2026 October

The Caller

Newsletter of the First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

First Christian Church
2026 Arranst St.
Selma, CA 93662

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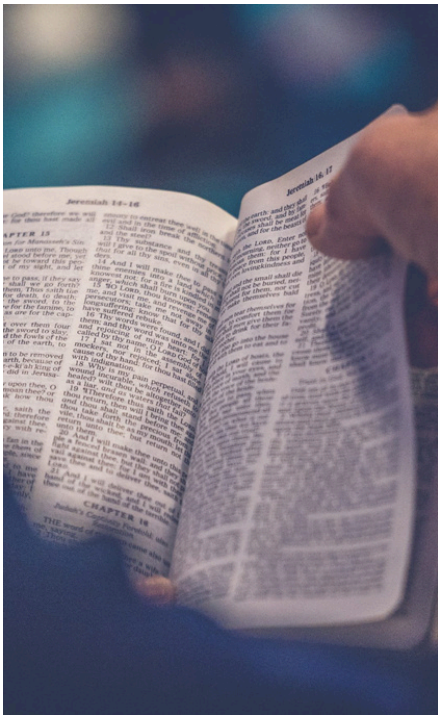
To:

Rev. Chad Thompson

PASTORS CORNER



October is here! I love October; it's a wonderful time when the weather cools down, and many exciting events take place. This month, we're looking forward to the Blessing of the Animals, World Communion Sunday, the Soirée, the Men's Retreat, the Band Review, trick-or-treating, shorter, cooler days, and Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Lattes. At church, we also kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign, with this year's theme being "ENOUGH: DISCOVERING JOY THROUGH SIMPLICITY AND GENEROSITY." Throughout October, I will kick off Stewardship Month on October 4th; Jennifer Earle will preach October 11th; Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum will preach October 18th; and Rev. Vickie Firch will preach October 25th.

What is enough? It's a simple question, but a difficult one to answer. We live in a world that constantly tells us we need more—more money, possessions, success, security, and experiences. But what if the life God desires for us isn't found in having more, but in recognizing that we already have enough? Stewardship is about more than financial giving. It is about how we use everything God has entrusted to us—our time, talents, resources, relationships, and finances.

Simplicity invites us to pause and recognize what truly matters. When we slow down and ask ourselves. What really matters? What brings lasting joy? What do I truly need to let go? We may discover that we already have more than we realized. When we recognize that we have enough, our hearts can become more open to generosity. Generosity can mean giving our time, sharing our gifts and talents, helping a neighbor, encouraging someone who is struggling, volunteering in our community, or supporting our church's ministries. Everything we have is a gift from God. When we live with a spirit of generosity, we can use what God has given us—not simply for ourselves, but to make a difference in the lives of others.

This stewardship season, may we focus less on what we lack and more on the blessings God has already given us. May we discover the freedom of simplicity and the joy of generosity. Enough isn't about having everything we want. It's about recognizing God's blessings, being grateful for what we have, and sharing those blessings with others. Sometimes, discovering that we have enough is where true joy begins.

~ Chad Thompson

~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, rquip, and serve.

~Core Values~

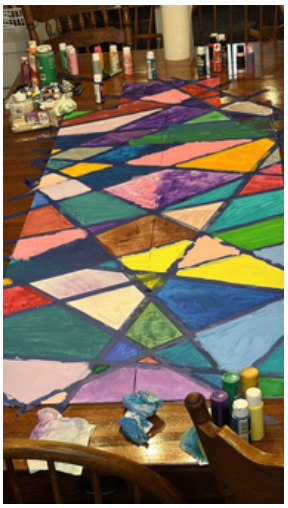
Love
Inclusion
Creativity

Youth and Young Adult

Dear Church Family, October 2026

These past several weeks, we've been listening to people's Stories of Hope. I loved hearing how God, and our church, have affected the members of our congregation. I think a huge part of hope is connection. I heard our speakers mention multiple people from our church who helped them through their hard times. Even just listening to what's going on can be so helpful.

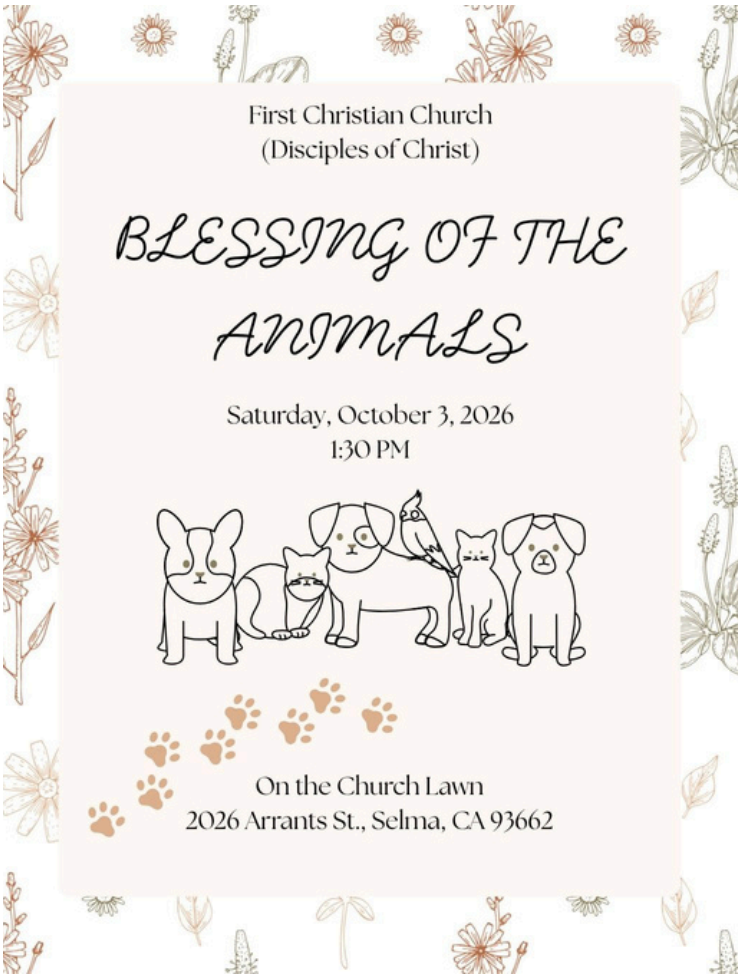
In youth group last Sunday, we did an art project. Each of the attendees had a painting canvas. They wrote their name on the back and then we laid them all side by side on the dining room table. I took painter's tape and made a pattern that with it over the canvases. Then we sat down and painted all the spaces different colors. After it dried, I took the tape off, made a huge continuous swirl of clear glue, and glittered the glue. I know it doesn't sound like much but…



Each of the canvases is a complete work of art by itself. It doesn't need anything outside of itself to be whole. But when you put it with the other canvases, you can see that it's connected to the others, part of something bigger. We are just like those canvases. We are unique and perfect, just as we are. Just the way God made us. But when you put us together in community, we are part of something so much bigger. God made us to be in community together. And if/when you feel disconnected, just look for that line of glitter. That's the Holy Spirit holding us together.

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte and Leah, youth and young adult co-directors



Prayer Page

Prayer Requests, Praises, & Gratitude

Prayer Cahin: Please send prayer request and praises to
Karen Blanchard, 559-898-6700 *or kablanchard17@gmail.com*

Prayer Requests:

Continued Prayers for...

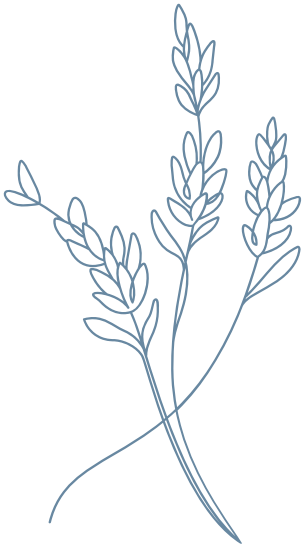
Marion is asking for prayer for **Carolyn Cordova** and her husband, **Willie**. Carolyn's brain infection had not been improving. Willie and the family had to make a difficult decision to take her off life support. Please pray for their spirits to be lifted and for strength and comfort through this extremely difficult time.

Lisa Piper is asking for prayers for her grandson, **Theodore**. Tiffany has taken him to the ER with a fever. They had all been sick and he caught it as well. Pray that the sickness gets better and give comfort to both Theodore and his parents.

Jennifer is asking for prayer for **Dawn**. She had been taken to Freson Community Hospital by ambulance. She was relesed to go home. She will be checking in with her cardiologist and getting an appointment with the neurologist. She has been feeling dizzy and nauseated. Pray that she is able to get an appointmet and figure out what is going on.

Prayer request from **Casey DeBaets**. Her **Uncle Jess** just found out her is having a cardiac stent placed. They found an 80% blockage in the main vessel of his heart. Please pray that the procedure goes well, and that he recovers quick.

Pray for **Maria Tafoya**, who is dealing with some medical concerns. Praise that her cancer has not returned!



Praises and Gratitude:

Some time ago a prayer requset was sent out for **Jennifer Ealre's grandaughter**, **Alexandra**, who had a kidney stone. Jennifer reported that she has since passed the stone. Praise God that she was able to pass the stone and is now relieved from the pain.

Praying for Fellow Disciples and Neighbor Chruches

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.

Concord First Christian Chruch

3039 Willow Pass Rd, Concord, CA 94519

Rev. Dr. Leslie Taylor

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

2441 Dockery Ave, Selma, CA 93662

Rev. Fr. Efrain Martinez (Senior Pastor)

Announcements

- **Extending Hands 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
- **Blessing of the Animals:** Saturday, October 3rd @1:30 PM. Join us on the church lawn.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Sunday, October 4th @ 9 AM.
- **World Comminuon Sunday:** Sunday, October 4th @ 10:30 AM
- **Sip N' Paint:** Sunday, October 4th @ 4 PM.
- **Stewardship Month Book Study:** Join us every Monday @ 6:30 PM during October, starting on October 5th.
- Womens' Fellowship:
  - **-Esther Group:** Saturday, October 10th @ 9:30 AM at Nacy McGuyer's
  - **-Miriam Group:** Tuesday, October 13th @ 9:30 AM at Marsha Staley's
- **SCCC Dinner Soiree:** Friday, October 9th @ 6:30 PM **(Ticket Sales End Oct. 4th)**
- **Selma Band Festival:** Saturday, October 17th @ 9 AM
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, October 18th after worship.
- **Men's Devotional Breakfast:** Saturday, October 24th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **Consecration Sunday:** Sunday, October 25th @ 10:30 AM

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

STEWARDSHIP MONTH

October 2026

Stewarship Campaign Theme: Enough-Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words describe how many of us feel about our finances as each day brings new economic uncertainty.

During the month of October join us for worship and a Monday evening study as we discover joy through simplicity and generosity. In worship, we will explore the Bible's teachings on financial management. During the study, we will hear stories about what a simpler life headed for financial health looks like, find wisdom and learn practical tools for creating a finacial plan.

On October 25, we will have the opportunity to commit our 2027 offerings to God. We will consecrate the pledge cards during worship that Sunday.

SUN 4	**SPEAKER:** *Rev. Chad Thompson* From First Christian Church, Selma, CA
SUN 11	**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Jennifer Earle* From First Christian Church, Slema, CA
SUN 18	**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Rev. Dr. LaTauyna Bynum* Regional Minister of CCNC-N
SUN 25	**GUEST SPEAKER:** *Rev. Vicky Firch*

To buy tickets online,
scan the QR Code!

COME JOIN US FOR

First Christian Church Evening Soiree

10.09.2026 | 6:30PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2026 ARRANTS ST, SELMA CA 93662

DINNER * DRINKS * MUSIC * RAFFLE

TICKETS $30 PER PERSON

DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE 10.~~01~~04.2026

Supporting the Selma Community Church Choir & Kingsburg Village Voices on their journey to Carnegie Hall in New York!

Dinner includes tri-tip, rice pilaf, salad, dinner roll, & beverage.
Wine & Raffle tickets sold separately.

559-896-2691 * fccselma@sbcglobal.net * fccselmachoir@gmail.com

Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2026

Present were : Yolanda Gonzalez, Jane Ono, Leah Torosian, Charlotte Thompson, John Terry, Jennifer Earle, Chad Thompson, Joey Thompson, Marsha Staley, Laurie Fitzgerald, Kathleen Schales, Jordan Williams, Pat Adams and guest Ramza Coury. Yolanda opened the meeting at 11:55 by lighting the Christ Candle.All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

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

Financial Report – Jennifer said as of now things look pretty good.

MINISTERY TEAM REPORTS

1.Communications – Working to install new systems. Things are going well.

2. Education – Trying some new ideas to grab the kids attention at beginning of each lesson. So far the new year is going well.

3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth- This morning's snacks before church went well and was well received. The Soiree is planned for Oct. 9.

4. Property – The water bill was very high. Chad discovered that there were many broken sprinklers. It took Chad 4 hours to repair. There was a hot water heater issue at the rental house. Jane followed thru and all is well.

5. banners will be put up. We will have breads from different countries for communion during worship. A stewardship class is being planned for October.Jennifer is writing a stewardship thought for the Caller.

6. Technology – New computers need to be put together.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Chad led Bible study and a book study. Chad worked at the Food Bank, and the Christian Café. Had 7 counseling sessions, attended an Elder's meeting and a board meeting. He attended the men's breakfast. Chad completed his seminar and trainings. Chad will have vacation on October 12 – 19.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT RERORT

Last Sunday the youth members had a contest to see who could bring the most new people to youth group. They traveled to Vallejo for a lock-in.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

1.It was suggested that board members look at the printed choices in the board packet we now have as options for relocation.

NEW BUSINESS

1.Ramza - Ramza was here to explain a little about her role in helping us to purchase a property to relocate to and helping us to navigate the selling of our property. After some questions, it was decided the next step will be for Ramza to ask for Farewell's appraisal.

2.Nomination binder - Chad put together a new nomination binder.

3.Board restructuring - Chad asked how we thought the restructuring of the board went this year. After some discussion it was decided it overall went well and to do the same this year and then reevaluate.

4.SB 553- Chad completed and had Yolanda sign.

5.Staff Training – Samantha and Joey each need four hours of training, the board agreed to pay them their regular pay for the time.

6.Selma Cares – We will again donate $400.00 for tomato products.

7.AB 506 Audit – This document will take 30-40 hours for Chad to complete. Chad is the only one authorized to work on it and it is due in 30 days. Samantha will protect his time when she is here. And board members have volunteered to man the phones when she isn't working.

8.Nursery – Needs to be cleaned and updated for Theodore.

9.Haunted House – Youth would like to build a haunted house for Halloween. Jacob Marquez has all of the materials. The board approved.

Next board meeting will October 18.

Pat Adams, Board secretary

First Christian Church Information

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:
Sunday School.....9:15 AM
Worship Service.....10:30 AM
Iglesia DC.....4:30 AM & 6 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 AM

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.....Tony Imperatrice
Administrative Assistant.....Samantha Stellpflug
Bookkeeper.....Lorrain Adayan
Child Care.....Tiffany Piper
Custodian.....Josiah Thompson

Church Leaders

Chair of the Congregation.....Yolanda Gonzalez
Chair of the Deacons.....Marsha Staley
Chair of the Elders.....John Terry
Children's Ministry.....Kathleen Schales
Communications Coordinator....Samantha Stellpflug & Leah Torosian
Property.....Board
Stewardship.....Jennifer Earle
Outreach..... Jane Ono
Technology.....Josiah Thompson

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

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.

Mobile APPS

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

PayPal
(General Fund only)

Givelify
(Can designate giving)

Attendance

Sun 6	Worship 37
Sun 13	Worship 38
Sun 20	Worship 41
Sun 27	Worship 41

Giving:

General Fund: $5,596.57
2026 Monthly Goal: $8,233.00

(This information is based on pledged and estimated giving for 2026. 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!

Serving In October

Presider	Scripture
04: Janice Baker	Matthew 6:19-24
11: John Terry	Luke 15:11-16
18: Pat Adams	TBA
25: Liz Matrinez	Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 17:11-19

Communion & Offering Elder
04: Pat Adams & Jennifer Earle
11: Leah Torosian & Charlotte Thompson
18: Jennifer Earle & Jordan Williams
25: Pat Adams & John Terry

Deacons
04: Karen Blanchard, Brent Burwell, Marsha Staley
11: Bryan DeBaets, Casey DeBaets, Will Thompson
18: Liz Martinez, Makayla Sierra, Kathleen Schales
25: Will Thompson, Tina Ritchie, Zoe Thompson

Junior Worship Leaders
04: Laura Thornburg
11: Makayla Sierra
18: Karen Blanchard
25: Lisa Piper

October 2026

Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Bible Study 4 PM	2	3 Blessing of the Animals 1:30 PM
4 **World Communion Sunday** Elder's Meeting 9 AM Sip N' Paint 4 PM	5 Book Study 6:30 PM	6	7	8 Bible Study 4 PM	9 SCCC Soriee 6:30 PM	10 Esther Meeting 9:30 AM
11	12 Food Bank 8 AM Book Study 6:30 PM	13 Miriam Meeting 9:30 AM	14	15 Bible Study 4 PM	16 Men's Retreat Starts	17 Selma Band Festival @ 9 AM
18 Board Meeting After Worship Men's Retreat Ends	19 Book Study 6:30 PM	20	21	22 Bible Study 4 PM	23	24 Men's Breakfast @ 9 AM
25 **Concecration Sunday**	26 Food Bank 8 AM Book Study 6:30 PM	27	28	29 Bible Study 4 PM	30	31

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October

01: Anthony Imperatrice

02: Katie Schales

Kadi and Devin Fitzgerald '13

06: Jennifer Stellpflug

08: Carole Jordan

10: Preston Ward

12: Peggy Chadsey

15: Matthew and Cora Pulley '20

16: Vonnie Murray

21: Joseph Camaquin-Vigil

22: Clemente Gonzalez

23: Laura Thornburg