

September 2026



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

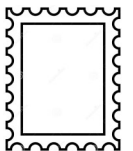
Selma, CA 93662

559-896-2691 ☎ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com

www.facebook.com/selmadisciples

www.youtube.com/selmadisciples



TO:

*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 -

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

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,
September is here, and
there are so many
wonderful
opportunities to
reconnect and be part

of the life of our church. We have Supper for Six
beginning, Bible Study, Sip n' Paint, Sunday School,
and youth and young adult activities. We are also
approaching fall. Fall invites us to slow down, gather
together, renew friendships, and rediscover the joy of
being in community. On September 20, we will
celebrate Back to Church Sunday, and we want to
make it more than just another Sunday on the
calendar. We want it to be a reminder that there is a
place for everyone in the family of God.

Back to Church Sunday is an opportunity to invite
family members, friends, neighbors, and those who
may have drifted away from church to come and
worship with us. Church is not simply a building or a
place we visit on Sunday morning. Church is a
community where we find encouragement, discover
hope, serve others, and grow together in our faith.
Sometimes all it takes is a simple invitation to help
someone take that next step.

So, who can you invite? Maybe it is a friend you
haven't seen in a while. Maybe it is a family member
who hasn't been to church recently. Maybe it is
someone in your neighborhood who is looking for a
place to belong. September 20 is a great Sunday to
say, "Come and worship with us!" Let's make Back
to Church Sunday a celebration of who we are and
who God is calling us to become.

As we look toward this special Sunday, may we
remember that there is always room for one more
person at the table, another opportunity to build a
relationship, another story to share, and another
person who needs to hear the good news of God's
love. Come. Connect. Worship. Let's make
September 20 a day of renewed relationships,
renewed faith, and renewed commitment to being the
church God has called us to be.

~Pastor Chad

Youth & Young Adults

Happy Fall Y'all! School is back in session and everyone is getting back into the rhythm of the of life, work, and normal activities after the freedom of summer. Our Chi Rho/CYF group is meeting on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. Any student from 6th grade through High School is welcome to join us. We also have a Young Adult group that meets from time to time for those who are older than high school age.

The Chi Rho/CYF group is currently studying the women of the bible and reaching out to our friends, family and community with the help of The Kindness Bucket List Kit. Our first card challenged us to make an impact by giving a significant tip to a server when we went out to dinner as a group. Six of us went to dinner at Legend's a couple of weeks ago, got a server that we liked (Yay!), and pitched in to give him a generous tip. When the youngest member presented the server with the tip, he was very surprised and taken aback (in a good way). He explained that he was having a bad day, and that this tip would make a real difference for him, but that he felt guilty about accepting it. We explained that we were looking to bless someone, we were happy to have gotten him, and we were excited to be able to make a difference in his life. It was a really rewarding experience.

We also had 5 people attend the Regional Lock-in at the end of August in Vacaville. It's great to see our youth involved in Regional events.

We're looking for opportunities to serve our community, so if you have ideas, please let Charlotte or Leah know about them. We've also got something in the works for the Halloween season, so keep your eyes open for that.

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte Thompson and Leah Torosian

Youth and Young Adult Co-Leaders



Selma Community Church Choir
10th Anniversary Season
2016/2017 - 2026/2027

10th Anniversary Kickoff Concert
"The Invitation"

Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 2:30 PM
First Christian Church, 2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Our Conductors



Heather Chu



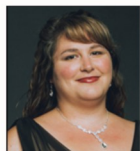
Jorge Flores



Michael Gutierrez



Kenneshae Murray



Harmony Murphy



Jacob Pasalakis



Jordan Williams



BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Join us for the start of the
Autumn season. We are
recentering our focus on our
mission and God. We invite you,
and encourage you to invite your
family, friends, and neighbors.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | 10:30 AM

See you there!

2026 Arrants St. Selma, CA 93662

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:

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR...

Pray for **Ava Marquez**. She had her tonsils and adenoids removed and since then she has been struggling, eating very little, and feeling weak. Pray for recovery and health as she is healing from this surgery.

Pray for **Penny Alvarado**, the wife of John and Jeff's gardener, who is also the owner of Hair and All that Jazz is in the hospital with West Nile virus. Pray for Penny as she is recovering and healing from this virus.

Pray for **Pastor Chad** he had to go back to the ER. His doctor recommended that because the ER can get an MRI faster that she can. However the MRI machine was not working, so they gave Chad a corticosteroid shot with lidocaine in his knee. Please pray for a way of permanent healing and praise that the shot has relived a lot of pain that he has been suffering from for months.



Pray for **Nora DeBaets** as Bryan and Casey took her to Valley Children's Hospital. She has been having dizzy spells for days, where she feels like she is going to collapse. Recent bloodwork has been negative. Please pray for answers and good doctors to figure out what is going on with Nora.

Please pray for **Patti Kelly**. She is a walking buddy of Pat Adams and Jennifer Earle. She is in critical care at the Santa Maria Hospital with a gallbladder, pancreatitis, and blockage. Her three children are with her and asked for prayer. Please pray for her and the people working to take care of her. We pray for strength, comfort and recovery.

Andrew Guzman is asking for prayers for his testing for a promotion. We pray that this is his path and that he has good test results.

Please pray for **Walt Jones**. He is a nice man that Kadi trains at the gym. He is 88 years old. He fell down some stairs in Montana last night, broke three ribs and did something to his hip. He was airlifter to Idaho Springs. He is in a lot of pain. Please pray for strength and recovery from this fall.

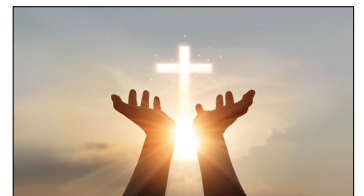
Please pray for **Servando Tovar** from Farewell Funeral Chapel. He shared that his father has passed away. Please pray for him and those who were close with his father, it is hard losing a parent. Pray for comfort and peace in this difficult time.

Please pray for our bookkeeper, **Lorraine**. She has lost her job and is now looking for a new one. Pray for something to come along that is meant to be for her.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

It is the changing of the seasons, with it brings new life, adventures, friends, family, and most importantly new found faith. We are happy to welcome the autumn season!

Thank you Elder's for the gift and card! ~ Pastor Chad Thompson



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:

Lafayette Christian Church

584 Glenside Dr, Lafayette, CA 94549

Currently Looking for Pastor



Valley Life Community Church

3200 S McCall Ave, Selma, CA 93662

Pastor Jesse Alvarez



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
- **Community Church Choir:** Meeting Saturday the 5th & 12th @ 10 AM
- **Elder's Meeting:** Sunday, September 6th @ 9 AM
- **Junior Worship:** Back in session starting on Sunday, September 6th.
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, September 12th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**
 - **Esther Group:** Sunday, September 12th @ 9:30 AM at Pat Adams'
 - **Miriam Group:** Sunday, September 8th @ 9:30 AM at Marsha Staley's
- **Selma Community Church Choir 10th Anniversary Kickoff Concert:** Sunday, September 13th @ 2:30 PM
- **Christian Café:** Wednesday, September 16th @ 5:30 PM
- **Back to Church Sunday:** Sunday September 20th starting at 10:30 AM
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, September 20th @ 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

August 16th, 2026

Present were : Lisa Piper, Jane Ono, Leah Torosian, Charlotte Thompson, John Terry, Jennifer Earle, Chad Thompson, Joey Thompson, Marsha Staley, and Pat Adams.

Lisa opened the meeting at 9:00 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Lisa then prayed.

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

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

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – are looking for a new format, Publisher is ending soon.

Education – No report

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth- are having a potluck today for back to school and to say goodbye to Jessica and Stella.

Property – The lights on the landing continue to have an issue. We passed the fire inspection.

Stewardship and Outreach – Stewardship committee will meet to prepare for October. We will meet at 10:30 on August 20th to move our food bank items to a new area. The yard sale cleared \$701.00.

Technology – We finally have our computer parts and they will be installed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 3 sermons and led 1 Bible study and led a 5 week 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 will attend an anti-racist seminar and other trainings. He will lead the monthly staff meeting and safety trainings. Chad is working to get the nominations committee prepared for upcoming nominations. Chad believes that there is power in people's stories. We will begin a "Stories of Hope" series beginning this Sunday.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT REPORT

The youth had dinner and a movie night at the Thompson's.

They celebrated Ava's birthday. Some attended a regional youth event.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Farewell Page property – They are not willing to have us visit the property.

Options for a new worship space: Will continue to work with Methodists to set up a meeting with our two boards.

Fire Inspection – We passed.

NEW BUSINESS

CaLVECHS - Chad will sign us up for this, which is required by law.

Trespassing Sign – Board approved the sign with a few changes. The signs are expensive so we will go with two smaller ones.

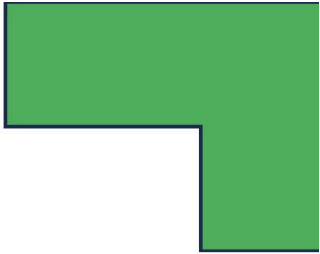
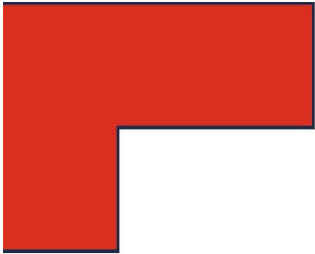
Possible church property – Jennifer will contact Ramza to see if we can view view the property.

Chad's vacation – The board approved October 12th thru October 19th for Chad's vacation.

Next board meeting will be September 20th after worship.

Respectfully submitted,

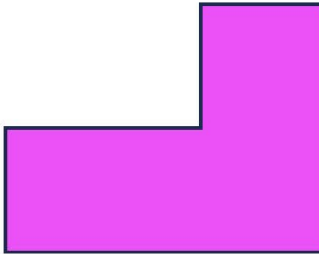
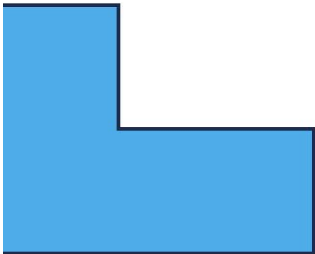
Pat Adams, Board secretary



GOD's



Superheroes of Faith



Junior Worship
Begins September 6th



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
TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AFTER CHURCH

DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE 10.01.2026

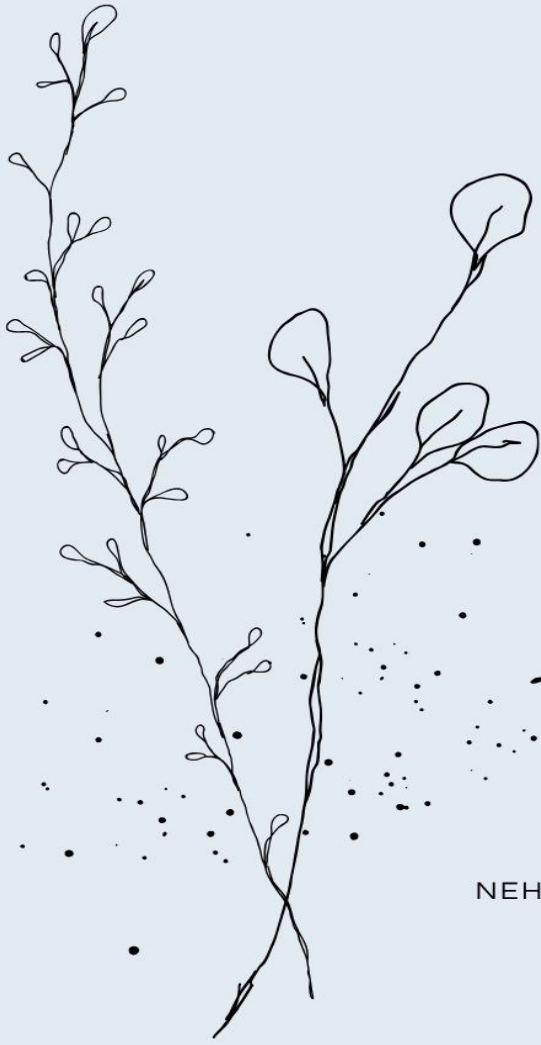


FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NOTICE

FOOD BANK HAS
MOVED!
NOW LOCATED AT
IGLESIA DEL
NAZARENO SELMA

ADDRESS: 1792 SYLVIA STREET, SELMA, CA 93662
FOOD BANK IS THE 2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 8
AM



The Joy of the
Lord is my strength.

NEHEMIAH 8:10

Stewardship Thought

Lord, help me be grateful
for what I have,
Remember that I don't
need most of what I want,
And that joy is found in
simplicity and generosity.



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 AUGUST 2026

In-Person Attendance

SUN 2	WORSHIP 31
SUN 9	WORSHIP 36
SUN 16	Worship 37
SUN 23	Worship 27
SUN 30	Worship 33

GIVING:

GENERAL FUND: \$ 7,267.87

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
		1	2	3 Bible Study @ 4 PM	4	5 Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM
6 Elder's Meeting @ 9 AM <u>Junior Worship Starts</u>	7	8 Miriam Group Meeting @ 9:30 AM	9	10 Bible Study @ 4 PM	11	12 Men's Breakfast @ 9 AM Esther Group Meeting @ 9:30 AM Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM Community Choir Dress Rehearsal @ 6:30 PM
13 Community Choir Concert @ 2:30 PM	14 Food Bank @ 8 AM	15	16 Christian Café @ 5:30 PM	17 Bible Study @ 4 PM	18	19
20 Back to Church Sunday @ 10:30 AM Board Meeting @ 11:45	21 <u>Caller Submissions Due</u>	22	23	24 Bible Study @ 4 PM	25	26
27	28 Food Bank @ 8 AM	29	30	<u>October 1st</u> Deadline to purchase tickets for the FCC Evening Soiree!		

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September

- 02: Daniel Arevalo
04: Charlotte Thompson
06: Everett Fitzgerald
14: Janice Baker
Bob Berry, Jr.
Andrew Guzman
16: Josephine Sihota
19: Pat Adams
24: Liz Martinez



Happy Anniversary

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

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

PRESIDER

- 06: Makayla Sierra
13: Lisa Piper
20: Karen Blanchard
27: Jessica Williams

SCRIPTURE

- TBA
TBA
TBA
TBA



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 06: Jennifer Earle & Charlotte Thompspon
13: John Terry & Pat Adams
20: Jordan Williams & Leah Torosian
27: Charlotte Thompson & Jennifer Earle



DEACONS

- 06: Laura Thornburg, Tina Ritchie, Lisa Piper
13: Liz Martinez, Bryan DeBaets, Casey DeBaets
20: Lisa Piper, Brent Burwell, Tiffany Piper
27: Zoe Thompson, Makayla Sierra, Kathleen Schales

JUNIOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- 06: Kathleen Schales
13: Lisa Piper
20: Alicia Palomino
27: Karen Blanchard

