

January 2026



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

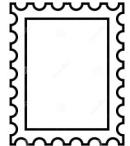
Selma, CA 93662

559-896-2691 ✉ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com

www.facebook.com/selmadisciples

www.youtube.com/selmadisciples



TO:

*Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds
so that you can figure out what God's will is—
what is good and pleasing and mature.*

Romans 12:2 (CEB)

The Caller

Your monthly newsletter



- OFFICE -

Tuesday - Thursday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Phone: 559-896-2691

Email: fccselma@sbcglobal.net

Pastor Email: fccselmapastor@yahoo.com

- MISSION STATEMENT -

To grow our faith in Christ and share it with others;
connect to God and to others through love;
create hope by serving others.

- VISION STATEMENT -

To be a faithful community called to
love, connect, equip, and serve.

- CORE VALUES -

Love
Inclusion
Creativity

CHURCH STAFF

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| MINISTERS..... | The Congregation |
| SENIOR PASTOR..... | Rev. Chad Thompson |
| Ministers of Youth & Young Adults | Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian |
| Minister of Music | Jordan Williams |
| Organist..... | Anthony Imperatrice |
| Administrative Assistant | Samantha Stellplug |
| Bookkeeper..... | Lorraine Adayan |
| Child Care..... | Open |
| Custodian | Josiah Thompson |

CHURCH LEADERS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chair of the Congregation | Yolonda Gonzalez |
| Chair of the Deacons..... | Marsha Staley |
| Chair of the Elders..... | Pat Adams |
| Children's Ministry | Kathleen Schales |
| Communications Coordinator..... | Jordan Williams |
| Property..... | Clemente Gonzalez & Andrew Guzman |
| Stewardship & Outreach..... | Leah Torosian & Jennifer Stellplug |
| Technology | Omar Ruiz & Joey Thompson |



Dear Church Family,
Happy New Year!

A new year offers the promise of a fresh start, a chance to learn from what has

been and to step forward with hope. Some people will make resolutions, while others will refuse. For followers of Christ, it gives us pause to look back on the months behind us, naming both the challenges and the joys, and we begin to imagine what the year ahead might hold. As people of faith, this moment invites us into deeper reflection. Beyond resolutions, we are called to prayerful discernment, asking how we have lived out our love for God and for one another. We consider how we have used the gifts God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures. As we look ahead, we may sense an invitation to grow – perhaps through daily Scripture reading, a renewed prayer life, serving at the Food Bank or Christian Café, offering support to those in need, or giving generously to the work of the church and the wider world. In this new year, God offers us not just another beginning, but the grace to become more fully who we were created to be.

Last year, our word for the year was *Transformation*. This year, our word for the year is *Resilience*. As followers of Christ, resilience is more than perseverance or grit; it is a faith-rooted trust that God is present and at work even when the road is hard. Christian resilience is shaped by hope, grounded in prayer, and sustained by the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is the courage to keep loving when love is costly, to keep serving when we are weary, and to keep believing when answers feel distant. We are resilient not because we are strong on our own, but because we belong to a faithful God and a caring community. As we live in this world together, resilience calls us to lean into God's grace, support one another, and continue walking forward, faithful, hopeful, and rooted in Christ, no matter what the year may bring. Whatever this year may bring, we move forward together, trusting that God goes before us and walks beside us.

~Pastor Chad

Youth & Young Adults

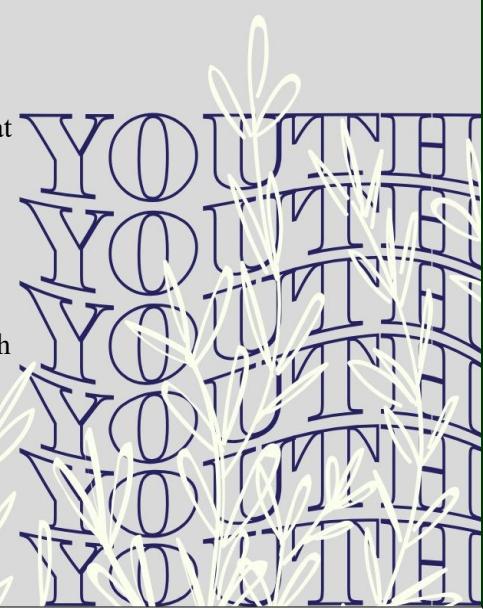
Welcome back to the holiday season everyone! I don't know about you, but after that long stretch of a heatwave, I am happy to be shivering again. Luckily I can't be too cold with the joy of Christmas keeping my heart warm. The true meaning of Christmas is a little different for everyone, but one of the qualities that best exemplifies the season for me is grace. Grace is the virtue of being understanding to people. To be kind and patient, even when, and especially when, it's difficult. While it's a concept that I've always valued, I didn't truly understand it until Pastor Chad explained it to me during one of his monthly men's breakfasts. Grace has stuck with me ever since.

Recently, I saw a movie that truly embodied this virtue, *Wake Up Dead Man*, the third *Knives Out* movie. I'm sure it must be a surprise to hear me connect a dark and introspective murder mystery to Christmas, but there's more than meets the eye with this story. Since this movie only came onto Netflix recently, I'll be sure not to spoil it here. This movie centers around a young priest in a small town who gets wrapped up in a seemingly impossible murder. Along the way, we meet the many sheep in this church's flock and find out the ways that faith, both good and bad, intertwines and affects us. Giving people grace is a consistent theme throughout the film and especially in the story's climax. It reminded me that no matter how many mistakes people make, we should be there for them and help them however we can. Holding hate in our hearts tears us down from the inside. I walked out of the theater truly touched and in awe of what I saw, so as soon as it came to Netflix, I was eager to watch it again. If you can stomach a dark murder mystery, then I highly recommend this movie, although it definitely earns its PG-13 rating, so do your research before putting it on for family movie night!

Grace is a virtue for a reason, so I hope we all go out there with hearts full of patience, kindness, and understanding. Just because someone makes a mistake, doesn't mean they're a bad person. With that in mind, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. Ephesians 2:8

-Preston T. Ward



JANUARY 25, 2026

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN AS WE REVIEW CHURCH UPDATES AND PLANS FOR 2026

PRAYER PAGE

PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

PRAYER CHAIN: Please send prayer requests and praises to
Karen Blanchard, 559-898-6700 or kablanchard17@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Continue to pray for the **our church and our leadership** as we continue to discern God's way forward for our ministry and where God is calling us to continue serving Selma.

Teresa is asking for prayer for her friend Kim's sister, **Christie**. She is on Dialysis, awaiting kidney transplant and having difficulty regulating her body chemistry. Pray for a kidney to be found for her, and alleviate any pain, granting her strength, as well as her family and friends.

Pray for **Mitch Ritchie's Mother**. She was in the hospital for a very bad UTI and is back home with very strong antibiotics. Pray for her healing and quick recovery.



Beckey Moreno passed away on Christmas Day. Please pray for the family and friends as this time is extremely difficult especially around the holidays. Give them strength and hold them tight.

John Terry is asking for prayers for Angel's dad, **Bill**. He has pneumonia and is hospitalized. There have been complications and he is now in the ICU. He was bleeding internally and is now on a ventilator and sedation. Please pray for strength, healing, and peace over Bill and the family.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE

Thank you for the gift from our mystery giver. It truly warms our hearts and reminds us of the generosity and kindness within our church family. ~ **FCC Staff**

Thank you so much for the wonderful gift from the mystery giver and from the elders. I genuinely appreciate your thoughtful gesture, and it really brightens my heart. I am truly grateful for your kindness! ~ **Pastor Chad Thompson**

Thank you Jordan for all of your hard work, you give to others with gracious heart and are always willing to help. There was so much delightful and inspiring music this December. You are appreciated! ~ **anonymous**



PRAYING FOR FELLOW DISCIPLES AND NEIGHBOR CHURCHES

Let us pray for the following churches, their vitality, and the mission God has called them to do.

Feel free to send cards with words of encouragement for their members and ministry.

This month:

First Christian Church, Hanford

505 W Cameron St. Hanford, CA 93230

Rev. Dr. Patreza Newton, senior pastor



The Hills Selma

2025 Grant St, Selma, CA 93662

Brad Twitty, campus pastor



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Extending Hand Ministries** gives out food to the public every 2nd and 4th Monday @ 8:00 AM
- **Cans for Camp:** We are still accepting cans/bottles to fund our scholarships for future campers.
- **Bible Study:** Thursdays @ 4:00 PM
- **Elders' Meeting:** Sunday, January 4th after worship.
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, January 10th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

Esther Group: Saturday, January 10th @ 9:30 at Dawn Linhoff's

Miriam Group: Tuesday, January 13th @ 9:30 at Marsha Staley's

- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, January 18th after worship
- **Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, January 25th after worship

If you would like an announcement in the Caller contact the office by the third Monday of the month.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2025

Present were Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Charlotte Thompson, Yolanda Gonzalez, Lisa Piper, Jane Ono, Laurie Fitzgerald, Marsha Staley, Jennifer Earle, and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 12:00 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

Minutes – Minutes of the November meeting were read. Marsha moved to accept the minutes. Jennifer seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report – Jennifer reviewed the budget and fielded questions.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – No report

Education – No report

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – Advent candle lightings went well.

Property – Andrew had good idea for sign. He also went up on the roof to check the patch. It needs repairing.

Stewardship and Outreach – No report

Tech – Joey is still looking for volunteers for sound board. One screen is broken.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

They will have a Christmas party. They are looking for the most convenient night to meet, one that will work for all families.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 Sundays, worked at the Food Bank, made visits, taught baptism class, Elder's meeting, Men's fellowship and worked at Christian Café. Attended Budget committee and nominating committee meetings. He was able to attend all the various Christmas programs for our youth. He had a great vacation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – still pending

Alarm system – changed battery

Property – We haven't given up on our options. We would like to have more input from the entire congregation.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for 2026 – Slate of officers was presented. After discussion, Charlotte moved to accept the slate of officers with the corrections made. Jordan seconded, motion carried.

Budget for 2026 – Jennifer presented the proposed budget for 2026. After board discussion Jennifer moved to accept the proposed budget.

Charlotte seconded, motion carried.

Congregational meeting will be on January 26, 2026.

Yolanda closed the meeting with prayer at 12:40 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be January 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

2026

ONE WORD YOUR YEAR

A time of renewal & faith

As we Begin the new year, we invite you to choose
one word to guide your heart in 2026.
Pray over it and let it shape your year.

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

Thank you for financially supporting
God's work in the various ways below!

IN WORSHIP: During the Offertory

MAIL: 2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

"BILL PAY": through online banking

MOBILE APPS

(download one or both at the Google Play Store or the Apple Store)



PayPal
(General Fund only)



Givelify
(Can designate giving)

Donating Supplies

The church is always in need of stamps, printer paper, paper towels, and toilet paper. Contact the church office to see what is currently needed.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday:Sunday School **9:15 AM**
.....Worship Service..... **10:30AM**
.....Iglesia DC **4:30 PM & 6 PM**
.....Youth and Young Adult Group **7 PM**

Monday:Iglesia DC Food Distribution **2:30 PM**
.....Narcotics Anonymous **7 PM**

Wednesday:Iglesia DC Food Distribution **1:30 PM**
.....Choir Rehearsal (intermittently) **7 PM**

Thursday:Bible Study (Pastor's Office) **4 PM**
.....Iglesia DC **6 PM**

Friday:Iglesia DC Food Distribution **2:30 PM**
.....Alcoholics Anonymous **7 PM**

Saturday:Community Choir (intermittently) **10:30AM**

NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 2025

In Person Attendance

| | |
|-----------|---|
| SUN 7 | WORSHIP 38 |
| SUN 14 | WORSHIP 44 CHRISTMAS CANTATA 116 |
| FRI 19 | WILLIAM'S 20 TH CHRISTMAS CONCERT 125 |
| SUN 21 | WORSHIP 53 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 31 |
| WED 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 44 |
| SUN 28 | WORSHIP 22 |

GIVING: GENERAL FUND: \$ 20,608.32
2025 MONTHLY GOAL: \$ 8,042.00

(This information is based on pledged and estimated giving for 2025. It does not include income from Facility Use, Fundraisers, or Parsonage Rental; and does not include designated giving.)

Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry in Selma through time, talent, and treasure!

January 2026



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|------------------------|-----|--|
| | | | | 1 New Years Day | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Elder's Meeting 11:45 AM Baptism: Annie DeBaets, Crystina Hernandez, Ava Marquez | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Bible Study 4 PM | 9 | 10 Men's Breakfast 9 AM Esther Group 9:30 AM |
| 11 | 12 Food Bank 8 AM | 13 Miriam Group 9:30 AM | 14 | 15 Bible Study 4 PM | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Board Meeting 11:45 AM | 19 Caller Submissions Due | 20 | 21 | 22 Bible Study 4 PM | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Congregational Meeting 11:45 AM | 26 Food Bank 8 AM | 27 | 28 | 29 Bible Study 4 PM | 30 | 31 |

Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

- 03: Christian Cabral
- 11: Kellie Goldstein
- 13: Brent Burwell
- 15: Samantha Stellpflug
- 17: Kenneshae Murray
- 21: Alan Langstraat
- 25: Anthony & Aileen Imperatrice '92



Happy Anniversary

Did we miss your special day?
Let the church office know so we can update our records!

SERVING IN JANUARY

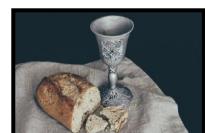
PRESIDER SCRIPTURE

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 04: Laura Thornburg | John 1:10-18 |
| 11: Jane Ono | Isaiah 42:1-9 |
| 18: Lisa Piper | John 1:29-42 |
| 25: Leah Torosian | Matthew 4:12-23 |



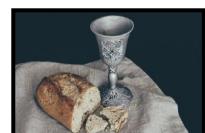
COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

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|--|
| 04: Charlotte Thompson & Alan Langstraat |
| 11: Pat Adams & John Terry |
| 18: Jordan Williams & Jane Ono |
| 25: Charlotte Thompson & Pat Adams |



DEACONS

| |
|--|
| 04: Tina Ritchie, Clemente Gonzalez, Makalya Sierra |
| 11: Jennifer Stellpflug, Karen Blanchard, Gary Schales |
| 18: Liz Martinez, Laura Thornburg, Kathleen Schales |
| 25: Marsha Staley, Lisa Piper, Clemente Gonzalez |



JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

| |
|-----------------------|
| 04: No Junior Worship |
| 11: No Junior Worship |
| 18: No Junior Worship |
| 25: No Junior Worship |

