

Jan. 1, 2024

Faith Builders

Issue #13

A Faith Chapel Newsletter

Faith Chapel Mission - "Culture Like Christ"

Sunday Mornings at Faith Chapel

Connect Classes 8:30am

Service 10:00am

Scripture of the Month

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'" Lamentations 3:22-24

This Month

January 3rd - Midweek Encounter
January 7th - Prayer Night 6:00pm
January 7th - Intentional 21 Fast Begins
January 19th - Legacy Builders Potluck
January 21st - Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 26th - Men's Core Gathering
January 28th - Communion
January 28th - Intentional 21 Fast Ends

Pastor's Perspective

It's a new year! I've been personally HOLDING MY BREATH for 2024 to come and now it's finally arrived. There are so many things that I believe the Lord has put on my heart for Faith Chapel that we're beginning to implement. And to have the clean slate of a new year to establish the things the Lord has for us is truly exciting. On January 7th, we kick off Intentional 21. Our 21 days fast and season of radical engagement with the Lord. I believe we're starting off the year right. This is not a time to slow down or coast by. It's a time to be seeking the face of God! Our Midweek Encounter services are already underway at 6:30pm each Wednesday evening. Especially in the area of discipleship, this Midweek programming is providing so much for all ages, from elementary aged students to our Legacy Builders ministry. Not to mention, as we're establishing a strong foundation concerning the culture the Lord is building here, being able to meet at these additional times will be a

tremendous benefit to our Mission - Culture Like Christ. I'd like to encourage everybody to come out for these Midweek Encounter services throughout all of 2024. We're moving forward. This is not a time for looking back. We're remembering all that the Lord has done in the past and honoring those wonderful things, but this is a season for looking forward. "The best is yet to come" is truly a statement of faith for our church. It's not just a cute pithy statement, no! It's a posture of faith for what's coming in 2024. We're moving forward because our kids are worth it. We're moving forward because the destiny the Lord has in this great church is His idea. We're moving forward because we owe the world around us authentic encounter with the living God. We're moving forward because we're His beloved and this city needs to know Him. We're moving forward in 2024 because there's generations coming after us that will carry the torch so much farther than we could ever go by ourselves. There's a synergy in the generations linked together, pursuing the heart of God as one and we must be forerunners of it. We're moving forward and the time is now. Are you ready? It'll mean some changes for you as an individual and for that of your family, but it'll be worth every bit of the sacrifice it'll cost you. We're moving forward. Here we go!

Isiah D. Elias

Faith Chapel's Mission



What is Faith Chapel's mission as a church community? The Faith Chapel Mission is "Culture like Christ." What does that mean? Culture can be a noun and a verb. As a noun culture is a lifestyle carrying what He carries. As a verb, it is action-teaching and implementing. We are aiming to cultivate ourselves to be like Jesus. "This mission becomes the filter everything we do flows through." That is the function of the mission-to help us filter and decide what FC should or should not do. Thus, Pastor Josiah, the Elders, and Board members need to protect the mission. We need to be careful that a good activity does not get FC off track from the mission-to have a "Culture like Christ." The mission helps us to see who we are and why we are here. Who am I? I am His Beloved? Why am I here? I am here to share Jesus with whomever I encounter. Matthew 28:18-20 states, "Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" The Paramount Point is "We are called to Culture Like Christ." That means we culture like Jesus did. May we accept the mission; pray about it; serve in it and give to it. Our kids and grandkids need to see the fire in our eyes for Jesus.



The Heart Behind Intentional 21

Fasting is a powerful tool. The benefits of that tool are enormous when used properly. Setting aside

seasons of time to fast & pray (WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS GO HAND N' HAND), denies the flesh and invests in the spirit. It's a time of rearranging priorities and ensuring the focus of your heart is on God and not on peripheral things. We tend to live in a world where the battle to keep peripheral things in the periphery is more and more challenging. It takes an intentional individual and lifestyle to keep those things in their proper place. If we don't, hobbies or simple interests quickly slide down a slippery slope into idolatry. God is replaced with mundane things that weren't inherently evil, but they also weren't kept in their proper place. Intentional 21 is a season of recalibration which beckons its participants into a lifestyle. We're inviting the whole church to join us on a 21 day fast from January 7th-28th. 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. I'm also aware that some people have been in the church their whole lives and have never fasted. Please reconsider this and prayerfully consider fasting. HOWEVER, the reason we're calling this time "Intentional 21" is because I'd rather you intentionally spend time and attention engaging with God during these 21 days whether you do or do not undergo any dietary restrictions. I believe the Lord looks at the heart and your participation in this season to pray, worship, study, serve, give, lead and seek will bless you and those around you powerfully! Be intentional with your time and with the Lord during this season even if there's no change to 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 this season. There will be an email sent out on a daily basis with a "Daily Engagement" newly created by staff and leaders within the church during this time. It'll 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 of the Lord. Simply go to the Events tab on the website and click the link, then fill out the short form to receive these daily emails during Intentional 21.

Pastor Josiah Elias

Midweek Encounter

I'm very excited that we're bringing back our Wednesday night programming called, "Midweek Encounter" starting January 3rd. Bringing back this Midweek time of ministry to all ages was something the Lord had impressed on my heart for many months now. One key ingredient I knew we needed was to have a strong discipleship curriculum for our kids. Under Pastor Michel's leadership along with his remarkable team, this is underway! We'll be able to provide a plan of growth for people of all ages, elementary school students, through our eldest members. In the sanctuary, we'll have a time of worship together each week beginning at 6:30pm. Everybody is welcome! Keep in mind that worshipping the Lord is central to what we do. We don't worship because we must, we worship because we're in love! It's an honor to come before the King we adore and bring a sacrifice of praise and the honor due His name as often as we gather. After our time of worship, we'll have a time in the Word and opportunity for Body ministry. We're so blessed to have many gifted ministers here at Faith Chapel and my desire is that we would hear from them often as well as from myself regularly. There's a reason I've chosen the name, "Midweek Encounter" for our Wednesday night programming. I've preached multiple times recently on the value of an encounter with the Lord. I want us to have a culture of encounters with God where we seek after Him knowing that if we seek Him with all our hearts, we'll indeed find Him. I believe He'll heal the sick in our midst, fill people with His Spirit, teach us to operate in the Gifts of the Spirit, deliver those who need deliverance, instruct us in the ways of the Kingdom and save those who are lost! Furthermore, I'm believing for this to happen across our campus in all areas of ministry. If you're hungry to go deeper in the things of God, these Midweek Encounter gatherings will be for you. I encourage you to come prepared to be challenged to expand your horizons and understanding concerning the things of God as we as a church family create a culture honoring the presence of the Lord and all He desires to do in our midst. Here we go:

National Sanctity of Human Life Day

Every human life is a gift to the world. Whether born or unborn, young or old, healthy or sick, every person is made in the holy image of God. The Almighty Creator gives unique talents, beautiful dreams, and a great purpose to every person. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we celebrate the wonder of human existence and renew our resolve to build a culture of life where every person of every age is protected, valued, and cherished. This month, we mark nearly 50 years since the United States Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision. This constitutionally flawed ruling overturned State laws that banned abortion and has resulted in the loss of more than 50 million innocent lives. But strong mothers, courageous students, and incredible community members and people of faith are leading a powerful movement to awaken America's conscience and restore the belief that every life is worthy of respect, protection, and care. As a Nation, restoring a culture of respect for the sacredness of life is fundamental to solving our country's most pressing problems. When each person is treated as a beloved child of God, individuals can reach their full potential, communities will flourish, and America will be a place of even greater hope and freedom.

Taken from a proclamation declaring January 22nd as "National Sanctity of Human Life Day."

Right Now Media

RightNow Media is a subscription service that provides access to more than 25,000 biblically based videos for small groups, families, students, and leadership development to watch and study. With Faith Chapel's subscription every person in FC can access these Biblically based videos on topics like marriage, parenting, youth, recovery, leadership, finances and much more for free. Browse libraries of videos, books, and resources from various speakers and topics. Find Bible studies, devotionals, training, content, and more for different age groups, stages of life, and interests. Right Now Media believes the mission of the church matters. Everything Right Now Media provides is rooted in Jesus's promise that God will use his people to change the world. Access the full streaming library from any major

streaming device, mobile phone, or tablet. Enjoy over 2,000 episodes for kids in the RightNow Media Kids' Library. Stream them in the living room or on the go. In addition to videos, most studies include free downloadable leader's guides and participant resources. Access the Right Now Media website and sign up and get started today.



Connect Classes

Classes begin each Sunday at 8:30am and end at 9:30am.

- "Heroes of the Bible" - Both men and women heroes like Joseph, Deborah, Paul, Abigail, David, Ester, and others will have their stories told. Presented by Clay and Chari Ford in the Hospitality Suite.
- "The Gospel of John" - Growing and maturing in Christ as a community of believers. Presented by Eric Madril in LLA.
- "Connect to Worship" - This is a time for everyone who loves worship to get together and grow in the gifts given to our church. Presented by LaMar and Yvette Key in the choir room.
- "The Book of Exodus." Presented by Rose Necochea in room C210.
- "The Book of Matthew" presented by Marsha Streiker each Sunday from 12:00pm to 1:30pm in room C214.

Small Groups

Listed below are the small groups that are currently meeting in January.

Judy Lorenz

Where Prayer Becomes Real: How Honesty with God Transforms Your Soul

Beginning February 8th

Contact Judy at 619-987-0394 for more information.

John Cohen

The Book of Exodus

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00pm after Wednesday night worship in room C214

Bill Lorenz

The Gospel of John

Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:00pm after Wednesday night worship in room C211

Linda Wise - Women's Bible Study

Studying the Book of Hebrews

Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Ruby Room

Walt Harrison - Sermon Based Discussion

Legacy Builders

Tuesdays at 10:00am in the Choir Suite

The Book of Galatians

Thursdays at 7:00pm in the home of

Izzy and Jennifer Segura

George Elias - Bible Study

Studying Various Spirit-led Topics

Thursdays at 7:00pm Call 858-231-7706 for more information.

If you would like to join a small group, you can do so on the Faith Chapel AP.

A small group turns a crowd into a community.

Community Christmas Recap

Faith Chapel hosted its first "Community Christmas" event for the public on consecutive Saturdays, the 9th, 16th and 23rd from 5pm to 8pm. Guests were greeted with the Nativity, carolers, a petting zoo, gingerbread house making, a variety of crafts to enjoy, a scavenger hunt, Christmas s'mores and more. Visits from Buddy the Elf, Peppermint Polly, Elf on a shelf, and Santa Claus welcomed the many guests who enjoyed some true Christmas Spirit.



Church Membership

Thirty-four new members were added in 2023. 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 and of making oneself accountable to proper spiritual leadership. Church membership is a statement of solidarity and like-mindedness (see Philippians 2:2). It is simply a way of saying, "I am a Christian, and I believe this church is a good church." If you would like to become a member, please fill out the membership request form on the FC AP or contact one of the church elders or inquire at the church administrative office.

Faithful Giving

I want to thank you for your steadfast generosity, as a selfless expression of worship to the King of Kings & the Lord of Lords. Our giving is first and foremost an act of worship to God. I pray you see it that way for that truly is what it means to give. I believe we step into one of the very base characteristics of Who our God is as a giver. "For God so loved the world He gave...". When He gave, the Father sent the Son to pay the price we could never pay so that the Kingdom of God would be established in the earth, the veil would be torn, the debt of sin would be paid, and mankind could forever walk in union with the Father forevermore. Your giving contributes to this life-changing message and wonderful reality we walk in each day. Your giving enables the ministries of Faith Chapel to have a backyard and global impact. It's true. We're literally touching the nations of the earth through our missions support as well as ministries here in San Diego which we are privileged to rub shoulders with daily. Being reminded of Jesus' instructions to us in Acts.1:8, we're being witnesses to Him in our Jerusalem - San Diego to the ends of the earth. It's no secret that Faith Chapel has gone through a major transition this past year. I want to thank you for not being shaken in your generosity. You've proven that you trust the leadership of this church to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord as we work hard to steward His people as well as His finances through His church. Due to your faithfulness, every bill has been paid. Every debt

has been settled. Every endeavor we felt led to put our hands to has been accomplished. We're expanding and building in ways many of us have only dreamt of in years past. The time is now! The Lord is doing a new thing and He's positioning us for success in every possible way. Your generosity is literally opening doors for us to touch more lives than ever before. Please continue to remain faithful as I know you will. You're truly making a difference and leaving a legacy that echoes into the generations to follow. I honor you all!

To Him be all the glory, Pastor Josiah Elias

Volunteer Opportunities



There are many ways to serve and use your Spiritual Gifts here at Faith Chapel. Sunday nursery and children's ministry, ushering, greeting, worship, production and media, special projects and hospitality are some of the ways you can get plugged in and use your talents and gifts. to serve the body of Christ. If you would like to volunteer for any of these areas, contact the church office for more information.

Flash Back

The following January 1978 New Year's greeting was submitted by a 52-year-old mother of two. (Mickey Gibson, of El Cajon)

"He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth." (Luke 11:23)

"Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7)

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

"Praise the Lord, I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation." (Psalm 111:1)

"Yet a little while am I with you, and *then* I go unto him that sent me." (John 7:33)

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” (John 16:7)

“Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.” (Proverbs 30:5)

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:” (Matt. 25:31)

“Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.” (John 8:15)

“Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.” (Proverbs 13:21)

“A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. (John 16:16)“

“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: ... (Matt. 5:12)

New Year Resolutions

The [ancient Babylonians](#) are said to have been the first people to make [New Year's](#) resolutions, some 4,000 years ago. They were also the first to hold recorded celebrations in honor of the new year—though for them the year began not in January but in mid-March, when the crops were planted. During a massive 12-day religious festival known as Akitu, the Babylonians crowned a new king or reaffirmed their loyalty to the reigning king. They also made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. A similar practice occurred in ancient Rome, after the reform-minded emperor Julius Caesar tinkered with the calendar and established January 1 as the beginning of the new year circa 46 B.C. Named for Janus, the two-faced god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, January had special significance for the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year. For early Christians, the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, the English

clergyman John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, they included readings from Scriptures and hymn singing, and served as a spiritual alternative to the raucous celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Despite the tradition's religious roots, New Year's resolutions today are a mostly secular practice. Instead of making promises to the gods, most people make resolutions only to themselves, and focus purely on self-improvement (which may explain why such resolutions seem so hard to follow through on). According to recent research, while as many as 45 percent of Americans say they usually make New Year's resolutions, only 8 percent are successful in achieving their goals. But that dismal record probably won't stop people from making resolutions anytime soon—after all, we've had about 4,000 years of practice.

By: Sarah Pruitt - A writer and editor based in seacoast New Hampshire. She has been a frequent contributor to History.com since 2005

The Year in Review

January 1, 2024, marks the one-year anniversary of the rebirth of the Faith Builders newsletter. 2023 saw so many changes and forward movement in Faith Chapel. Here is a recap of some of the happenings at Faith Chapel in 2023.

January

- Moved to one service at 10am.
- Daniel Fast
- Connect classes started.
- Sunday prayer nights.
- Hauhna Hicks was hired as Administrative Director.
- Chino Covarrubias was hired as Technical Director.
- Tammie Carmickle was hired to the facility custodial team.
- Amber Deluca took over as Director of FCLA.

February

- Missions Month
- CAPS Pregnancy Clinic Presentation

- Annual All Church Business Meeting
- 2023 Israel Trip

March

- Danny Gokey Concert
- Kari Jobe Concert
- Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge

April

- Good Friday Theatrical Service
- Easter
- Family Service

May

- Rend Collective Concert
- FC World Ministries Top Giving Award
- Dave Kiplinger was hired as security director.

June

- DR. Clay Ford hired as Transitional Pastor.
- Cross on Worship Center painted.
- David Eberle was hired to assist with facility maintenance.
- Tim Maxwell was hired to assist with graphic design, visual arts and marketing.
- Emma Dresselhaus was hired as Social Media Coordinator.
- Kimberly Zendejas was hired to FC's custodial staff.
- San Diego Christian College leaves Faith Chapel.

July

- Baptism at the Bay
- SoCal Students Summer Camp
- David Logan was hired to FC's custodial staff.
- Barb Eigsti was hired to assist in the Finance Department.

August

- Pastor Josiah Elias voted to be Lead Pastor.
- Lori Liddicoat was hired to replace Farah Shamoo as FC's new Finance Director.
- Summer Camp
- All Church Work Party
- Classic Car Show

September

- Glow Wild Night

- Jennefer Segura hired as Lead Pastor Assistant.

- Emergency Evacuation Drill
- Volunteer Recognition Night
- Spring Valley Academy Binder donation.
- GenZ for Jesus event in Los Angeles
- Backpack Giveaway
- Jacob Gallegos was hired to FC's custodial staff.

October

- Lugar de Encuentro 20th Anniversary
- Pastor Elias & Pastor Beas swap church service messages.
- Tim Maxwell was hired as Young Adults Pastor.
- Michel Espinoza was hired as Kid's Pastor.
- Erick and Alyssa Aguilar were hired as FC's Worship Leaders.
- Robert Tisnado was hired as FC's Facility Director.
- Legacy Julian Outing
- Trunk or Treat

November

- FC Kids Fall Party
- All Church Work Party
- Legacy Builders Staff Luncheon
- Jason David - Guest Speaker
- Great Gobble Give Away
- Farah Shamoo Retired
- New Church sign installed.

December

- "Culture like Christ" - FC's Mission
- Community Christmas
- Wednesday night "Mid-Week Encounter" announced to start in January.
- Legacy Builders carolers visit homes.

Pass It On

After you have read the monthly newsletter, why not pass it on to someone you know, work with, shut-ins, or even someone you meet for the first time? Let them see what is happening at Faith Chapel and what they could be a part of. Let people know who we are, where we are, what we

do, what we believe and what we want to do for our community. You never know, they might just find a home at Faith Chapel and salvation in Jesus.

Fun and Trivia

New Years Resolutions

Kids

- I will blow bubbles in my milk until just before I get in trouble.
- I'll at least try a bite of new foods.

Adults

- I will finish all the DIY projects I started and abandoned in 2019.
- I will be unashamed about the fact that I wear pajamas in public.
- I will learn a language I never plan to use.
- I will dance like no one is looking when I'm in a public place.

Senior Citizens

- I will eat dessert first at every meal.
- I will not act my age.
- I will use every single senior discount offered this year.
- I will do something daring and scare my family to death.
- I will adopt five cats and become the crazy cat lady.
- I will share inappropriate jokes at the most awkward moment possible.
- I will dress up in costume for Halloween and go trick or treating.

Pets

- I will make my human chase the ball next time we play fetch.
- I will learn how to change the TV channels during the good part.
- I will sing the song of my people when my humans are sound asleep.
- I will tweet out a beautiful song a half hour before the alarm clock goes off.
- I will demand only wet food and refuse the rest.
- I will fall asleep on my human so they cannot move for the rest of the day.
- I will always drink from my human's water glass when they aren't looking.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Faith Chapel

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