



# Faith Christian Assembly

## August Newsletter



August 1, 2025

### Life as a Joyful Hymn *by Pastor Sheri Leming*

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"This is my son Gary's senior picture" she said as she slid a photo across the table into my view. I grew up seeing him at church camps, or when I visited my grandparents' church, but we didn't usually talk very much. I remember thinking how handsome he was.

On this occasion, Gary's parents were spending a few days in Seattle where our family lived. So we all went out to dinner together.

As I reflect back on this incident in 1978, I think about the words that Jesus said in John 13:7, "What I am doing you do

not understand now, but you will know after this."

Three years later, in 1981, my family was on vacation in Southern California, and we were at the church where the handsome guy from the picture attended. But strangely, Mr. Handsome wasn't there on that Sunday morning. But here came this same sweet lady whom I had known for many years, because she faithfully and beautifully served as Colonial Tabernacle's organist. But that wasn't our only connection. My mom had known Earlene as a young girl. She was a big influence on my mom wanting to take

piano lessons, because she saw Earlene playing piano at church when she was a young girl. "My son had to work this morning, but he asked me to see if you want to go out with him after church tonight." Trying not to seem too quick to agree, (one thousand one, one thousand two,) I said "Yes! I would love to!"

Long story short, we were married in 1982.

These are just two of the countless reasons why I love my Mom-Earlene! I also love and admire the life she has lived and continues to live in her devoted service to God.

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## Watch the Hints *by Earlene Leming*



Earlene Leming

The Kindergarten Class was excited as they sat on the big rug at Brethren Elementary School in 1984. They listened quietly as their teacher slowly explained a new song to sing for the Parent's Program.

"Now see my face. I will give you signs called "HINTS." They will help you remember the words. WATCH THE HINTS!" They sang and watched her move her head up and down or point to the sky.

Soon they got it!

Suddenly she stopped playing and asked, "What is wrong, Christopher?" With his little hand wiping tears from his eyes, he spoke words I will never forget: "Mrs. Leming, I can't see the hints."

She simply answered, "Just move closer to me at the piano. Look in between the heads in front of you." At the performance, I was glad to see

Christopher singing happily, the loudest of all.

Our life is easier when we obey the Heavenly Teacher's Words: "Move away from distraction. Move closer to Jesus. WATCH THE HINTS."

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." ~ Isaiah 30:21 NKJV

## Life as a Joyful Hymn *continued from page 1*

Just last month Gary and I were invited to minister at the Aglow Prison Ministry Retreat up in Oakhurst, California. We met many of her "grads" as they call them from her 40+ years of ministry, serving in obedience to Hebrews 13:3, "...remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison..." We heard many stories of hope

that she consistently brought to women who were in prison, as well as when they were released. We heard about her driving for hours and hours to deliver food and baby clothes to those who would have gone without otherwise. And she continues to bless us through her beautiful music at Faith Christian Assembly. I honor such a life that

serves Jesus like that. I believe one thing that is so beautiful about Earlene Leming is her joyful spirit. I come from a family who laughs easily. This has always been a great comfort to me. So I quickly felt right at home with my mom-Earlene, who joyfully giggles so easily. Continued page 3

## August Calendar

### SUNDAYS

Service Time: 10:30am

August 3 — Communion Service

August 24—Guest Speaker Pastor Sam Rios

### MONDAYS

Office Closed

### TUESDAYS

Church Office Hours  
10:00am to 4:00pm\*



### WEDNESDAYS

Bible Study @ 11:00am

No Bible Study August 20 and 27

### THURSDAYS

NO Men's Ministry and Touch of Love Women's Ministry meetings this month/resumes in September

### FRIDAYS

Church Office Hours  
10:00am to 4:00pm\*

### SATURDAYS

August 9—1:00pm—2:00pm special Generational Concert followed by a reception (see page 4)

\*please call for appointment

## Life as a Joyful Hymn *continued from page 2*

Proverbs 17:22, NKJV ~ A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

Aging isn't for the faint of heart. But there is something beautiful about those who choose to continue to serve the Lord in the joy of the Lord. After all, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10 I admire people like this. Gary and I are blessed to pastor a church full of them. You give us all a worthwhile goal to

strive for as we follow your example.

I want to share a couple of quotes I really love about aging:

Corrie Ten Boom is quoted as saying, "The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation."

Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

So, in celebration of Earlene's transformation into a nonage-

narian, she wants to bless us with a concert celebrating her decades of music that she has loved and enjoyed playing through her years. She will be joined by a few of the musicians in the family.

We invite you to come, maybe bring a card to let her know the impact she has had on you. We will have a cake reception directly following for some fellowship with this wonderful lady we all adore.

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*Joyful Hymn continued from page 4*

**Saturday, August 9, 2025 1pm - 2pm**  
**Legacy Concert**

**Cake Reception Immediately Following**  
**in Garden Room**

**Faith Christian Assembly**  
**13820 Seal Beach Blvd.**



## From the Desk of Pastor Sheri Leming ~ August 1, 2025

Happy August to you. We pray you are enjoying the beautiful days of summer and that the "Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2) is shining down upon your life in a refreshing way. This month our Men's and Women's Ministry Touch of Love will take a much-deserved break until September 18. August is going to be a fun month filled with unique opportunities for you to enjoy. So, if you do not want to miss out, please take special note of the calendar section.

Saturday, August 9 at 1pm-2pm we will have a Generational Concert hosted by Earlene Leming in celebration of her 90th year. There will be a cake reception im-

mediately following (more information in my article in this issue.)

This month in Bible Study we will conclude our "trip to Rome." The Epistle to the Romans has been a refreshing study for all of us. We will conclude our study in Romans on Wednesday, August 13 from 11am - 12 noon. Then we are taking a 2-week break and will meet again on Wednesday, September 3 at 11am.

Sunday August 24 in our 10:30am service, our very own Pastor Sam Rios will be sharing the Word of God. We always hear wonderful reports of those who are blessed when Pastor Sam ministers. Please join us!

We also look forward to hearing Pastor Gwyn Vaughn minister the last Sunday of each month - which will be Sunday, August 31 at 10:30am. He consistently brings the powerful Word of God and usually a giggle or two as well. You will be blessed!

We invite you to join us this first Sunday in August in our 10:30am service as we partake in Holy Communion together. This is the time to partake together, and in this way, we obey Jesus' command to, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Looking forward to Sunday,  
*Pastor Sheri & Gary Leming*