gift of joy that the Savior gives you-He unfailingly accompanies, empowers, equips, and encourages you through every moment and circumstance of life. So, keep your heart on Him and rejoice in the great gift He's given you!

**Jesus, thank you for being with me regardless of what I face.
What a gift you are. To You be all glory, honor, and praise! Amen**

From "Every Day in His Presence" by Charles Stanley

FC's Night Before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas
And all through Faith Chapel
The seats were all filled
With worshipping people

The sanctuary shone
With garland and lights
The Lobby had trees
And wreaths to delight

After the songs
And during the greetings
Blessings were shared
Then on with the evening

Ascending some steps
And across from stage right
Came Pastor Josiah
To open the night

He delivered the message
He received from the Lord
So full of truth
That hearts were restored

Now Christmas is more
More than presents and trees
It's time to reflect
On why we are free
Christmas of course
Is all about Jesus
The birth of God's Son
Who came to redeem us

So, on Christmas Eve
We stop to remember
A Savior was born
On the 25th of December

It's because Jesus
And the sacrifice made
That our life is eternal
Forever paved

So, when you awake
On this Christmas day
**Be thankful to God
And for Jesus, The Way**

By E.C. Jarrell

Words to Live By, Consider and Ponder – From the Writings of Romans

- **Psalm 1 – Life's two roads. The life of the faithful person contrasted with the life of the faithless person.**
 - True friends should help you draw closer to God.
 - Those who diligently try to obey God's will are blessed.
 - Only two paths of life lie before us: God's way of obedience or the way of rebellion and destruction. Be sure to choose God's path.
 - You can learn how to follow God by meditating on his word. Spend time reading and thinking about what you have read. If you want to follow God more closely you must know what he says.

- The more we know of the whole scope of God's word, the more resources we will have to guide us in our daily decisions.
- The more we delight in God's presence the more fruitful we are.
- If you want God's happiness, make friends with those who love God and his word.
- Prosperity is when we apply God's wisdom. The fruits we bear will be good and will receive God's approval.

The Twelve Disciples

Philip

Philip was a fisherman with a questioning attitude. Along with Peter and Andrew, he was from Bethsaida in Galilee ([John 1:44](#); [12:21](#)). Jesus called Philip, who had been a disciple of John the Baptist's ([John 1:43](#)), and then Philip went and found Nathanael and told him about Jesus. Nathanael also became Jesus' disciple. The Bible does not contain much biographical detail about Philip or any of the other disciples, but John records several times when Philip spoke to Jesus. Philip's first recorded act as a disciple of Jesus was to go and tell his friend Nathanael. Later, Philip was approached by some Gentiles, more specifically, Greeks from Bethsaida who asked Philip to introduce them to Jesus ([John 12:20–22](#)). Philip was the disciple who calculated the amount of money it would take to feed the 5,000 ([John 6:7](#)). After the Last Supper, Philip requested that Jesus show them the Father, leading to Jesus' statement, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" ([John 14:8–9](#)). The last time the Bible mentions the disciple Philip is as one of those gathered in Jerusalem to pray after the Lord's ascension ([Acts 1:13](#)). Tradition states that Philip went to Phrygia (in modern-day Turkey) as a missionary and was martyred there in Hierapolis. It is often assumed that this Philip was one of the seventy-two men whom Jesus sent out in [Luke 10:1](#), although the Bible doesn't make that connection. We do know that Philip was one of the original seven deacons selected to serve in the Jerusalem church ([Acts 6:5](#)). Philip had a heart for evangelism, and, when the "great persecution" arose in [Acts 8:1](#), Philip left Jerusalem to become an evangelist in Samaria ([Acts 8:5–12](#)). The Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away to Azotus, where he continued to preach the gospel in the towns from there to Caesarea ([Acts 8:40](#)). Twenty years later, Philip the evangelist is mentioned again, still in Caesarea ([Acts 21:8–9](#)). Paul and Luke and others were traveling to Jerusalem, and they stopped at Philip's home in Caesarea. They stayed with Philip for several days. Philip had four unmarried daughters at that time, all of whom had the gift of prophecy. That is the last time the Bible mentions the evangelist, Philip. The Bible itself does not provide explicit details about the circumstances or manner of Philip's death. Philip may have been crucified upside down. **Key lesson from Philip's life: God uses our questions to teach us.**

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

Angela Labastida, Kailey Louise, Shelby Watson, Joshua Hyman, Kathleen Haskel

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

Breaking until January 7th

Jason Baltzley – Revelation
Tuesday – 7:00pm

Zoom

Rose Necoechea
Studying 1 & 2 Corinthians
Sundays 8:30 in the Hospitality Suite

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

Bill Lorenz
Wednesday Nights

Breaking until January 7th

Linda Wise - Women’s Bible Study
Handling Life’s Disappointments

Breaking until January 6th

Eric Madril – “Paul Prison Epistles”
Sundays - 8:30am Room LL4

No Class December 21st and 28th

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

Jesus Calling

As you wait attentively for My Presence, the Light of the knowledge of My Glory shines upon you. This radiant knowledge transcends all understanding. It transforms every fiber of your being: renewing your mind, cleansing your heart, invigorating your body. Open yourself fully to My Presence; be awed by My Glorious Being. Try to imagine what I gave up when I came into your world as a baby. I set aside My Glory so that I could identify with mankind. I accepted the limitations of infancy under the most appalling conditions—a filthy stable. There was nothing glorious about that setting, though angels light up the sky proclaiming “Glory” to awestruck shepherds. When you sit quietly with Me, the process I went through is reversed in your experience. As you identify with Me, heaven’s vistas open before you granting you glimpses of My Glory. I became poor so that you might become rich. Sing Hallelujahs to My holy Name.

[2 Corinthians 4:6](#) [Philippians 2:6-7](#) [Luke 2:13-14](#) [2 Corinthians 8:9](#)

FC Kids Ministry – News

The kids in Kid’s Ministry are learning more about God every week. Jason David spent some special time with the kids before bringing the Sunday message to the congregation. Last week’s Nex Gen service again saw the kids totally absorbed in worship and hearing God’s word. December finds the kids going to Starlight Circle where residents of Santee decorate their homes elaborately for the holidays, drawing thousands of visitors. An animated movie on the life of King David will be shown on Sunday the 21st. With everything that goes on in December we want the kids to remember that the reason we celebrate Christmas is in recognition of the birth of Jesus. As we grow in our relationship with God our prayer is to grow closer as a family and to keep Jesus at the center of everything that we do. God Bless you and Merry Christmas.

FC Youth Ministry – News

Look at What the Lord has Done!!!

We continue to stand in awe of what God is doing in this generation. In a world full of confusion, pressure, and spiritual battles, Jesus is still shining brightly in the hearts of students. He is meeting them right where they are, lifting their eyes, strengthening their faith, and calling them deeper into His presence. This season has been powerful—and we can boldly say: God is moving.

Highlights of What God Is Doing

- Students are getting baptized! What a joy it is to watch students publicly declare, “I belong to Jesus.”
- Youth Convention is happening this weekend, Nov 28-29, and God is already moving and is doing great things!
- Students are encountering Jesus are growing in leadership and in Jesus.
- New students are coming! God is drawing more and more young people to our ministry. We love watching first-time students feel welcomed, cared for, and seen.
- Friendsgiving was a beautiful success. It was an amazing time for friendship and food.
- God is bringing new leaders.

Thank You for Standing with Us

None of this would be possible without Jesus! The One who saves, restores, and transforms. But we are also deeply grateful for you. To our leaders, volunteers, and prayer warriors: Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for showing up, for pouring out, and for believing in these students. Your “yes” is changing lives. To our parents: Thank you for trusting us with your students and covering them in prayer. You play a bigger role than you know.

Prayer Request

Please continue to pray for our students. Many are overcoming real spiritual battles, pressures, and challenges at school and at home. Pray for:

- Strength in their identity in Christ
- Protection over their minds and hearts
- Boldness to share the gospel
- Deep encounters with God
- More leaders to join the mission

Till next time!

We love you, and we’re grateful to be on mission together.

Blessings, Pastor Franklin Ayets

The role of youth in the church is **integral to its health and growth**. Through biblical instruction, mentorship, and active participation, young people are equipped to be faithful disciples and leaders, contributing to the church's mission and the advancement of God's kingdom.

November was a fun and meaningful month for FCYA! First, October marked two years since Maria and I stepped into this ministry and joined the Faith Chapel family. We're grateful every day for the opportunity to walk with this generation and build something special here. This month we hosted our Friendsgiving, and it was our biggest turnout yet! We actually ran out of turkey and ham (rookie mistake), but there was still plenty of food and even more laughter. It was a fun night full of fellowship... and a little bit of eggnog. We also said goodbye to **James Calcutt**, who left for the Navy. James has been a huge part of our team—running sound and tech, playing bass, and always showing up with a servant's heart. We're going to miss him big time, and we're praying God's best over his next season. A highlight of the month was having **Pastor Josiah Elias** come speak. His message, "*Purposeful Unity*," hit home for our group—especially the reminder that "unity without godly purpose can be dangerous." It challenged a lot of us to think deeper about what we're building and why. We took Thanksgiving week off, but in December we'll be jumping back into our series on **Titus** and wrapping it up before the holiday break. We're excited for what God has ahead in 2026 and beyond. Thank you for praying for us and for our young adults. We're honored to serve and grateful for the support from the whole Faith Chapel family.

Pastor Tim & Maria

Faith Chapel Learning Academy

Over the month of November, Faith Chapel Learning Academy focused on the meaning of thankfulness as everyone reflected on what the Lord has done this past year and how He is working through this preschool. The children continued to learn about God's faithfulness through various Bible stories and by thanking Him in prayer for all the wonderful things He has blessed each one of them with. Some other highlights were Thursday chapel with Pastor Mitchel and music time on the playground with Pastor Eric! FCLA then ended the month with a great Thanksgiving Feast where all the families and teachers were able to come together and spend time in fellowship. We had about 160 people attend, which was our biggest feast yet! As we enter December, FCLA is looking forward to beginning the Christmas season and learning about the gift of Jesus coming to earth. The teachers and students are also excited to begin preparing for the annual Christmas program!

Flash Back

Flag football champs - on December 3rd our flag football team won its 7th and most important victory to claim the church fellowship championship. The game was played at Rob Field in Ocean Beach against Calvary Chapel, last year's champs. In the VM McMahon through three touchdown passes. 1st 2 **** Benton, then to Dave Eckler, and the final one to Clyde Harvey. A key interception by Steve Lee set up the winning touchdown to Harvey. The final score was 18 to 14. Calm period this year was the first time in five years our team went unbeaten. Congratulations to the team consisting of, Mike McMahon, Dave Eckler, Steve Lee, Clyde Harvey, **** Benton, Mark Williams, Luke Donald, Monte Journal, Steve Parker, Ken Cass, Dave Keller, Brian Kitson, Andy Collins, Donnie Parker, and Greg Ward.

Events and Happenings

Tis the season to be jolly!

Celebrate the season with us! Our FC Kids Ministry and Faith Chapel families are heading to Starlight Circle in Santee to take in the beautiful Christmas lights. Come enjoy a night of laughter, connection, and holiday spirit,

perfect for the whole family!

Faith Chapel Women's Ministry Holiday Tea on December 6th!

You're invited to our Women's Ministry Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 AM! Come enjoy a peaceful morning filled with laughter, warmth, and sweet fellowship as we gather to reflect on the difference between busyness and being. Before the holiday rush sweeps in, take this time to slow down, connect, and be refreshed in God's presence. Please register in advance, space is limited and registration will close soon. We can't wait to share this beautiful morning with you!

Legacy Builders Potluck is December 12th at 6:00pm. A time for food, fellowship, fun, and for those who are interested, caroling around East County.

Community Christmas is almost here, and we couldn't be more excited!

Every year, Faith Chapel opens its doors and our hearts to the neighborhood for a few holiday nights filled with joy, connection, and Christmas cheer. It's one of our favorite ways to love our community, welcoming families of all ages to experience the hope, fun, and warmth of the season. From festive activities to meaningful moments, Community Christmas creates space for people to feel seen, celebrated, and reminded that Jesus is the true gift. We can't wait to gather together, laugh together, and shine the love of Christ for everyone who walks onto our campus. **Mark your calendars for December 13th and 14th and invite someone who needs a little light this season!**

On December 15th, Faith Chapel Academy will host The Royal Welcome, our information and enrollment night for prospective families. If you have a high schooler, know a family exploring their options, or sense someone might thrive in a Christ-centered, kingdom-focused environment, please help us spread the word. This evening is a great opportunity for parents and students to experience our heart, meet our team, and feel the culture God is building here. We would love to welcome new families into our community.

The biblical significance of Christmas Eve involves themes of waiting, anticipation, and the in-breaking of divine light into human darkness, often highlighted through readings from Luke's Gospel and Old Testament prophecies.

Come join us at Faith Chapel to usher in the New Year in a night of worship and fellowship! Our Midnight Hour Worship Night is the perfect opportunity to come together as a community and lift our voices in praise. Whether you're regularly attending church or on a journey, all are welcome to join us for this special event. Let's come together to worship, pray, and connect with God. We can't wait to see you there!

New Year's Resolutions

Spiritually speaking, the most common New Year's resolutions are to read the Bible more, go to church more, and/or to be more faithful in sharing the gospel. These are excellent goals for a Christian to make. But, whether the resolution is spiritual or physical, the motives behind the goal are key. Are you going to read God's Word more so that you can "hide God's Word in your heart" ([Psalm 119:11](#)), understanding, applying, and communicating it better? Why do you want to go to church more, to be seen by others ([Matthew 23:5](#)), or so that you can

encourage others and be encouraged by others (1 Thessalonians 5:11)? Do you want to share the gospel out of guilt or out of a passion to obey God's commands (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8) and reach others with the good news (1 Peter 3:15)?

Sunday Service Sightings

Great Escapes in the Bible

In Acts 9:23-25, Saul (Paul) was lowered over the wall in a basket to get out of Damascus. The escape saved Paul, as a new Christian, for great service to God. **Application: God has a purpose for every life, which leads to a real adventure for those willing to cooperate.**

Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Thank you, dead friends.
- Thank you, Steve, who once again has worked hard to clean the pastor off the basement floor.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- Life groups meet on Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM for food, fun, and fellowwhipping.
- The missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine: Name: Bertha Belch. Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the Way from Africa."
- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding.

God's Creations

Christmas Day

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²

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

Follow us at:

FC App

faithchapelsd.com

YouTube

Instagram

Twitter

Facebook