

December 2025



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

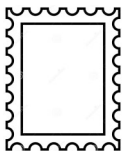
Selma, CA 93662

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 AdultsCharlotte Thompson &
..... Leah Torosian
Minister of Music Jordan Williams
Organist Anthony Imperatrice
Administrative Assistant Samantha Stellpflug
Bookkeeper..... Lorraine Adayan
Child Care..... Open
CustodianJosiah 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,

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, it's a wonderful time of waiting—not the kind that's just about watching

the clock, but a heartfelt, hopeful anticipation. Advent encourages us to slow down, take a deep breath, and open our hearts to God coming close. The Scripture invites us into this gentle expectation. As the Prophet Isaiah beautifully reminds us, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:2). Matthew also shares the joyful promise fulfilled in Jesus: *"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"* which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Advent reassures us that God's loving presence is drawing near, filling our hearts with hope and peace.

In a world that feels increasingly rushed, divided, and weary, Advent reassures us that God still comes to us—bringing hope where despair has taken root, peace where anxiety reigns, joy where sorrow lingers, and love where fear has built walls. In these weeks, we are invited to slow down long enough to notice the ways God is moving in places we often overlook: in small acts of kindness, in moments of reconciliation, in whispered prayers, and in the quiet courage it takes simply to trust again. The candles we light each week are more than symbols; they are reminders of God's unwavering promise, steady markers that guide us when our own sense of direction falters. They call us to remember that God's light is not fragile or fleeting, but persistent—always seeking, always breaking in. Even the smallest flame can push back the deepest darkness, reminding us that the light of Christ still has the final word.

This season, I invite us to practice *intentional waiting*. Let's carve out moments to reflect on God's promises, to recognize where Christ is being born in our midst, and to prepare our hearts for the transforming hope of Christmas. Whether through worship, prayer, acts of compassion, or simply choosing to be present with one another, may we embody the light we proclaim. As we come together on our journey toward the manger, let our waiting be filled with a sense of wonder and anticipation. May the God who enters our world in humility and grace fully renew our hope, reminding us of the deep love God has for the world.

~Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Autumn, a time of transition, slowly taking us from scorching heatwaves to snuggly sweaters. A time where a chill, crisp wind may rustle the gently falling leaves into a dance of marigold and amber. A time where we look back and be thankful from the bottom of our hearts for all the love we see and treasure in the people around us. A wonderful time.

In the spirit of being thankful, I would like to spend some time today speaking from the heart. Recently the young adults have started a new project to serve the community, the Support Closet. This project aims to provide clothes, advice, and support to the underserved LGBTQIA+ community, and especially the trans community. A community that often may wind up being abandoned by friends and family, just for being true to themselves. A community that may not be able to access basic necessities in times of need. A community that we care very deeply about. Thanks to the outpouring of support, we were able to gather hundreds of articles of affirming clothing! Plus food, shoes, purses, period care products, and more! I am so deeply thankful for everyone who has supported this dream coming true. I will treasure the love that I felt in your support, thank you! By the time you read this, we will have finished our second Support Closet event, and we are hoping to put on more! With the love and support we have received, I know that it'll be possible!

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Preston T. Ward

Young Adult Member



Selma Community Church Choir presents
the Christmas Cantata

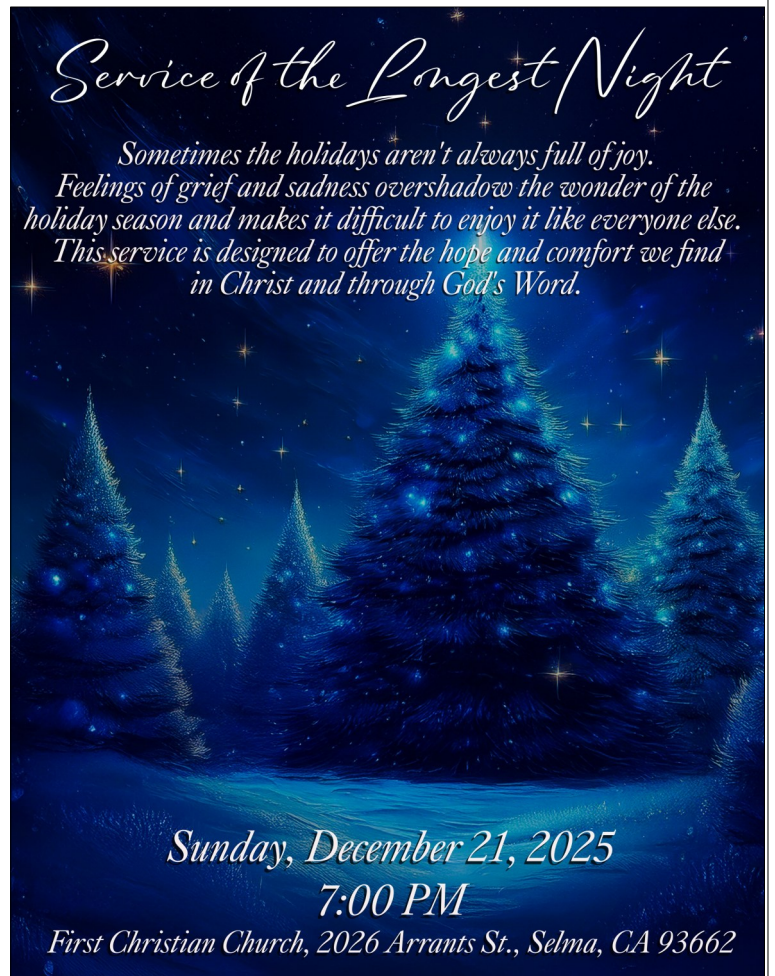
Bethlehem's
CHILD

DECEMBER | 14 | AT 2:30 PM

MICHAEL GUTIERREZ, CONDUCTOR

2026 ARRANTS ST., SELMA,
CA 93662

FREE ADMISSION. DONATIONS GRATEFULLY
ACCEPTED!



Service of the Longest Night

*Sometimes the holidays aren't always full of joy.
Feelings of grief and sadness overshadow the wonder of the
holiday season and makes it difficult to enjoy it like everyone else.
This service is designed to offer the hope and comfort we find
in Christ and through God's Word.*

Sunday, December 21, 2025
7:00 PM

First Christian Church, 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:

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.

Sylvia Wells has answered the call to come home to Jesus and his loving arms. Pray for the family during this time of passing and grief.

Casey Debaets took **Norah** to Valley Children's Hospital as she was struggling with her asthma. Pray for healing and that this does not happen again.

Janice Baker's Friend, Terrie, is asking for prayer for her Friend **Diane**. She has three spots on her lungs and blood clots. Pray for the wisdom of her doctors to do what is best, for her strength and healing during this difficult time.

Please pray for **Corena Blanchard**. She was taken by ambulance to St. Agnes, as she was in considerable pain. Pray for her pain to be absolved, strength, and peace for her family when things are uncertain.

Bryan Debaets woke up with numbness in his right hand and lower arm. Pray for his healing and guidance of the doctors to know what is going on.

Pray for Jeff Terry's new client, **Dorthi Painter**, who was hospitalized. Pray for the doctors as they work on the best solution and for peace of her family.

Pry for Karen Blanchard's brother-in-law, **Dean**. He was having trouble speaking, and was taken to emergency room. Please pray as he has diabetes and one kidney. Pray for strength, answers, and peace over family there and far.



BETHLEHEM'S GOT TALENT!



A script from @GODVERSE/CRG; adapted by K. Schules for the Selma FCC Children's Ministries

PRAISES & GRATITUDE

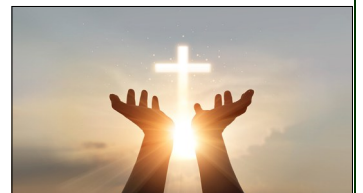
We are grateful for the joy this season brings, for the peace Christ offers in every moment, and for the fellowship we share as a church family. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His love fill our hearts, guide our steps throughout the month, and help us remember the reason for the season.

Advent Devotional Small Group

"Advent arrives in the middle of life's chaos--questions that don't resolve, struggles that don't quit, love that feels hard to hold onto. Grounded in Grace invites you to pause, breathe, and lean into practices that steady your spirit and open you to God's presence."

Mondays @ 6:30 PM
Starting December 1st

Sign up in the opportunity binders or email the church office!



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:

The Church of the Open Door

415-C Talmage Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482-4262

Rev. Cherie Marckx



Take it by Force Ministries

8842 E Dinuba Ave, Slema, CA 93662

Pastor Lisa Satterberg



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
- **Advent Study:** Every Monday of December till the 22th, meeting at 6:30 PM in the Hospitality Lounge.
- **Elders' Meeting:** No meeting this month.
- **Christian Café:** Wednesday, December 10th @ 5 PM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, December 13th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **SCCC Christmas Cantata:** Sunday, December 14th @ 2:30 PM
- **Christmas Poinsettias:** Due Sunday December 14th.
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**
 - **Esther Group:** Saturday, December 9th @ 9:30 AM at Liz Martinez's
 - **Miriam Group:** Tuesday, December 13th @ 9:30 AM at Kady's Kitchen
- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **William's 20th Concert:** Friday, December 19th, Dinner 6 PM, Concert 7 PM
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, December 14th after worship.
- **Junior Worship Christmas Play:** Sunday December 21st, during worship.
- **Longest Night Service:** Sunday, December 21st @ 7PM



*If you would like to submit
an event or announcement
in the newsletter, please
send it to the church office*

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2025

Present were Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Charlotte Thompson, Joey Thompson, Yolanda Gonzalez, Tony Imperatrice, Kathleen Schales, Jane Ono, Laurie Fitzgerald, Marsha Staley, Michael Gutierrez, and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 12:09 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

Minutes – Minutes of the October meeting were read. Jordan moved to accept the minutes. Jane seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report – Marsha reviewed the budget and asked if there were any questions. At this time the P, G & E bill is still high. We need to all do our part to conserve. Water bill was up \$100.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – Just the usual.

Education – Didn't quite finish the building project. Open house to show it off next Sunday after church. Children's Christmas Program, Dec. 21.

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – Will get the trees up next Sunday. Jennifer will head up decorating group. Charlotte will make a chart to see how many cans we provide for Selma Cares.

Property – Bobby continues to work on signs. Matt has done more painting.

Stewardship and Outreach – No report

Tech – There are a couple of new recruits for the sound system.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT Chi Rho is meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 Sundays, worked at the Food Bank, made 15 visits, taught baptism class, Elder's meeting, Men's fellowship and worked at Christian Café, presided at Sylvia Wells' graveside service. Chad will take vacation from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – Bobby has ordered 5 signs.

Streamline committees – Chad will inform the nominating of the new system.

Alarm system now works.

Property – old Sandy's furniture building is available. After much discussion, Pat moved to offer \$700,000.00 for the purchase of the building. Jane seconded, motion carried, but not unanimously.

Nominating Committee will meet on November 20, 2025 at 5.30.

NEW BUSINESS

Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 is the Thompson's vacation.

Selma Cares – We collect cans of tomatoes or give money for them to buy tomatoes. Charlotte will make poster to try to get congregation more involved.

We will visit the Hanford church during worship on December 7. They will visit us in January.

Yolanda closed the meeting with prayer at 1:26 p.m.

Next Board Meeting December 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary



Christmas POINSETTIAS

For our Loved ones

Help Decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias this year in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Please bring them by Sunday, December 14, 2025 and pick up Christmas Eve after worship. Return the form below to the church office to have their name(s) included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA IS SHARED BY

☐ IN HONOR OF ☐ IN MEMORY OF



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 Distribution2:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous 7 PM
Wednesday:Iglesia DC Food Distribution1:30 PM
Choir Rehearsal (intermittently) 7 PM
Thursday:Bible Study (Pastor's Office) 4 PM
Iglesia DC 6 PM
Friday:.....Iglesia DC Food Distribution2:30 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 NOVEMBER 2025

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

02: 41

23: 40

09: 31

30: NA

16: 41



GIVING

General Fund: \$6,249.21 (Not including the 30th)

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!**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Advent Study 6:30 PM	2	3	4 4 PM Bible Study	5	6
7 Elder's Meeting 11:45 AM	8 Food Bank 8 AM Advent Study 6:30 PM	9 Miriam Group 9:30 AM	10 Christan Café 5 PM	11 4 PM Bible Study	12	13 Men's Breakfast 9 AM Esther Group 9:30 AM
14 Christmas Poinsettias Due Board Meeting after worship Christmas Cantata 2:30 PM	15 Caller Submissions Due Advent Study 6:30 PM	16	17	18 4 PM Bible Study	19 William's 20th Concert	20
21 Junior Worship Play During Worship Longest Night Service 7 PM	22 Food Bank 8 AM Advent Study 6:30 PM	23	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Service		26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

- 02: Sophis Heinrichs
 04: Jeffery & John Terry '14
 06: Daniel Acevedo
 11: Zoe Thompson
 13: Jeffery Terry
 16: Gary & Judy Woods '72
 Chad & Charlotte Thompson '00
 20: Kadi Fitzgerald
 John Jordan
 24: Gary & Kathleen Schales '94
 30: Bryan DeBaets



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

SERVING IN DECEMBER

PRESIDER SCRIPTURE

- 07: Worship in Hanford
 14: Cora Fluker-Pulley Isaiah 9:2; 6-7
 21: Charlotte Thompson Christmas Play
 28: Makayla Sierra



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

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



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
 14: Kathleen Schales
 21: **Junior Worship Christmas Play**
 28: No Junior Worship

