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**Newsletter of the
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**



Called by God to
love, equip, connect, and serve.

**EDITION #LXVI , ISSUE #02
October 2022**

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www.selmadisciples.com
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*"Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness."
Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)*



An Update from the Search Committee...

GOOD NEWS EVERYONE

THERE'S NOTHING TO REPORT

meme-generator.net

Dear Youth and Church Family,

When I started seminary, I was farming for Charlotte's uncle, and I was the youth minister at Selma First Christian Church. It was challenging to find the time to juggle so many hats: husband, father, student, farm laborer, and youth minister. I felt overwhelmed with everything going on. I spent a lot of nights up till 3:00 a.m. just to get my homework done and then I would go to work or school the next day. I remember one night I was sitting on the couch studying for a final and I just broke down. I had spent so much time working and studying that I had lost family time and because of that my family was suffering. It was at this point that I heard that still small voice asked me, "do you trust me?" I answered yes. "Then let the farming job go and see what I can do in your life." When I turned in my two weeks' notice, it felt like the whole world came off my shoulders. I learned a good lesson; sometimes we need to let go of some things to find rest and peace. Maybe there is something in your life that you need to let go so that you can rest. Maybe you are in a season of life that you are not able to let things go. I encourage you to read Matthew 11:28-30 and see what Jesus has to say to us overworked, overtaxed, stressed out, and worried people, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." May we take seriously Jesus' words and take his yoke on us and may we, in the midst of our crazy hectic lives, find rest.



The Young Adult group meets on the first and third Sunday nights at 7:00 pm. Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) are meeting on Thursdays from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. We would love to have all your children join us! I am looking for people who would be willing to be a youth sponsor; if you are interested, please contact me.

In Christ's service,

Chad Thompson

559-356-0080

Ctsquared@msn.com

Pastoral Corner...

This month is stewardship month. It is the month that we talk about money, time, and talents, and how we can use these in our church, community, and the world. Our theme this year is "Game On." When I played sports, when we said game on it meant that it was time to play, it was go time, it was time to put all our practice and hard work into action. In 2019 the Stewardship theme was "Level Up." The idea was that we reflected on the church and how we could improve. The 2020 Stewardship theme was "Walking into It." The idea was that we've leveled up and now let's move to the next level. In 2021 the Stewardship theme was "Reset." We stepped back and reevaluated what has worked and what hasn't. Now that we have leveled and walked into it and reset, it's "Game On!" It is time to act. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." We find ourselves at a moment where we must realize the importance of giving to our church in whatever way we can. Galatians 6:9 says, "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up." Brothers and Sisters, we have a responsibility to use our time, our talents, and money. Jesus gives the parable about the Talents (gold) and in it a master goes away and leaves five bags of gold with one servant, two bags of gold with another servant, and one bag of gold with another servant. The one with five bags of gold gained five more bags of gold. The servant with two bags gained two more bags of gold. The servant who had one bag buried the bag of gold and did nothing with it. The master tells the first two servants, "Well done, you good and faithful servant." The last servant, the gold is taken from him and given to the one with ten bags of gold. This parable is found in Matthew 25. It is a story to show the importance of using the gifts we have been given to make an impact to those around us. We have a choice in what we will do with our time, talents, and money. My prayer is that we use our time, talent, and money to grow the church and the Kingdom of God. May we pronounce loudly, "It Is Game On" and then may we act on it. May we hear the words from Jesus, "Well done, you good and faithful servants."

Interim Pastor Chad Thompson

October

- 01: Anthony Imperatrice;
Erik & Diane Jensen '94
- 02: Katie Frances Schales
Kadi & Devin Fitzgerald '13
- 03: Randy & Dana Orosco '98
- 06: Jennifer Stellpflug;
Alana Duran
- 15: Mathew & Cora Pulley '20
- 16: Vonnie Murray (PO Box 559, Selma)
Julie Eichelberger
- 19: Sofia Iraheta
- 22: Clemente Gonzalez
- 23: Beverly Potter
Laura Thornburg
- 27: Vicky Armstrong
Christian Gutierrez
- 28: Dave & Patty Starr '05



PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

PRAYERS FOR:



Please pray for Karen Risling's family. Karen passed away earlier this month. Her daughter, Jordan, has been living with Karen's older daughter. Pray for Jordan to have some stability in her life..

Please pray for Charlotte Thompson who was in the ER with a lot of pain. She has to go see a specialist for her kidneys, liver, and gallbladder to find out what is causing her discomfort.

Please pray for Karen Blanchard's cousin, Ed Fox. He has been diagnosed with lung cancer that is already in the lymph nodes. May God be with Ed and his family as they begin this battle with cancer.

Please pray for one of Barbara Duncan's caregivers, Lena. She found out that she has colon cancer. She is meeting with the surgeon today.

Please pray for a friend of Jennifer's, Rosalene. She has on a spot in her mouth. Rosalene had cancer of the jaw about a year ago and had major surgery to remove it. Pray that this spot is benign.

We need to pray that our renter, James Allen, can find another 3 bedroom house to rent once our new minister gets here. If you hear of any for rent, please let Jane Ono know.

GRATITUDE:

First Christian's Food Pantry served 268 **people** during the month of **September!** Thank you to **ALL** who help make this food pantry possible.

PRAYER CHAIN

Jennifer Earle is leading the prayer chain. You may send prayer requests to her at 559-896-2358 or jen4earle@sbcglobal.net.



Those Serving in October 2022

PRESIDER

- 2. *Dorothy Babiarz*
- 9. *Lisa Piper*
- 16. *Marsha Staley*
- 23. *Charlotte Thompson*
- 30. *Janice Baker*

SCRIPTURE

- 2 *Corinthians 8:1-11 (NRSV)*
- TBA*
- TBA*
- 1 *Thessalonians - 3:1- 13*
- (NRSV)*
- TBA*

COMMUNION ELDER

- 2. *Charlotte Thompson*
- 9. *Kathleen Schales*
- 16. *Jennifer Earle*
- 23. *Jordan Williams*
- 30. *Leah Torosian*



CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS	The Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR	TBA
Interim	Rev. Chad Thompson
Minister of Youth/Young Adults	Chad Thompson
Minister of Music	Jordan Williams
Organist	Anthony Imperatrice
Chair of the Congregation (2022)	John Terry
Chair of the Elders (2022)	Jane Ono
Administrative Assistant	Cora Fluker-Pulley
Child Care	Cora Fluker-Pulley
Communications Coordinator	Cora Fluker-Pulley
Custodian	Open

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 ~Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - 11:30am ~Elder Meeting 11:30am - 12:30pm	3 ~NA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	4	5 ~Choir Practice @7pm	6 ~DC Inglesia @6pm	7 ~AA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	8 ~Clean Up Day at the Church @9am ~Esther Group @9:30am
9 ~Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - 11:30am ~Spiritual Growth Meeting	10 ~NA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	11 ~Miriam Group @9:30	12	13 ~DC Inglesia @6pm	14 ~AA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	15 ~Community Choir Practice @10am
16 ~Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - 11:30am ~Board Meeting 11:30am -	17 ~NA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	18	19 ~Choir Practice @7pm	20 ~DC Inglesia @6pm	21 ~AA @7pm in Fellowship Hall ~Soiree Fundrais-	22 ~Community Choir Practice @10am
23 ~Sunday Worship Service 10:30am - 11:30am	24 ~NA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	25	26	27 ~DC Inglesia @6pm	28 ~AA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	29 ~Band Festival
30 ~Sunday Worship Service Consecration Sunday 10:30am - 11:30am	31 ~NA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	1	2	3 ~DC Inglesia @6pm	4 ~AA @7pm in Fellowship Hall	5

Announcements!

- Christian Cafe is scheduled for October 5th. contact Liz Thornburg Martinez if you can help. Thank you.
- Junior Worship Time is now in full swing! If you have any questions about it, please reach out to Kathleen Schales.
- Our Custodian position is now vacant. If you would like to inquire about the position or would like an application, please call/email the church office.



Do you have something interesting to say? Do you have an announcement you need to let the church know about? If you do, please email the church office by the 3rd Monday of the month.

BOARD MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA
September 25, 2022

Present were John Terry, Charlotte Thompson, Laurie Fitzgerald, Jane Ono, Jennifer Earle, Chad Thompson, Cora Fluker, Jessica Williams, Jordan Williams, Marsha Staley, Teresa Keck.

Chairman John opened the meeting at 11:55 a.m. by lighting the Christ Candle. He then read the Mission and Vision Statements and appropriate scriptures and prayed.

Minutes from August were approved without correction on motion by Jennifer and second by Marsha.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. Pastoral Search Committee ---Charlotte reported meeting with candidate who seemed to be a perfect fit, but said no to pay package as not adequate for her needs. Board discussion followed.
Jennifer moved we offer the ministerial candidate \$35,000 per year in cash for the next three years, the first year coming out of 2023 budget, the following two years to come out of the Building Fund if necessary, as a one-time withdrawal. Seconded by Teresa. Passed by Board.
2. Communication --- normal.
3. Education --- no report.
4. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth --- suggest displaying multi-cultural breads on altar for World Communion Sunday.
Discussed possibly singing Happy Birthday /Anniversary on first Sunday of month.
5. Property --- janitor found needle outside church, which was reported to police. Other debris found in bushes.
6. Stewardship and Outreach --- fundraiser "soiree" in planning: Formal dress, \$40 ticket, October 21 at Terry home.

FINANCE REPORT ---

Memorial money spent on soundboard and outdoor lights. Jennifer suggested celebration when lights installed, to honor donors.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Six counseling sessions, visiting, Bible study probably will start in November.



BOARD MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA
September 25, 2022 (Cont.)

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT REPORT

Movie on lawn Oct. 1, 7:00 p.m.

Hobbs Grove.

Youth meeting on Thursdays, Young Adults first and third Sundays.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reinvigorating Church --- continuing.
2. Projects --- outdoor lights.
3. Employee Handbook --- Marsha moved to accept Employee Handbook with suggested changes. Seconded by Jordan. Approved.
4. Fundraisers (above)
5. Workday --- October 8 at 9:00 a.m.
6. Solar--- outlay \$50,000. Still gathering information.
7. Masks --- change sign to "Masks recommended but not required".

NEW BUSINESS

1. Custodian --- Victor gave notice Position should be advertised. Jordan recommended hiring Joey Thompson.
2. Stewardship month to be November.
3. Finances--- discussed above.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Karen Risley's family

Pat and Hugh

Becky (fell)

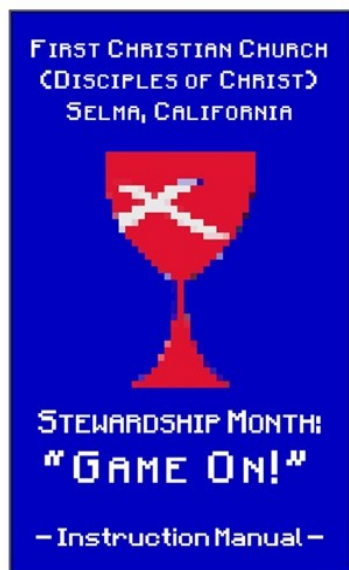
Charlotte (kidney and liver cysts.

Jane closed with prayer at 1:18 p.m.

Next Board Meeting on October 23.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Keck, Board Secretary





THANK YOU. For what?

For being a part of the ministry at First Christian Church in Selma and making it what it is—amazing! Our stewardship campaigns always encourage us to increase our focus on God and the things that God is calling us to give and to do in the upcoming year. The past few campaigns have been game-themed and built upon each other (and for good reasons!).

We **“leveled up”** with a renovated sanctuary, making space in our seating arrangement for attendees with wheelchairs or strollers (2019-2020); we **“walked into it”** (the next level) when COVID-19 hit, trusting in God and keeping each other safe, all the while increasing and improving our digital presence and outreach (2020-2021); we took a step back to evaluate and **“RESET”** our hearts, minds, and our outlook to discern what God wants for us as Disciples in Selma. We built a new tech booth, got a new soundboard, adopted a vision statement and core values, and a created a newly reimagined space for fellowship—the Hospitality Lounge (2021-2022). Talk about getting some work accomplished!

We have **special characters** joining us this month to celebrate our ministry and to help us latch on to God's vision. Join us and make plans to celebrate our commitments to God through this church in our annual luncheon on Sunday, the 30th.

What's next? (God knows!)

Grab your favorite controller... it's **“GAME ON.”**



GIVING TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are a number of ways you can
support our ministries in Selma:

Mail

2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Online (PayPal)

www.tiny.cc/fccselmagive

“Bill Pay”

through online banking

*Scan with your
phone to give
via PayPal*



EXTRA WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH **AmazonSmile**

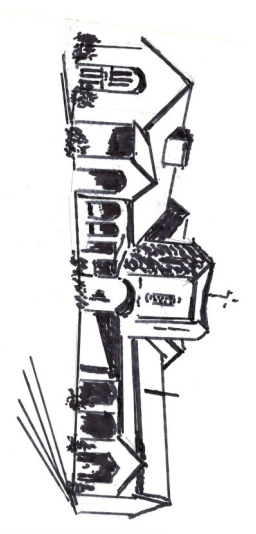
*(Go to smile.amazon.com and choose
First Christian Church as your charity.
Search for “First Christian Church 93662.”)*

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Donating Supplies

*The church is always in need of stamps, printer
paper, face masks, paper towels, and toilet paper.*



STAMP



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of Selma, California"*