

September 2025



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

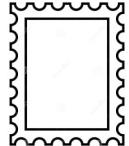
Selma, CA 93662

559-896-2691 ✉ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com

www.facebook.com/selmadisciples

www.youtube.com/selmadisciples



TO:

*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

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.....	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,

September is Here!

Every September, the rhythms of life change once again. Vacations

wind down, routines resume, and we find ourselves gathering once more as a church family. In September, Back to Church Sunday is observed by many Christian congregations nationwide to encourage church members to invite friends, neighbors, and family to return to a church community. But Back to Church Sunday is more than just filling the pews; it's a reminder that God is always inviting us into renewal and transformation. I want you to hear a profound truth: God is always at work and in the business of transformation. Repeatedly, Scripture demonstrates that when people encounter the living God, their lives are transformed. Saul becomes Paul. Fishermen become apostles. The lost are found, the broken are healed, and the weary are made new.

As Disciples of Christ, we are called to be "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world." God taking what is divided and mending it, God taking what is wounded and restoring it, God taking what seems lifeless and breathing new life into it. Transformation is not just something that happened long ago; it is happening here and now, in us and among us. Whether we are new to the faith or have walked with Christ for decades, God continues to teach, stretch, and guide us into deeper discipleship. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." That renewal happens through prayer, worship, study, service, fellowship, and community.

So, let us open ourselves to the Spirit's renewing power. Trust that God is not finished with us yet. And walk together in hope, believing that "the one who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

This year, Back to Church is on September 21st. We have the chance to invite a neighbor, friend, or family member who may need a place of belonging, hope, and transformation. So, invite, invite, invite!

~Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Church Family:

Welcome to September!

It's hard to believe that we're already in September. At the same time, I look forward to September because of the rhythm of school, work, church, and the promise of fall. If this year is like most years, fall won't come until much later, but we usually start to think about it in September. After all, Starbucks already has the Pumpkin Spice Latte's available.

By the time you read this, we will have completed a Youth Sunday on August 31st and then a swim party for all of the Youth and Young Adults that night. I know that the Youth Sunday will be a success, because they all are. It's so much fun to watch our youth and young adults get up in front of the congregation and "do the work" that the adults usually do. It's heartwarming to see the excitement in their eyes when they choose what part they want to play in the service and then tell you the reason behind their choice. Thank you, church family, for always supporting our Youth and Young Adults. YOU create the environment that makes these "kids" want to serve in our church. We appreciate that. It's wonderful to be able to reassure them that they can do their best and it will be just fine.

Chi Rho and CYF meet on Sunday nights at 6 PM. Please join us if you are in 6th grade through 12th grade.

Young Adults are working to decide on a meeting day and time. Until then, pop-up opportunities will be our thing. Please contact Charlotte or Leah if you want to be added to the Young Adult group chat.

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte & Leah

Youth and Young Adult co-directors



Selma Community Church Choir & Friends
present

REQUIEM

by Heather Sorenson

Jordan Williams, conductor

S
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s
Heather Chu
Mindy Ramos
Jessica Williams
Joseph Camaquin-Vigil
Christian Cabral
Jorge Flores

Featuring the Kingsburg Village Voices - Jacob Pasalakis, director

Sunday, September 14, 2025
2:30 PM

First Christian Church, 2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662
(Free admission - donations gratefully accepted)

COME JOIN US FOR

First Christian Church Soiree

9.26.2025 | 6:30PM
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2026 ARRANTS ST. SELMA CA 93662

Dinner * Drinks * Music * Raffle
Featuring Lunch Money

TICKETS \$30 PER PERSON
CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE OR AT THE CHURCH

DEADLINE FOR PURCHASE 9.23.2025
559.896.2691 fccselma@sbcglobal.net



Dinner to include
Top Sirloin, Chicken, Rice Pilaf,
Buttered Corn, Salad, Roll, & Drink
(Wine and raffle tickets
sold separately at the event.)

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:

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.

For **Mark Raven**. Janice Baker says he has a brain bleed and the family is uncertain about the outcome. Pray for Mark and the family as this is a very tough time; bring them healing, peace, and comfort.



Vivian Abella, as she recently had surgery. The doctors were able to get all the tissue. Pray for her continued healing, peace of mind, and full recovery.

Karen Blanchard's sister-in-law Melody, and her family. Their mother, **Joetta**, went to join the Lord. Pray for comfort, strength and unity for the family as they grieve this loss.

Pray for **Ken Robison**. He has West Nile Virus and has been moved from the ICU. Pray for complete healing, renewed strength, and encouragement for both him and his loved ones.

Pray for the **Mecham Family**. Nikki is Karen Blanchard's cousin's daughter. She and her husband, Colt, welcomed their baby boy, **Conway**, into the world at just 26 weeks on July 7, weighing just 1lb 9oz. He has been in the NICU until complications arose. Pray for continued strength, for wisdom and skill for his medical team, and for God's comfort and peace to surround his parents.

Art Rojas, is battling stage 4 kidney failure. Pray for renewed strength each day, for comfort in waiting, and that the Lord would provide a perfect kidney match soon.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Gary Ono was not feeling well, they found out he had either an atypical or viral infection. He was improving and the tests were all negative or inconclusive, which was good news. Praise as he was able to go home!



Pastor Chad went to the ER because he was having an allergic reaction. They gave him medication, and now he is doing great with no symptoms!

Teresa Keck went home on the 15th! Continue to pray for her healing, recover, and adjustment to being home.

"Thank you, Elders, for the birthday card and gift. I am very appreciative!" ~**Pastor Chad**

Fall IS ARRIVING
SEPTEMBER

THIS YEAR, THE FALL SOLSTICE IS ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025.
JOIN US THIS FALL IN CELEBRATING GOD'S
BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF CHANGE!

First Christian Church Hanford

Welcome
REV DR PATREZA D. NEWTON
SENIOR PASTOR

We want to celebrate the new pastor at Hanford First Christian Church, Rev Dr Patreza D. Newton. Celebrating her and her bright, faithful, and impactful journey that is beginning.

505 W. Cameron St.
Hanford, CA 93230

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 Colusa

P.O. Box 1238 , Colusa, CA 95932

Rev. Dr. Samuel Krause



New Day Church

2050 Arrants St, Slema, CA 93662

Chris Goldsmith, Lead 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
- **Baptism Class:** Sundays @ 2:00 PM
- **Community Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, September 6th @ 10:30 AM and 13th @ **6:30 PM**
- **Elders Meeting:** Sunday, September 7th after worship
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, September 13th @ 9:00 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

Esther Group: Saturday, September 13th @ 9:30 AM at Pat Adam's

Miriam Group: Saturday, September 9th @ 9:30 AM at Marsha Staley's

- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **SCCC Requiem Concert:** Sunday, September 14th @ 2:30 PM
- **Back to Church Sunday:** Sunday, September 21st
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, September 21st after worship
- **Dinner Concert Soiree:** Friday, September 26th from 6:30 PM– 8:30 PM



If you would like to submit an event or announcement in the newsletter, please send it to the church office by the 3rd Monday of the month.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2025

Present were Yolanda Gonzalez, Jane Ono, Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Jennifer Earle, Leah Torosian, Joey Thompson, Kathleen Schales, Lisa Piper, Charlotte Thompson, and Pat Adams.

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 July meeting were read. Leah moved to approve minutes as read, Jane seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report – Jennifer went over the report and answered questions. Jennifer stated that we are not looking too bad at the half way point of the year. Pat moved to accept the report as presented. Leah seconded, motion passed.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – Adding upcoming events to web site.

Education – planning for junior worship

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – Sept. 21 back to church Sunday. Would like to remake video inviting people to church. Beginning to plan for advent.

Property – Joey and Chad replaced two ballasts. Bobby still on sign.

Stewardship and Outreach – Soiree is Sept. 26. Working on October letter.

Tech – Waiting for parts for the computers to arrive. Still looking for help for tech on Sundays.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

Three kids in Chi Rho so far. Young adults still want to meet but not weekly.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached, worked at the Food Bank, made visits, taught baptism class, regional ministry council, Elder's meeting, outdoor ministry.

Chad will take vacation from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – Bobby still working on it.

Streamline Committees – A committee was formed to study the possibilities. The committee is made up of Jennifer E., Leah and Chad.

NEW BUSINESS

Dinner Concert Soiree Sept 26 – Charlotte moved to approve serving alcohol at the Soiree. Jordan seconded, motion carried.

Regroup – Chad wants us to keep looking for a place to move. Leah and Chad will follow up on the old P G & E building and report back.

Organ – Tony has been looking into the possibility of acquiring an organ that can be moved to a new facility. Jane will connect with Tony on the progress.

Yolanda closed meeting with prayer at 12:53 p.m.

Next Board Meeting September 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Adams, Board secretary

FCC SELMA

JUNIOR WORSHIP

We would love to have all
Kids!



**STARTING SEPTEMBER 7TH:
COME JOIN**

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 AUGUST 2025

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

03:	52	24:	42
10:	37	31:	44
17:	46		



GIVING

General Fund: \$9,083.07

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!**

September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 4 PM Bible Study	5	6 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
7 Junior Worship Starts 11:45 AM Elders' Meeting	8 8 AM Food Bank	9 9:30 AM Miriam Group	10	11 4 PM Bible Study	12	13 9:30 AM esther Group Choir Rehearsal
14 2:30 PM Requiem Choir	15 Caller Submissions Due	16	17	18 4 PM Bible Study	19	20
21 11:45 AM Board Meeting	22 8 AM Food Bank	23	24	25 4 PM Bible Study	26 Dinner Concert Soiree 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	27
28	29	30				



Birthdays & Anniversaries

September

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



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

SERVING IN SEPTEMBER

PRESIDER

- 07: Laura Thornburg
- 14: Jane Ono
- 21: Lisa Piper
- 28: Leah Torosian

SCRIPTURE

- Luke 14:25-33
- Luke 15:1-10
- Luke 16:1-13
- 1 Timothy 6:6-19



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 07: John Terry & Jane Ono
- 14: Pat Adams & Alan Langstraat
- 21: Jordan Williams & John Terry
- 28: Jane Ono & Charlotte



DEACONS

- 07: Lisa Piper, Tina Ritchie, Makayla Sierra
- 14: Clemente Gonzalez, Jennifer Stellpflug, Gary Schales
- 21: Karen Blanchard, Liz Martinez, Kathleen Schales
- 28: Will Thompson, Lisa Piper, Marsha Staley

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 07: Kathleen Schales, Karen Blanchard
- 14: Lisa Piper, Tiffany Piper
- 21: Jen Stellpflug, Sam Stellpflug, Leah Torosian
- 28: Kathleen Schales, Zoe Thompson

