

# February 2026

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## THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

**First Christian Church**

**2026 Arrants St.**

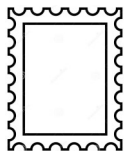
**Selma, CA 93662**

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

**www.selmadisciples.com**

**www.facebook.com/selmadisciples**

**www.youtube.com/selmadisciples**



**TO:**

*As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters,  
you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the  
work of the Lord as always, because you know that  
your labor isn't going to be for nothing in the Lord.*

**1 Corinthians 15:58 (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 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** ..... Leah Torosian &  
..... Samantha Stellpflug  
**Property**..... Board  
**Stewardship & Outreach** ..... Jennifer Earle & Jane Ono  
**Technology** ..... Omar Ruiz & Joey Thompson

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

February has arrived,  
bringing Lent with it this  
year as well. Lent comes

quietly, inviting us to slow down and deepen our focus on God. We begin on Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.) and observe this sacred season with prayer, fasting, and giving that guide us toward reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. Throughout Lent, we engage in forty days of prayer, reflection, and preparation as we journey toward Easter.

For followers of Christ, this season is a time to trust in God's grace, recognizing that God meets us wherever we are and invites us to reflect on our lives. We are encouraged to observe where God is already active and where we might be called to change, not only in our personal faith but also in our community life, which is rooted in love, justice, and compassion.

Lent invites us to reflect on key questions: What must we release? What needs healing? Where is God guiding us to grow in faithfulness and courage? These questions lead us both outward and inward, reminding us that following Jesus connects us to our neighbors. Through prayer, generosity, and service, Lent invites us to join God's mission of reconciliation and justice. It offers a communal journey of renewal, and as we walk together, we witness the hope that God continues to shape us into a people who love boldly, seek justice faithfully, and serve generously.

May we enter this Lenten season with humility, honesty, and hope, embracing the transforming work of God in our hearts, our church, and our world as we look forward to the promise of resurrection and new life.

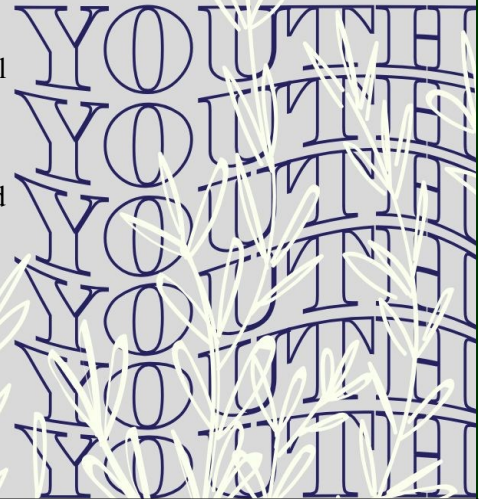
*~Pastor Chad*

# Youth & Young Adults

Dear Church Family,

Last Sunday at church, Leah talked about hearing the word “stewardship” in a presentation at Kings Canyon National Park. It was an unusual place for her to see it since we usually talk about it in a church context. In 1 Peter it says, *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”* (1 Peter 4:8-11 NIV). I feel like this passage is saying something out of our usual context too. We need to think of “its various forms” as under a wider blanket than we normally do. We usually look at God’s grace as working at the food bank, or Christian Cafe, or volunteering with the homeless, but it also includes listening, spending time, and counseling. Helping someone get to the grocery store or the library. Standing up for someone who can’t stand up for themselves. Protesting. Sitting in. Voting. Praying. Let us all spread the grace of God in its various forms.

**Charlotte Thompson**, Youth and Young Adult co-director



## THOUGHTS ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

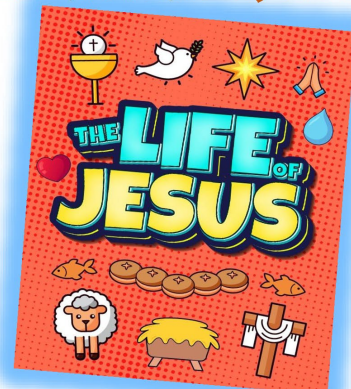
“The New Testament informs us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

The giver is enriched as is the recipient, and more important, that intangible but very real psychic force of good in the world is increased.”

Maya Angelou, Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now.



**JUNIOR WORSHIP**  
**OFFICIALLY BEGINS AGAIN ON**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 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.

Pray for the family of John's friend, **Angel**. Her Father Passed away on New Year's Eve. Pray for healing, strength, and peace for the family and friends as losing a parent is difficult.

Please pray for **Betty Baker**. She is having trouble breathing and is refusing to eat. She was admitted to the hospital to get fluid out of her system to assist with her breathing. Pray for strength and that she is breathe better.

**Jessica and Jordan William's** mom, **Vivian Abella**, had a bilateral mastectomy, and it went very well, Pray for a quick recovery and strength.

Jordan is asking for prayers for **David White**. He is having a rough time and is struggling with patience and frustration. Pray for peace and a calming hand, as well as confidence that everything will work out.

Please pray for **Heart Cardin's** step-grandpa, **Gene**. He had a bad fall and broke his hip. He was in the ER where he was transferred to Hanford for surgery. He is in rehab and is doing very well. Pray for an easing of pain, strength, and healing hands as recovery isn't easy. Pray for those who are worried, that comfort wraps them tight.

Pray for John Terry's mom, **Janet**. She fell and was in a lot of pain. Praise that her ex-rays showed no broken bones. We pray that she heals and has a quick recovery with all the comfort and rest she needs.

Janice Baker's friend, Teresa, is asking for prayers for one of her bosses, **Milla Arellano**. He is an all-around great guy, he just found that he has a brain tumor. Please pray for comfort and strength to keep going. Additionally, pray for healing and love from all of those that surround him.

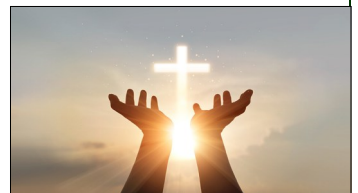
Pray for Jancie Bakers friend, **Kelli**, whose **mom** is at St. Agnes. The diagnosis is not complete as they are testing to figure out the health problem. Pray for strength for both Kelli and her mom as they wait for results, the doctors insight, and clarity to have a solution.

Pray for **Cindy**, a friend of **Karen Blanchard**, who recently had surgery.

### PRAISES & GRATITUDE

As we enter February, we give thanks for God's love—and ask ourselves how we are called to reflect that love to others. ❤️

We received **21 "dream cards"** for our future worship space! Thank you for sharing your dreams and ideas. Please keep leadership in your prayers as we go through them and discern the collective vision God has for us all through these cards.



## **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 of Redding**

*3590 Placer St., Redding, CA 96001*

**Rev. Janet Chapman, senior pastor**



#### **First United Methodist**

*1702 Cross St., Selma, CA 93662*

**Sosaia Fineanganfo, 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, February 1st @ 11:45 AM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, February 7th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

**Esther Group:** Saturday, February 14th @ 9:30 AM at Tina Ritchie's

**Miriam Group:** Tuesday, February 10th @ 9:30 AM at McCoy's

- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Ash Wednesday Service:** February 18th @ 7:00 PM
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, February 22nd @ 11:45 AM

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

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 18, 2026

Present were Chad Thompson, Charlotte Thompson, Yolanda Gonzalez, Laurie Fitzgerald, Marsha Staley, Jennifer Earle, Joey Thompson, Andrew Guzman, 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. Charlotte seconded, motion carried.

**Financial Report** – Jennifer reviewed the budget.

## MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – No report

Education – No report

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – We had a successful Advent Season.

Property – Chad and Joey changed some light bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling. The walls on the downstairs landing have issues.

Stewardship and Outreach – No report

Tech – Joey is still looking for volunteers for sound board.

## YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

They will have a Chi Rho dinner on Sunday January 18. January 31 will be a game night.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 Sundays, worked at the Food Bank, made visits, Elder's meeting, Men's fellowship and worked at Christian Café.

Attended Budget committee and nominating committee meetings. Chad presided over three baptisms and one memorial service. Chad is looking at February 9 – 15 for vacation. February 15 a spokesperson for the shoebox ministries will be here.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – still pending

New Property – We haven't given up on our options. Cards were given to the congregation this morning asking for each person's opinion about what they want to see in our new property. What are their dreams! They will be returned next Sunday.

## NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for 2026 – corrections were made and they are ready to be presented at the congregational meeting.

Budget for 2026 – Marsha moved the proposed budget be presented to the congregation for approval. Pat seconded, motion carried.

Congregational meeting will be on January 26, 2026.

Andrew and a roofer checked out the church roof. It is in good condition overall. There is only an issue in one spot that is causing the leak in the sanctuary. Andrew will get a quote for the repair.

Yolanda closed the meeting with prayer at 12:19 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be February 22, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary



# HAPPY February

**Your Heavenly Father  
loves you. That love  
never changes!**

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Sunday:** ..... Sunday School ..... 9:15 AM  
 ..... Worship Service ..... 10:30 AM  
 ..... 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) ..... 10:30 AM

## 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 JANUARY 2026

*In-Person Attendance*

SUN  
4

WORSHIP 60

SUN  
11

WORSHIP 22

SUN  
18

WORSHIP 30

SUN  
25

WORSHIP 46

**GIVING:**

GENERAL FUND: \$ 5,388.24  
2026 MONTHLY GOAL: \$ 8,233.00

(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!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Junior Worship Starts Again  Elder's Meeting 11:45 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Men's Devotional Breakfast 9 AM Choir 10 AM
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Food Bank 8 AM	<b>10</b> Miriam Group 9:30 AM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Bible Study 4 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Choir 10 AM Esther Group 11:45 AM
<b>15</b> Week of Compassion Special Offering 2026	<b>16</b> Caller Submissions Due	<b>17</b>	<b>18 ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM	<b>19</b> Bible Study 4 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Week of Compassion Special Offering 2026  Board Meeting 11:45 AM	<b>23</b> Food Bank 8 AM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study 4 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### February

- 05:** Jessica Santiago  
 Jessica Torrez  
 Justin & Sierra Cook '14  
 Parker Cook  
**11:** Judy Woods  
**12:** Kathleen Schales  
**18:** Ken & Vicky Armstrong  
**22:** Jennifer Earle  
**27** Johnathyn Silvas



Happy  
Anniversary

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

## SERVING IN FEBRUARY

### PRESIDER

- 01: Janice Baker  
 08: Kathleen Schales  
 15: Karen Blanchard  
 22: Liz Martinez

### SCRIPTURE

- Micah 6:1-8  
 Matthew 5:13-20  
 TBA  
 Matthew 4:1-11



### COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 01: Leah Torosian & Jennifer Earle  
 08: John Terry & Pat Adams  
 15: Charlotte Thompson & Jordan Williams  
 22: Jessica Williams & John Terry



### DEACONS

- 01: Marsha Staley, Lisa Piper, Karen Blanchard  
 08: Bryan DeBaets, Casey DeBaets, Liz Martinez  
 15: Brent Burwell, Marsha Staley, Laura Thornburg  
 22: Tiffany Piper, Makayla Sierra, Tina Ritchie

### JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 01: Kathleen Schales, Zoe Thompson  
 08: Tiffany Piper, Tiffany Piper  
 15: Liz Martinez, Karen Blanchard  
 22: Laura Thornburg, Alicia Palomino

