

CONNECTION 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

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| MINISTERS | The Congregation |
| SENIOR PASTOR | Rev. Chad Thompson |
| Minister of Youth & Young Adults | Chad Thompson |
| Minister of Music | Jordan Williams |
| Organist | Anthony Imperatrice |
| Chair of the Congregation (2023) | Jane Ono |
| Chair of the Elders (2023) | Charlotte Thompson |
| Administrative Assistant | Cora Fluker-Pulley |
| Communications Coordinator | Cora Fluker-Pulley |
| Custodian | Josiah Thompson |
| Child Care | (Open) |

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

James 1:22 says, “But be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers.” It reminded me of Jesus’ words at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock” (Matthew 7:24). Jesus goes on and explains that for those who hear his words and act on them will be able to withstand the winds and the rains because they built their house upon the rock. For those who don’t put into action these words, they will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand and when the wind and rains hit, it didn’t stand. The first question that comes to mind is, “which words am I supposed to be hearing and then doing?” Jesus, in Matthew chapter 7, points back to the Sermon on the Mount, “these are the words that you are to be acting on.” James, I believe, is also pointing back to Jesus and saying listen to his words and act upon them.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talks about being salt and light, about anger, adultery, divorce, concerning oaths, retaliation, love for enemies, almsgiving, prayer, fasting, where to store up treasures, serving two masters, don’t worry, don’t judge, the golden rule, a tree and its fruit, etc. The hard thing for me is that I understand what is being asked of me and it is difficult to do. Mark Twain made this famous quote, “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.” I find this to be true as well. It’s the parts of the Bible that I do understand that challenge me, that push me as I follow Jesus even when it’s hard. When I look at the Sermon on the Mount, I am reminded that my thoughts can affect the way I interact with people. I need to take seriously these words and put them into action, to treat people as the Image of God that they are. May we be doers of the Word and may we as followers of Christ take seriously Jesus’ words by becoming salt and light to bring change to a world that desperately needs it.

Pastor Chad

Dear Church Family,

August 2023



Between June 25 and July 1, I was at CYF camp at the Community of the Great Commission in Foresthill, CA along with Chad, Will, and Makayla, and a bunch of other people. I had the honor of being the Keynote Speaker. This year’s curriculum was titled “Hear Our Prayer.” I thought it was going to be about learning to communicate with God and each other but it was actually about *what* we’re praying for, not necessarily *how* we’re praying.

We talked about a lot of different things throughout the week. Every day we prayed about a new thing. Longing to be invited; wanting to be included as a part of something bigger than ourselves. Longing together; praying together as a community. Longing to be heard; this one was about having big feelings and how God can handle anything we throw at him. Longing for guidance; listening to God for guidance and wisdom. Longing for renewal; starting over with a new attitude. Longing for change; wanting to change ourselves or society or the environment.

Saturday was my favorite! Longing for celebration; we sat around the fire circle and celebrated the great week we’d had. The scripture we used was Philippians 1:3-11. Verse three says, “Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. (The Message)”. For me, that verse certainly applies to my camp kids, but also to you, my church family. I’m so thankful for you all helping me go to camp all those years and now, helping my kids and our church kids go too.

In Christ’s Service,

Charlotte Thompson, youth/young adult sponsor

Calendar:

July 26-Aug 4: Chad, Charlotte, Jessica, and Jordan at General Assembly in Kentucky
Aug 6 & 20: Young Adults, 7pm @ the Thompsons
Aug 10: Ocean trip
Aug 24 & 31: Chi Rho & CYF, 3:45-5:15




Donate School Supplies Here

July 24 – August 4

Noble Credit Union is accepting donations of new school supplies for local schools.

- Backpacks
- Notebooks
- Binders
- Glue
- Paper
- Markers
- Pens
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Scissors

Donations can also be made at these Noble Partner locations:


GOOD NEWS EVERYONE



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

PRAYER REQUESTS & GRATITUDE:

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

Two prayer requests from Karen Blanchard:

Her neighbor, Freida Null was in emergency room with an infection in her leg. She will be seeing a surgeon.

Her cousin, Peggy, has been suffering with a headache since early July.

Stan Riggs (age 90) died Sunday, July 9th. Funeral services will be held September 9th at 11 am. Stan, as a long time member of our church, was instrumental in our ongoing service here in Selma.

Sympathy cards may be sent to his daughter:

Joni Kolb
64 Cromwell Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

My brother-in-law woke up with numbness in the foot where he had the amputation earlier this summer. He came back from the hospital and is stable. His blood pressure was a little high. I appreciate the prayers. Ongoing general prayers for my family's physical, mental health, and faith would be appreciated.

Thank you,
Abel

Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your generous giving that helped with my recent expenses in driving 20 dogs and 7 kittens to an animal rescue in Montana. It was a long trip but such a blessing to help these animals find forever homes. This congregation is always so loving and supportive.

In God's love,
Janice Baker

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, August 6th after worship

Spiritual Growth - Sunday, August 13th after worship

Board Meeting - Sunday, August 20th after worship

Men's Ministry will be meeting for breakfast August 12th @ 9am at McCoy's!

Esther Group & Miriam Group are on hiatus for the summer!
See you in September!

Maria Tafoya has moved! This is her new address:

Maria Tafoya
35602 Avenue 14 1/2
Madera, CA 93636

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday:Worship Service..... **10:30am**

.....Iglesia DC..... **4:30pm & 6pm**

.....Young Adult Group (1st & 3rd Sundays) ..**7pm**

Monday:Iglesia DC Food Distribution..... **3pm**

.....Narcotics Anonymous.....**7pm**

Tuesday:(No activities).....

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

Thursday:Chi Rho/CYF **3:30pm**

.....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

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.



AUGUST 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|------------------------|-----|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:30p | 4 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p | 5 |
| 6 Elder Meeting Young Adults 7p | 7 Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 8 No Miriam Meeting | 9 | 10 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:30p | 11 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p | 12 Church Yard Sale 7a-12p Men's Breakfast 9am No Esther Meeting |
| 13 Spiritual Growth | 14 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 15 | 16 | 17 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:30p | 18 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p | 19 |
| 20 Board Meeting Young Adults 7p | 21 Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 22 | 23 | 24 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:30p | 25 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 29 | 30 | 31 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:30p | 1 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p |  Church Calendar |

AUGUST

- 01: Victoria Guzman
- 03: Vivian Abella
Nathan Stellpflug
Cameron Wells
- 07: Betty Baker
- 08: Haley Thompson
- 14: Jessica Williams
- 17: Efrain Vasquez
- 18: Dee Anne Douville
- 19: Karen Blanchard
- 20: Jorge Flores
- 24: Nicholas Schales
- 26: Chad Thompson
- 27: Adriana Cortes
Diane Stewart
- 31: Jonah Linhoff



SERVING IN AUGUST 2023



| <u>PRESIDER</u> | <u>SCRIPTURE</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 6. Janice Baker | Matthew 14:13-21 |
| 13. Charlotte Thompson | Matthew 14:22-33 |
| 20. Marsha Staley | Matthew 15: 10-20 |
| 27. Laura Thornburg | Romans 12:1-8 |

COMMUNION ELDER & OFFERTORY

- 6. Charlotte Thompson & Jane Ono
- 13. Jane Ono & Leah Torosian
- 20. Jordan Williams & Charlotte Thompson
- 27. Jennifer Earle & Alan Langstraat

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS



JULY 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

| | | |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 2. 32 | 16. 38 | 30. TBD |
| 9. 37 | 23. 32 | |

THE CALLER

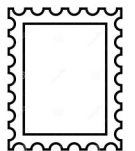
NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



EDITION #LXVII
August 2023

First Christian Church
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Selma, CA 93662
559-896-2691 ☎ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com
www.facebook.com/selmadisciples
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