

# January 2026

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## THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**First Christian Church**

**2026 Arrants St.**

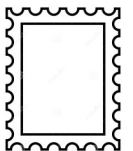
**Selma, CA 93662**

**559-896-2691 ☎ fccselma@sbcglobal.net**

**[www.selmadisciples.com](http://www.selmadisciples.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/selmadisciples](https://www.facebook.com/selmadisciples)**

**[www.youtube.com/selmadisciples](https://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](mailto:fccselma@sbcglobal.net)

Pastor Email: [fccselmapastor@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Stellpflug  
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 Stellpflug  
Technology ..... Omar Ruiz & Joey Thompson

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

## 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 kablanchar17@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.

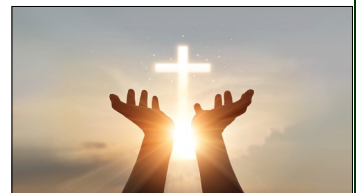
John Terry is asking for prayers for Angel's dad, **Bill**. He has pneumonia and is hospitalized. There have been complications and he is now in the ICU. He was bleeding internally and is now on a ventilator and sedation. Please pray for strength, healing, and peace over Bill and the family.

### 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 a 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.*

## 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

## 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.*

## NUMBERS FOR DECEMBER 2025

*In-Person Attendance*

SUN 7	WORSHIP 38
SUN 14	WORSHIP 44 CHRISTMAS CANTATA 116
FRI 19	WILLIAM'S 20 <sup>TH</sup> CHRISTMAS CONCERT 125
SUN 21	WORSHIP 53 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 31
WED 24	CHIRSTMAS 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 Stellflug

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

04: Laura Thornburg

11: Jane Ono

18: Lisa Piper

25: Leah Torosian

### SCRIPTURE

John 1:10-18

Isaiah 42:1-9

John 1:29-42

Matthew 4:12-23



### COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

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 Stellflug, 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

