



# Count the Stars

**Emmanuel Faith**  
Community Church  
May 3, 2026

## CHURCH LIFE | Announcements for May 3, 2026

**Love Esco Blood Drive** | This Sunday, 8am–1:30pm, Parking Lot B  
Donate blood and save lives! In partnership with Love Esco, the San Diego Blood Bank Blood Mobile will be on-site at the church in Parking Lot B this Sunday until 1:30pm. Please note that all donors will receive a San Diego Padres Summer Blood Drive t-shirt as a thank you for their donation. Reserve your spot at [efcc.org/give-blood](https://efcc.org/give-blood) or just stop by on Sunday to see if some donation slots are still open.

**Annual Meeting Update** | From Sunday, April 26  
Thank you to all who voted, and attended, our Annual Meeting last Sunday! We enjoyed a wonderful time of connection, fellowship, updates, and a delicious lunch. In case you missed the meeting, the results of the election are as follows: Michael de Neve and Austin Nielsen were re-elected for a second Elder Board term; Gary Bell, Greg Hill and Greg Mizel were newly elected to the board. And Tom Anderson, Ron Peet and Irene Phillips were elected to the Nominating Committee.

**Spring Worship Night** | This Wednesday, May 6, 6:30–8pm, Worship Center  
You're invited to attend our spring Worship Night on the first Wednesday of May. Come praise and worship the Lord together with your church family. Invite a friend or family member and join us on Wednesday night!

**Parent Dedications** | Class: Sunday, May 17; Dedications: Sunday, May 31  
Our next time of Parent Dedications is coming soon. Parents will be recognized with their children to be dedicated in the worship services on Sunday, May 31. A required preparation class for parents will be held on Sunday, May 17, at 9am in the Children's Center, Room 24 (upstairs). Sign up online at [efcc.org/events](https://efcc.org/events).

**Mother-Son Dance** | Friday, May 22, 6:30–8:30pm, Children's Center  
*For boys up to 6th grade*  
Moms, grab your son(s) and come join us on Friday night, May 22, for a fun night of games, dancing and good food. Don't miss out! We hope to see you there. The cost is \$5 per person, which covers event entry, food, and beverages. Visit [efcc.org/events](https://efcc.org/events) to sign up online today.

**Come and Visit the Holy Grounds Cafe**  
*Open Sundays, from 8-11am, located in the Courtyard*  
Our on-campus Cafe is open on Sunday mornings and serves breakfast fare, including "half" or "full" breakfast options, breakfast burritos and sandwiches, donuts, pastries, coffee, and other beverages. Stop by before or after the 9am service (open through the 1st and 2nd services) for great food and/or a chance to just hang out. You can even watch the worship service.

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See more announcements, the Outreach update, sermon notes, and more on the following pages in this worship guide, or via our App, or visit [www.efcc.org](https://www.efcc.org).

**Announcements Continued ...**

**Is It Time to Join a Meet-Up?**

Get info and register at [efcc.org/meetups](http://efcc.org/meetups)

Want to connect and have some fun together? Sign up for one of our ongoing Meet-Up activities, going on now, such as family fun nights, fencing, knitting/crocheting, crafts, quilting, pickleball, painting, and more! View the list of Meet-Up activities online via the link above and sign up.

**Emmanuel Faith Employment Opportunity**

Come and join our church staff team! We have an immediate opening for a full-time Outside Facilities Maintenance Worker to help us maintain our 27-acre campus, vehicles and equipment. Get more information about this, and other open positions, and apply on our website at [efcc.org/jobs](http://efcc.org/jobs).

**Giving to Emmanuel Faith**

Thank you to all who give faithfully to the ongoing ministries of Emmanuel Faith! If you would like to give a financial gift to our ministry, you can do so via our App or website at [efcc.org/give](http://efcc.org/give). You can also give by writing a check and placing it into the offering boxes on Sunday morning. Our three main funds are the General Fund, Outreach Fund and Beyond Fund.

**EFCC Care & Counseling Ministry | [efcc.org/help](http://efcc.org/help)**

*Support Groups & Other Classes*

**Have a Need? We're Here to Help!**

Life can be hard at times, but you don't have to go through it alone. Whatever your need, the Emmanuel Faith Care & Counseling ministry is here to help, guide, encourage, and point you toward the love of Jesus. We'd love to come alongside you. We can help with counseling, mentoring, or spiritual direction. To take a next step, scan the QR code above, visit our webpage via the link above, email us at [care@efcc.org](mailto:care@efcc.org) or call (760) 781-2108. Is there something that's holding back your relationship with Jesus? Consider our weekly recovery ministry ...



**Set Free: Christ-centered Recovery Ministry**

*Weekly on Fridays, 6:30pm, Education Center, Room 23/24 (upstairs)*

We all have things that we turn to that can become harmful to us, and many of these can become addictions. Emmanuel Faith's Set Free: Christ-centered Recovery is a place that will support you on your journey to recover from these dependencies and guide you toward becoming whole again. Current support groups are as follows: Men's Anger, Men's Chemical Dependency, Women's Chemical Dependency, Men's Sexual Addiction, Women's Codependency, and Women's Codependency (with Sexual Woundedness).

See more information on back ...



**May 3, 2026  
COUNT THE STARS**

**"Faith in the Gap"**

Genesis 15:1-21

Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor

Faith requires \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
before we \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.

• When \_\_\_\_\_, remember who  
\_\_\_\_\_.

• When \_\_\_\_\_, recall what  
\_\_\_\_\_.

• When \_\_\_\_\_, rest in  
\_\_\_\_\_.

We are made right with God through \_\_\_\_\_,  
not through \_\_\_\_\_.

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*\*If you're looking for further study on this topic, The Expectation Gap by Steve Cuss is a great resource.*

Need more room to add notes? See the back side of this sermon outline.  
Helpful links: [efcc.org/sermons](http://efcc.org/sermons) | [efcc.org/devos](http://efcc.org/devos) | [efcc.org/podcasts](http://efcc.org/podcasts)



## Community Partner Spotlight: The Alabaster Jar Project Empowering Survivors of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking isn't a distant problem — it's a local one. San Diego has been identified by the FBI as one of the top 13 cities in the country for commercial sexual exploitation, and its reach extends into our neighborhoods and schools, targeting those already living on the margins.



The Alabaster Jar Project is an Escondido-based organization fighting back. Survivor-led and committed to holistic, long-term care, they meet victims where they are and walk with them toward healing.

And there are real ways for you to get involved. Donating items, restocking shelves, bringing a meal to a support group — small acts of love send a powerful message to survivors: *You are seen, and you are worthy of healing.*

We're forming a ministry team to serve with The Alabaster Jar Project on an ongoing basis. If this is close to your heart, we'd love to have you at the table.

Email [outreach@efcc.org](mailto:outreach@efcc.org) to add your name to the interest list.

Visit [efcc.org/partner/alabaster-jar-project](http://efcc.org/partner/alabaster-jar-project) to watch a short video about their work.



Your gift to the Outreach Fund supports local and global partners, projects, and ministry teams like these. Thank You!



## Summer Mission Trip to Turkiye June 21 – July 1, 2026



Turkiye holds more early church history than almost anywhere on earth — yet today, Christianity has faded to a fraction of a percent of the population. Small, faithful congregations are sensing a shift, and this summer, we're sending a team to come alongside them.



Come encourage a living, breathing church holding its ground in one of the most significant mission fields in the world — and walk through cities straight out of your New Testament. Ephesus. Pergamon. Ancient Smyrna. Places where the early church was born under pressure, where the pages of Scripture stop feeling like history and start feeling like something you're standing inside.

Teachers — this trip was made for your summer.

Ministry activities will include leading conversational English classes for young people in the city. Your classroom instincts are exactly what's needed. And because Turks are deeply relational, a language lesson has a way of turning into tea, tea into friendship, and friendship into conversations that matter eternally.



*This is ancient ground. But God is doing something new — join the summer Turkiye Team to be a part of it!*

Visit [www.efcc.org/missiontrips](http://www.efcc.org/missiontrips) or scan the QR Code to apply!



# EFCC Family News Update

*Sharing our family passings and prayer needs*

May 3, 2026

## Pray for Our Church Family

### Home With the Lord

*Upcoming Memorial Services & Homegoing Updates*

**Mary Whittenburg** — A memorial service will be held for her on Friday, May 8, at 11am in the Chapel.

**Don King** — A memorial service will be held for him on Saturday, June 13, at 11am in the Chapel.

**Alexander Van Storch** — A memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, June 20, at 11am in the Chapel.



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### In the Hospital or Outpatient Care *(at Present or Pending\*)*

Will McLennan.

### Recovering at Home or in Extended Care

Monte Bowers, Carol Creamer, Shirley Elmore, June King, Bob Moberly, Janene Smith, and Ron Strubhar.

### In Hospice Care

Elaine Schlunt (Brown) and Pamela Thacker.

### Fighting Cancer

Tim Daugherty, Bob Davidson II, Bev Feiker, Bruce Gephart, Wally Goff, Erica Howard, Pam Irwin, Thelma Monigold, Eligio Moreno, Luanne Rishel, Shirley Roireau, Virginia Sanderson, Joseph Patrick Stoker, Pamela Thacker, John Twombly, Silvia Vargas, Nancy Wilson, Gary Williamson, and Cynthia Zabuska.