

August 2026



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

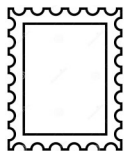
Selma, CA 93662

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 -

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 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,

August has arrived, and school resumes soon. I remember feeling hesitation and fear as the new school year approached. “Would I

still have the same friends? Will school be like last year? How will my school year go? I hope my teacher is great!” There was fear and trepidation as the school year began. If we are honest with ourselves, we all experience fear. Sometimes it comes quietly in the middle of the night when our minds begin to race. Sometimes it shows up as worry about our families, our health, our community, or the future. Fear is a part of life, and none of us are immune to it.

The good news is that we are not the first people to face fear. Throughout Scripture, we see people who loved God and still struggled with uncertainty and fear. Abraham stepped into an unknown future. Moses wondered if he was capable of doing what God called him to do. The disciples were afraid when storms surrounded them and when they faced an uncertain tomorrow. Yet, in every situation, God reminded them of the same truth: they were not alone.

I believe that is one of the greatest promises of our faith. God does not promise that we will never face difficult moments, but God promises to walk with us through them. Faith does not mean we never feel afraid. Faith means that even in our fear, we choose to trust that God is still present and still working.

Hope gives us the strength to keep moving forward. Hope reminds us that our current circumstances do not define our story. God is always bringing new life, new possibilities, and new opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. As a congregation, we have faced seasons of change and uncertainty, but we have also witnessed God's faithfulness again and again. The same God who has carried us through the past is the God who is leading us into the future.

So, when fear tells us to step back, hope encourages us to step forward. When fear reminds us of what we cannot control, faith reminds us of the One who holds all things. My prayer is that we continue to be a congregation known not by our fears, but by our faith. May we be people who trust God's presence, share Christ's love, and bring hope to a world that needs it. Because with God beside us, fear does not have the final word. Hope does!

~Pastor Chad

Youth & Young Adults

Dear Church Family,

We're working on getting the youth group off my couch and into the community. So far, we've worked at the food bank. We'll be doing that until the kids go back to school.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, it says, "Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (NRSVUE) Paul goes on to talk about what kind of gifts we've been given: wisdom, faith, preaching, teaching, etc. It's similar when we go to the food bank. Some of us stand behind the table and hand the recipients canned goods. Some get them registered so they can receive food. Some bring the food out of storage to put on the tables. But it all works for the common good of the community.

If you have a service project you'd like help with, please contact Charlotte or Leah or the church office.

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian, youth and youth adult co-directors

Chi Rho & CYF: Sundays from 6-7 at the Thompson/Langstraat home
Fresno Grizzlies game: Thursday, Aug 6, 6:50pm. Please RSVP by Aug 1.
Movie night: Friday, Aug 21, 6pm @ the Thompson/Langstraat home



BIG YARD SALE
ON THE CHURCH LAWN

GREAT FINDS!
GREAT PRICES!
GREAT CAUSE!

CLOTHES ★
BOOKS ★
TOYS ★
HOME GOODS
and more!

Saturday
AUGUST 1st, 2026
7AM - 12PM

2026 ARRANTS ST.
SELMA, CA 93662

TREASURES
for
EVERYONE!

♥ Come Support ♥
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mark your calendars: **August 22 & 23**
is our annual lock-in!

Location: Christian Church of Vacaville
66 Vine St, Vacaville, CA 95688

Time: 6pm on Saturday until
after church on Sunday

Who's invited: The lock-in is open to all regional
youth from 6th grade to
graduated seniors!

What to bring: sleeping bag and pillow, clothes for
church, toiletries, your Bible, a good attitude, and
\$20 to pay for the food. You may also bring money
to put in the offering on Sunday morning. Bring a
game to share with the group (card game, board
game, outside game, whatever you want!)

What else is happening: just a bunch of fun, food,
and fellowship with your friends!

RSVP to Charlotte before August 15

559-238-5846

Charlotte@ccncn.org

PRAYER PAGE

PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

PRAYER CHAIN: *Please send prayer requests and praises to
Karen Blanchard, 559-898-6700 or kablanhard17@gmail.com*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR...

Katie Schales, as she is dealing with health concerns. The doctors believe that she has a mild kidney infection.

Raul Banda, neighbor of the Schales and Blanchards. He had an episode caused by medications when he had sepsis some time ago. He is doing better. Please pray for his continued recovery and strength.

Karen Blanchard's cousin, Ellen, has a four year old grandson named **Dezmond**, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer. One of his kidneys has been removed and he is going through chemotherapy.



Emily Strange, who will have an extensive biopsy done for cancer to see if it has spread.

Pastor Chad, as he is waiting for meniscus surgery and his pain levels are high. Please pray that he will be able to get relief from this, and that surgery will be approved soon.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Katie Schales was hired by Alhambra school district to work in their after school programs! She will be starting her intercession class soon and will start training for the after school program in August! Katie is excited for this Godsend!

Norah DeBaets, as she had functional endoscopic sinus surgery and her adenoids removed. The surgery went well. Praise that she will now be able to breathe a whole lot better.

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

3901 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95819

Rev. Kevin Deibert



Grace Freewill Baptist

9533 S McCall Ave, Selma, CA 93662

Pastor Stan Roam



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 Saturdays @ 10 AM
- **Church Yard Sale:** Saturday, August 1st from 7 AM to 12 PM on the Church Lawn.
- **Elder's Meeting:** Sunday, August 2nd @ 9:00 AM
- **Village Voices Concert:** Sing to the City is Thursday, August 6th @ 7 PM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, August 8th @ 9 AM at McCoy's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**
 - **Esther Group:** No Esther Group Meeting
 - **Miriam Group:** No Miriam Group Meeting
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, August 16th @ 9 AM
- **Back to School Sunday:** Sunday August 16th
 - + Potluck after worship and sending Jessica and Stella off with our love and prayers.
- **Annual Regional Lock-In:** August 22-23 must RSVP to Charlotte Thompson before August 15th
- **Afternoon Recital:** Sunday, August 23rd @ 2:30 PM
- **Selma Community Church Choir 10th Anniversary Kickoff Concert:** Sunday, September 13th @ 2:30 PM

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 19th, 2026

Present were :Yolanda Gonzales, Lisa Piper, Jane Ono, Leah Torosian, Laurie Fitzgerald, Charlotte Thompson, Tony Imperatrice, John Terry, Jennifer Earle, Chad Thompson, Joey Thompson and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 11:56 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

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

Financial Report – Jennifer said that we are half way through the year for the budget. Things look good right now. The quick short fall campaign we did in June was a great help.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – no report

Education – No report

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth = no report

Property – The lights on the landing are having an issue. Andrew is working on the problem. There was a problem with the breakers which affected the pump in the basement. All has been sorted out.

Stewardship and Outreach – Looking at 8/1 to have a yard sale on the front lawn from 7:00 to 12:00. Donations may be put in the basement. Jane needs volunteers to set-up, sell, and clean-up.

Technology – Joey is training Will to run the soundboard.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 sermons and led 1 Bible study and led a 5 week book study. Chad attended an Elder's meeting and a board meeting. Chad is doing most of his work from home because of his knee.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT REPORT

Leaders were able to connect with kid's parents. Leaders are working on developing some community involvement. There will be a lock-in in August.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

The board decided to not collaborate with Fidel in remodeling the church on Highland. John moved to not move forward with the project, Yolanda seconded, motion carried.

Options for a new worship space:

Working with Methodists, they want more specifics before we meet.

The Farewell property is now available for \$800,000. Board members would like to visit the facility.

NEW BUSINESS

We failed church's fire inspection because our fire extinguishers need to be recharged. We have until July 30 to complete this task.

The board approved vacation time for Samantha. Zoe will answer the phone while she is gone.

Back to School Sunday will be August 16. It will be a Pot Luck lunch in the basement.

Next Board Meeting will be August 16, 2026. It will be at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

Village Voices

SING TO THE CITY!



**FREE ADMISSION,
DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

**THURSDAY
AUG 6TH, 2026
7 PM**

1490 Lincoln St Kingsburg, CA

CONTACT JACOB PASALAKIS AT
JACOBPASALAKIS@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION





BACK TO SCHOOL

SUNDAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

JOIN US AS WE BLESS OUR STUDENTS
AS THEY ENTER A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

Afternoon Recital



Sunday
August 23
2026
2:30 PM

Lucas Garza, oboe
Jordan Williams, piano
and friends

First Christian Church
2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Free admission. Donations gratefully appreciated.

Selma Community Church Choir 10th Anniversary Season

2016/2017 - 2026/2027

Join us for a season of favorites
from over the years!



10th Anniversary Kickoff Concert
Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 2:30 PM
First Christian Church
2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Want to sing with us?
Rehearsals begin Saturday, August 8, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
in the Hospitality Lounge

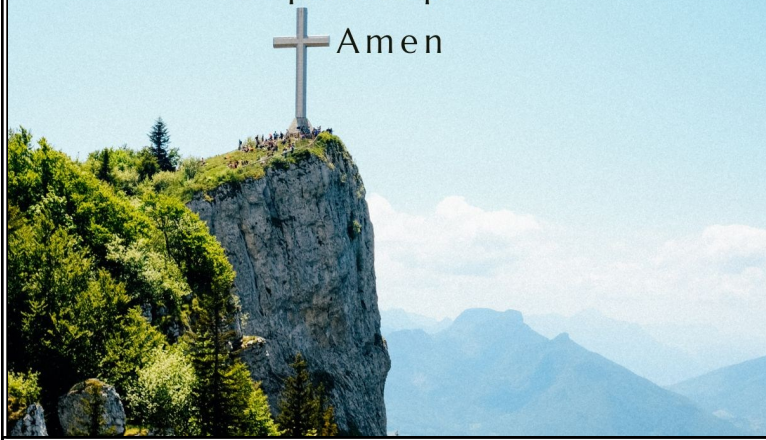
Stewardship Thought

Dear God,

Thank you for the grace you extend through Jesus Christ.

Help me to view giving as a gift in which I am privileged to participate.

Amen



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 JULY 2026

In-Person Attendance

SUN

5

WORSHIP 25

SUN

12

WORSHIP 35

SUN

19

Worship 27

SUN

26

Worship 27

GIVING:

GENERAL FUND: \$ 6,996.59

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 Church Yard Sale 7 AM-12 PM
2 Elder's Meeting 9:00 AM	3	4	5	6 Bible Study @ 4 PM Sing to the City @ 7 PM	7	8 Men's Breakfast @ 9 AM Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM
9	10 Food Bank @ 8 AM	11	12	13 Bible Study @ 4 PM	14	15 Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM
16 Board Meeting @ 9 AM Back to School Sunday! + Potluck after Worship	17 Caller Information Due	18	19	20 Bible Study @ 4 PM	21	22 Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM
23 Afternoon Recital @ 2:30 PM	24 Food Bank @ 8 AM	25	26	27 Bible Study @ 4PM	28	29 Community Choir Rehearsal @ 10 AM
30	31					

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August

- 01: Vicotria Guzman
- 03: Vivian Abella
- Nathan Stellpflug
- 08: Haley Thompson
- Ava Marquez
- Stephanie Le
- 13: Holly Harders
- 14: Jessica Williams
- 15: Makayla Sierra
- 17: Efrain Vasquez
- 19: Karen Blanchard
- 20: Jorge Flores
- 24: Nicholas Schales
- 26: Chad Thompson
- 27: Diane Stewart
- 30: Tyler Cook
- 31: Jonah Linhoff



Happy
Anniversary

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

SERVING IN AUGUST

PRESIDER

- 02: Cora Fulker-Pulley
- 09: Laura Thornburg
- 16: Jane Ono
- 23: Leah Torosian
- 30: Makayla Sierra

SCRIPTURE

- Genesis 32:22-31
- Matthew 14:22-33
- Matthew 15:10-20
- Matthew 16:13-20
- Matthew 16:21-28



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 02: Leah Torosian & Charlotte Thompson
- 09: Jessica Williams & John Terry
- 16: Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian
- 23: Pat Adams & Jennifer Earle
- 30: Jessica Williams & Leah Torosian



DEACONS

- 02: Marsha Staley, Lisa Piper, Karen Blanchard
- 09: Bryan DeBaets, Casey DeBaets, Liz Martinez
- 16: Brent Burwell, Tina Ritchie, Kathleen Schales
- 23: Tiffany Piper, Makayla Sierra, Laura Thornburg
- 30: Will Thompson, Zoe Thompson, Marsha Staley

JUNIOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- 05: No Junior Worship
- 12: No Junior Worship
- 19: No Junior Worship
- 26: No Junior Worship
- 30: No Junior Worship

