

August 2025



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

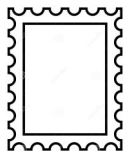
Selma, CA 93662

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..... Tiffany Piper
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,

August is Here!

As summer winds down, there's a special kind of energy in the air, a mix of excitement, nerves, and fresh hope. As families settle into their routines and students choose their first-day outfits, a brand-new school year begins. It's more than just new teachers and subjects; it's a wonderful chance for fresh starts, new friendships, and personal growth.

For followers of Christ, the start of school is more than a date; it's an opportunity for spiritual growth, reminding us that our loving God is the God of new beginnings. The Bible shares stories of fresh starts: Abraham's journey to a land God would show him, Ruth in an unfamiliar land, and the disciples following Jesus into uncharted territory. Each journey began with a simple step of faith, inspiring us to move forward.

Similarly, students take brave steps daily: entering classrooms, meeting peers, trying difficult tasks, and discovering themselves. Teachers, administrators, and staff also start anew, nurturing minds and hearts, creating safe, inclusive spaces, and sharing patience and wisdom.

As a faith community, we have an opportunity to support our schools through prayer and acts of kindness, whether it's sharing a kind word, checking on students, donating supplies, or praying for the students and staff. Small acts can significantly impact our school community.

This year, may our students realize that they are valued beyond test scores. May our educators feel appreciated and supported. May our communities create environments where learning is celebrated, diversity is welcomed, and love is shown.

~Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

August 2025

School is starting soon! Can you believe summer is almost over?? I feel like we've done so much but also nothing. We had camp; Zoe had her summer college program and band camp; Haley and Noah played with their neighbor friends almost every day; we even got away to the coast for a day. The days blurred together in a big, long moment of joy.

We are changing things up for the youth and young adult groups this year! We haven't had a youth group in a while because it's been just my kids in that age group for a while, but this year we have two kids coming up into Chi Rho! Last Sunday, we had an introduction dinner with their parents. It was so good! We started with dinner and kept talking for three hours. We are really looking forward to getting to know the girls and their families as we go along. We will start meeting Aug 10 at 6pm at our house (2307 Azalea).

The young adults will start meeting on a monthly-ish basis. Their schedules are all kinda wild with musical theater, piano gigs, and work so it's hard to plan things sometimes. So we'll have pop-up YA events. Movies night, game night, Denny's, a picnic in the park. And of course, we'll try to go to all their events.

We're claiming 1 Timothy 4:11-14 as our group scripture this year! "Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use."

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte & Leah
Youth and Young Adult co-directors



Join Us for a Clergy Gathering at our Women's Fall Retreat

SPEND TIME IN MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND OTHER CLERGY LEADERS

What to Expect

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
CONVERSATION
CONNECTION

Christ the King
Passionist Retreat
Center

October 31st, 2025
12pm - 3pm

This gathering will be open to pastors, chaplains, seminarians, and all ministry leaders



Hosted by
Rev. Sophia Jackson

Join us at the beautiful residential camp for rest and spiritual nourishment with fellow men. The Regional Men's Ministry invites you to our October Retreat, featuring two days of worship, fellowship, and community building. Your presence supports our ministry in cultivating a sustainable future for faithful men. Please register today, and let's grow together.

OCTOBER RETREAT

OCTOBER 10-12

(FRIDAY AFTERNOON THRU SUNDAY MORNING)

CAMP ARROYO

(5535 ARROYO RD., LIVERMORE, CA 94550)

GUEST SPEAKER:

Rev. Kevin Deibert
Pastor of FCC Sacramento



Theme: 3Rs –

Reflect, Reform, and Resurrect
Men's Ministry of CCNC-N

PRAYER PAGE

PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

PRAYER CHAIN: *Please send prayer requests and praises to
Karen Blanchard, 559-898-6700 or kablanchar17@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.

Janice Baker is asking for prayers for the family of her friend, **Nidya Juarez**. A nephew that was born premature in intensive care and a cousin that was also premature and in intensive care. Please pray for healing, strength, and comfort for this family.

Brittney Sumpter, 35, a teacher from Dinuba High School has a 10-month-old baby. She is in a lot of pain. Pray for relief, comfort, and restored health.

Jane Ono's friend, **Lisa** and her **family** need prayers. Her husband had heart and lung failure and her daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Please pray for healing and strength for them all during this extremely difficult time.

Pray for **Joe Camquin-Vigil's family** and mourning the loss of his father. Please keep them in your thoughts a prayers as they walk through this difficult season of grief.

Praise that **Teresa Keck's** knee surgery went well. Pray for a quick and speedy recovery.

Rev. Sophia Jackson, who recently preached at our church, had a stroke while preaching. She is in the hospital in Redwood City and working on getting into rehab in Stockton, where she lives. She is in good spirits, but she will be in rehab for awhile. Please pray for her on going healing and peace as she continues this journey.

Pray for Karen Blanchard's sister-in-law, Melody's mother. Her name is **Jo Law**. She was diagnosed with pneumonia this morning and is being admitted to the hospital for a few days. Jo is 93 and also suffers from dementia. Pray for her healing, strength, and comfort during this time.

Leah Torosian is asking for prayers for Leigh Weisser's daughter (**Macey**), son-in-law (**Hunter Lyons**), and granddaughter (**Oakleigh**) as they were involved in an accident. Both Hunter and Oakleigh died at the scene. Macey is in the burn unit at the University of Louisville Hospital. Pray for Macey's physical healing, as well as comfort, strength, and peace for her and the family in this devastating time.



PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Will and **Charlotte Thompson** came down with Covid, but have since recovered and they are both doing well!

Karen Blanchard's grandson, **Jasper**, came down with pneumonia. Praise he is feeling better and has recovered!



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:

Christian Church of Santa Clara

1821 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051

Rev. Chuck Fairbrother, Senior Pastor



Faith Tabernacle Church

10076 S. Fancher St. Slema, CA 93662

Rev. Jeff Parks, Lead Pastor



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Extending Hand Ministries** gives out food to the public every 2nd and 4th Monday @ 8:00
- **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
- **Choir Rehearsal:** Starting Saturday, August 2nd at 10:30 AM
- **Elders Meeting:** Sunday, August 3rd after worship
- **Ice Cream Social:** Saturday, August 9th @ 6:30 PM
- **Back to School Sunday:** Sunday, August 17th @ 10:30 AM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, August 9th @ 9:00 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**
 - **Esther Group:** No meeting.
 - **Miriam Group:** No Meeting.
- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, August 17th @ 11:45 AM
- **Youth Sunday:** Sunday, August 31st @ 10:30 AM
- **Labor Day BBQ:** Sunday, August 31st, after worship

*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

July 20, 2025

Present were Yolanda Gonzalez, Jane Ono, Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Laurie Fitzgerald, Jennifer Earle, Leah Torosian, Joey Thompson, Marsha Staley, and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 12:06 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

Minutes -Minutes of the June meeting were read. Marsha 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 – No update.

Education – No report.

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – Makayla will share some of the ideas she got from attending the National Assembly.

Property – New sign was installed on the front of the church.

Stewardship and Outreach – Planning activities for August and September

Tech – Waiting for parts for the computers to arrive.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

Chi Rho and CYF kids and families will have dinner at the Thompson home on July 27 to become acquainted and plan what the program will look like, such as meeting days and times. Also continue meeting with young adults.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 5 times, worked at the Food Bank, Held staff meeting, made visits, taught baptism class(one student with the possibility of three more joining), held 10 counseling sessions and has a PRC meeting coming up. Chad will have a medical procedure done on August 1, 2025. Elders and Board Members will fill in as needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Exterminator – Has been hired. Will service the church every three months.

Church sign – is completed and installed.

Private Property church sign – Bobby still working on it.

Streamline Committees – Chad wants us to keep it on the table until Nov/Dec.

Future Goals – Keep thinking about places to move. Don't be discouraged by a NO.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Binder – Tabled while people look to see if one can be found so that Chad does not have to recreate the binder.

Open and Affirming – Chad would like to start the paperwork so that our church would be qualified as Open and Affirming.

Yolanda closed meeting with prayer at 1:07 p.m.

Next Board Meeting August 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

Wanted Junior Worship Leaders Needed

**JUNIOR WORSHIP IS SEEKING MORE PEOPLE TO
HELP LEAD ON SUNDAYS.**

**CURRICULUM/WEEKLY LESSONS ARE ALL
PRE-WRITTEN BY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
DIRECTOR. LEADERS HAVE SET-UP/CLEAN-UP
DUTY & WORK WITH CO-LEADERS TO EXECUTE
THE LESSON PLAN. LEADERSHIP TEAM IS ON
ROTATION WITH SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY.**

**If interested, talk to
Kathleen Schales!**

2026 Arrants St. Selma, CA 93662
fccselma@sbcglobal.net

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 2025

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

06: 44

20: 31

13: 30

27: 41



GIVING

General Fund: \$6,672.74

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	2 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM
3 Elders' Meeting 11:45 AM	4	5	6	7 4 PM Bible Study	8	9 Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM @ Denny's Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Ice Cream Social 6:30 PM
10	11 Food Bank 8 AM	12	13	14 4 PM Bible Study	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM
17 Back To School Sunday Board Meeting 11:45 AM	18	19	20	21 4 PM Bible Study	22	23 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM
24	25 Food Bank 8 AM	26	27	28 4 PM Bible Study	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM
31 Youth Sunday Labor Day BBQ						

Birthdays & Anniversaries

August

- 01: Victoria Guzman
- 03: Vivian Abella
- Nathan Stellpflug
- Cameron Wells
- 07: Betty Baker
- 08: Haley Joy
- 13: Holly Lauren 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



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

SERVING IN AUGUST

<u>PRESIDER</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
03: Jennifer Earle	Luke 12:13-21
10: Cora Fluker-Pulley	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
17: John Terry	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
24: Charlotte Thompson	Luke 13:10-17
31: Makayla Sierra	TBA



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 03: Pat Adams & Alan Langstraat
- 10: Alan Langstraat & John Terry
- 17: Charlotte Thompson & Jordan Williams
- 24: Jane Ono & Pat Adams
- 31: Charlotte Thompson & Alan Langstraat



DEACONS

- 03: Marsha Staley, Laura Thornburg, Will Thompson
- 10: Makayla Sierra, Clemente Gonzalez, Jennifer Stellpflug
- 17: Kathleen Schales, Lisa Piper, Tine Ritchie
- 24: Gary Schales, Karen Blanchard, Liz Martinez
- 31: Laura Thornburg, Will Thompson, Marsha Staley

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

*(Junior Worship Time
Is on break for the summer)*

