

# CONNEXION 2023

## - 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 LEADERS & STAFF

<b>MINISTERS</b> .....	The Congregation
<b>SENIOR PASTOR</b> .....	Rev. Chad Thompson
<b>Minister of Youth &amp; Young Adults</b> .....	Charlotte Thompson & .....Leah Torosian
<b>Minister of Music</b> .....	Jordan Williams
<b>Organist</b> .....	Anthony Imperatrice
<b>Chair of the Congregation (2023)</b> .....	Jane Ono
<b>Chair of the Elders (2023)</b> .....	Charlotte Thompson
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....	Cora Fluker-Pulley
<b>Communications Coordinator</b> .....	Cora Fluker-Pulley
<b>Custodian</b> .....	Josiah Thompson
<b>Child Care</b> .....	Tiffany Piper

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

It's October!

I love October, the temperature cools down and there are many activities that occur during October. For instance, there is The Band Review, Halloween, and of course, Pumpkin Spice Latte has returned (unless you are not a Pumpkin Spice Latte fan). In our church, we begin our annual Stewardship Campaign. This year, the theme for our Stewardship Campaign is "FOCUS: A CONNEXION TO GOD'S VISION." We will be asked to rethink the way we look at stewardship. Instead of giving money to keep the lights on and to pay for staff, we will be reminded that stewardship is a spiritual discipline. Bruce Barkhauer, the Director of the Center for Faith and Giving for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), says it this way. "Stewardship is not fundraising—it is a spiritual discipline. It is about responding with our *whole being* to the generosity of God. How unfortunate for us that we have reduced this rich biblical concept to being simply about money. It is a life-giving adventure and an invitation to discover deeper joy in discipleship." We will also be reminded to focus on God's abundance and God's call on this church through our guest preachers.

In Seminary, I read a book that was called, "The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods" by John McKnight and Peter Block. The premise of the book was that "I do not have all the resources that we need, but together, we have more than enough resources." May we prayerfully consider what resources we can bring to the table. Could we give more? Could we become a greeter, or help run the slideshow, or even run the sound board? Maybe we could volunteer at the animal shelter. What are ways that we can give either through our money, our time, or our talents? As we "Focus" this stewardship month, may we consider inviting people to our church. Maybe we could help clean the church or do some repairs on our church workday (which is Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>). How can we as members of this community of First Christian Church engage our time, talents, or treasures to bring about God's Kingdom here and now? In our church, in our community, and throughout the world.

-Pastor Chad

Dear Church Family,

October 2023



This month we'll be talking about Stewardship. Obviously, that includes money, but lately people have been bringing up words like "responsibility" and "lifestyle." Miriam-Webster defines stewardship as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." The church has been entrusted to our care. Actually, the world has been entrusted to our care. In Genesis 1, "God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." (Genesis 1:26-28 MSG [https:// bible.com/bible/97/gen.1.26-28.MSG](https://bible.com/bible/97/gen.1.26-28.MSG)) God/Jesus/Holy Spirit made us in their image so we can take care of creation, including other humans. We

were made to help creation flourish! I pray you learn something new from each of the speakers this month as they give us new information and ideas on how to be good stewards of God's gifts.

In Christ's Service, Charlotte & Leah, youth and young adult sponsors

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Young adults, 7pm @ the Thompsons' October 5, 12, 19, 26: CYF, 3:45-5:15pm  
Church Spruce Up: October 21, 9am @ the church  
Selma Band Review: Saturday, October 28. Come join us on the lawn at 9am to enjoy the parade!  
Fall Fest: Saturday, October 28. We'll be leaving around 1pm, heading up to Sacramento First Christian Church to join the regional youth at a lock-in. All kids from sixth grade up to seniors in high school can come with us! The event will cost \$30 and includes dinner, snacks, and breakfast. Bring a costume and have a great time getting to know your regional counterparts.  
October 31: We'll be watching a family friendly movie on the church lawn and passing out candy to any of the kids who walk by. Wear your best costume and join us at 6pm.

BOARD MEETING  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Present were Jane Ono, Jennifer Earle, Laurie Fitzgerald, Cora Fluker, Charlotte Thompson, Chad Thompson, Michael Gutierrez, Andrew Guzman, Kathleen Schales, Teresa Keck.

Chairman Jane opened the meeting at 11:54 a.m. by lighting the Christ candle. All present read the Mission and Vision statements and scripture aloud. Then Jane prayed.

Minutes from August were approved as corrected on motion by Jennifer and second by Teresa.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. Communication— Cora received photos she will post on website.
2. Education — Kathleen reported moving forward amid student enthusiasm.
3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth — will meet next week to clean some areas.
4. Property — tree trimming planned.
5. Stewardship and Outreach — Jordan emailed calendar and report .
6. Technology— Michael reported one camera not working properly. May replace it.

FINANCE REPORT

Jennifer discussed printed report.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Visitations, counseling, grief support group, met with Josue, met with pastor next door. Finished ByLaws corrections and updates. Working on Bible study and Baptismal class. Live scans done.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Youth are Will and Zoe. Young Adults asked to go back to meeting every Sunday at 7:00 p.m. October— stewardship study; November and December — life skills.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reinvigorating Church — may open up grief support group to community.
2. Projects— on hold due to finances.
3. AB-506 — training website will be sent to Board members by Chad. We are close to becoming compliant.
4. Lifegroups — Grief Support Group.  
Working on Baptismal Class.
5. Updating ByLaws, Policy and Procedures — ByLaws done. Chad working on others.
6. Plans for future — Anyone with ideas for fundraisers encouraged to come forward.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Youth Leaders — Jennifer moved to name Charlotte and Leah Youth Leaders. Michael seconded. Approved by Board.
2. Downtown Business Improvement — City of Selma is asking another \$100.00 fee related to Business License. Charlotte moved to approve \$100.00 to Business Improvement District. Second by Kathleen.  
Motion approved.
3. Budget Team Report— Jennifer moved to give permission to Melinda Schwamb to use \$11,700 (designated Emergency/Cargo Fund) to pay church expenses. Charlotte seconded. Board approved.
4. Riggs family gifted the church \$5000.00.  
Teresa moved to give \$500.00 to Animal Shelter (10 percent of Riggs gift). Cora seconded and Board approved.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Becky  
Stefanie's family  
Jessica Williams and other stressed individuals The church

Chad closed the meeting with prayer at 12:39 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be on October 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Keck, Board Secretary



## 2023 OUTREACH GOALS

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life, Christian Café,  
Selma Cares, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Food Pantry

**\$2,521.59** raised out of \$2,500.00

## DESIGNATED FUNDS

Special funds (not a part of budgeted giving) that give a  
“boost” to certain ministries of the church:

### Camp Scholarships

**\$1683.25** raised out of \$1,500.00

### Community Church Choir

**\$454.49** raised out of \$500.00

### Music Ministry

**\$213.35** raised out of \$250.00

### Organ

**\$500.00** raised out of \$500.00

### Youth & Young Adult

**\$200.23** raised out of \$500.00

## PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

PRAYER CHAIN: Please send prayer requests and praises to **Jennifer Earle**,  
559-896-2358 or [jen4earle@gmail.com](mailto:jen4earle@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & GRATITUDE:

**First Christian's Food Pantry** serving people in need every month.

Please pray for Kristen Magill and her three young sons. Greg, who we have been praying for, has died. The whole family needs to be surrounded with prayer.

Please pray for Becky Moreno. She has covid.

Please pray for a family member of Cora Fluker Pulley. The family member recently discovered they have cancer. Please pray for healing as the family prepares to meet with doctors on what to do for the next step(s).

**Thank you so much for your faithful and generous support!**  
(Funds updated as of 6/30/2023 and do not include expenses incurred.)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Elder Meeting** - Sunday, October 1st after worship

**Board Meeting** - Sunday, October 15th after worship

**Spiritual Growth** - Sunday, October 22nd after worship

**Men’s Ministry** will be meeting for breakfast Saturday, October 14th @ 9am at McCoy’s!

**Esther Group** - Saturday, October 14th at 9:30am @Liz Martinez’s

**Miriam Group** - Tuesday, October 10th at 9:30am at Marsha Staley’s

**Church Spruce Up Day** - October 21st at 9am

**Selma Band Review** - Come join us October 28th on the lawn at 9am to watch the parade!

**Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser** - It’s that time again for our Spaghetti plates with desert! The date is October 20th from 11am - 1pm! Let’s sell tickets, and let us know if you need delivery!

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday:** .....Worship Service..... **10:30am**  
 .....Iglesia DC..... **4:30pm & 6pm**  
 .....Young Adult Group (Every Sunday)..... **7pm**

**Monday:** .....Iglesia DC Food Distribution..... **3pm**  
 .....Narcotics Anonymous..... **7pm**

**Tuesday:** .....(No activities).....

**Wednesday:** ...Choir Rehearsal (intermittently)..... **7pm**

**Thursday:** .....Chi Rho/CYF ..... **3:45pm**  
 .....Iglesia DC..... **6pm**

**Friday:** .....Iglesia DC Food Distribution..... **3pm**  
 .....Alcoholics Anonymous ..... **7pm**

**Saturday:** .....Community Choir (intermittently) ..... **10am**

**GIVING TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Thank you for financially supporting God’s work in the various ways below!

**MAIL**

2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

**“BILL PAY”**

through online banking

**IN WORSHIP**

There is an offering box in the Narthex when you come through the main entrance.

**MOBILE APPS**

(download one or both at the Google Play Store or the Apple Store)

(General Fund only →)



**SCAN TO GIVE!**

◀ ◀ ◀ PayPal

Givelify ▶ ▶ ▶



(← Can designate giving)

**EXTRA WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH**

**Facebook Donate**

[www.facebook.com/selmadisciples](http://www.facebook.com/selmadisciples)

**Donating Supplies**


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

Contact the church office to see what is currently needed.

Thank you for your help in making the administration ministry successful in its work.



# OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Elder Meeting after worship Young Adults 7p	2 Narcotics Anonymous 7p	3 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	4	5 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	6 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	7 Blessing of the Animals 1:30p
8 Young Adults 7p	9 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p	10 Miriam Group @Marsha's 9:30a	11	12 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	13 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	14 Esther Meeting 9:30a @Liz's
15 Board Meeting after worship Young Adults 7p	16 Narcotics Anonymous 7p	17	18	19 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	20 Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser 11a-1p Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	21 Church Spruce Up Day 9a
22 Spiritual Growth after worship Young Adults 7p	23 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p	24	25	26 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	27 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	28 Selma Band Review 9a
29 Young Adults 7p	30 Narcotics Anonymous 7p	31 Haaaaalloweeeee Movie on the Lawn 6p	1	2 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	3 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	 Church Calendar

## 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;  
Julie Eichelberger
- 19: Sofia Iraheta
- 22: Clemente Gonzalez
- 23: Laura Thornburg
- 27: Vicky Armstrong;  
Christian Gutierrez



## SERVING IN OCTOBER 2023



<u>PRESIDER</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
1. Jennifer Earle	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
8. Karen Blanchard	TBA
15. Jordan Williams	Exodus 32:1-4, Philippians 4:4-13
22. Teresa Keck	Matthew 25:14-30
29. Cora Fluker Pulley	Jeremiah 29:7, 11-14

### COMMUNION ELDER & OFFERTORY

- Jordan Williams & Alan Langstraat
- Alan Langstraat & Leah Torosian
- Jennifer Earle & Jane Ono
- Leah Torosian & Jordan Williams
- Jane Ono & Charlotte Thompson



### JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- Kathleen Schales
- Leah Torosian/Jen & Samantha Stellpflug
- Laura & Alicia
- Lisa & Laurie
- Kathleen Schales



### SEPTEMBER 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

3.	30	10.	33
17.	35	24.	35

Coming next month in October...

Stewardship Month

“ FOCUS: A Connexion to God’s Vision ”

FCC Selma’s annual stewardship campaign is coming up! Our theme will help us focus on true stewardship and essentials. When we zero in and focus on God, we can make a more powerful impact as Disciples in our community.

Keep an eye out for your materials (pledge cards, luncheon reservation cards, and “guide”) and then mark your calendars for special events, worship services, a small group study, and “finance 101” class.

Are you ready to **FOCUS**?



**GUEST PREACHERS**



October 8, 2023

Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez



October 15, 2023

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum



October 29, 2023

Rev. Monica Myers Greenberg

THE CITY OF SELMA PRESENTS

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

POLICE \* FIRE \* COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

5 PM - 8 PM  
LINCOLN PARK

Raffles - Hot Dogs - K-9 Demo - Obstacle Course -  
Bike Safety Demo - Fire Department Demos



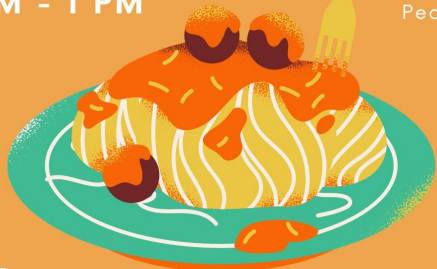
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Selma, CA

Annual **SPAGHETTI**

Friday  
October 20, 2023  
11 AM - 1 PM

Luncheon

Spaghetti  
Green Beans  
Dinner Roll  
Peach Cobbler



\$12/plate  
pick-up or drive-thru

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

2026 ARRANTS ST., SELMA, CA 93662  
559-896-2691 \* FCCSELMA@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Thank you for supporting our ministry,  
mission, and outreach efforts!



Selma Community Church Choir

**BLESSINGS & PRAISE**  
Fall Concert



Kenneshae Murray, conductor  
Jordan Williams, pianist

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 | 2:30 PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2026 ARRANTS ST., SELMA, CA 93662

www.selmadisciples.com

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Pumpkin  
Palooza**

**OCT. 14  
2:00P.M.-6:00P.M.  
PIONEER VILLAGE  
SELMA, CA**




**FREE  
ADMISSION**

**October 21, 2023**

**KINGSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:**

**The Peddler's Fair**

**50 vendors 9AM- 3:30PM**

*Vintage, Collectibles, Crafts, Yard Sale, Food & Dessert's*

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & BEER GARDEN**

**@ Kingsburg Historical Park**

**2321 Sierra St. Kingsburg**




*Selma Community Church Choir*

Calling all Choral Singers!  
Sing with us this season!

**"BLESSINGS AND PRAISE"**  
Fall Concert  
November 5, 2023 @ 2:30 PM  
Kenneshae Murray, guest conductor

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**  
"Images of Adoration"  
December 10, 2023 @ 2:30 PM



2018 Christmas Cantata

REHEARSALS begin Saturday, 9/30 @ 10:00 AM.  
LOCATION: First Christian Church, 2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662  
Send an email to [fccselmachoir@gmail.com](mailto:fccselmachoir@gmail.com) for more information!

# THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



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EDITION #LXVII  
**October 2023**

**First Christian Church**  
2026 Arrants St.  
Selma, CA 93662  
559-896-2691 ☎ [fccselma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccselma@sbcglobal.net)

[www.selmadisciples.com](http://www.selmadisciples.com)  
[www.facebook.com/selmadisciples](https://www.facebook.com/selmadisciples)  
[www.youtube.com/selmadisciples](https://www.youtube.com/selmadisciples)



TO:

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.  
**Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT)**

**The Caller**  
Your monthly newsletter