

November 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 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	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,

November is here,
and it's one of my
favorite times of the

year. In our home, this season is about gathering, sharing a delicious meal, and expressing gratitude. Lately, amidst the chaos in our world and the busyness in my own life, I often forget to say thanks. This is what led to the Thanksgiving sermon series titled "Finding Thanks When You Don't Feel It." Sometimes, when life gets overwhelming, we forget to give thanks. Some of us are tired, grieving, or anxious about the future. During such moments, feeling grateful isn't always easy. Still, the Bible teaches us that thanksgiving isn't just a response to good times; it's a spiritual habit that keeps us connected to God's presence.

In *1 Thessalonians 5:18*, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Notice he doesn't say *for* all circumstances, but *in* them. Gratitude doesn't deny pain; it transforms how we walk through it. It shifts our focus from what's missing to what God is still doing in our lives.

This season, I invite you to slow down and look for signs of God's goodness, however small they may be. Maybe it's the laughter of a child, a warm cup of coffee on a chilly morning, a friend's encouraging word, or the quiet peace of prayer. Each of these is a reminder that God is near. As a church, let's help one another *find thanks*, not only in the big celebrations but in the small mercies that sustain us every day. May our gratitude become not just a feeling, but a way of seeing: eyes open to grace, hearts open to love, and hands open to share. This Thanksgiving, may we each rediscover that the greatest gift is not what we have, but the One who is always with us.

-Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

What do you know about the fruits of the spirit? Well, after we're done with our Chi Rho/CYF study about them, the students in our group will know far more about these nine virtues of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is a great group to work with! They are fun, a bit silly, and always looking to learn and grow closer to God and to each other. If you want to join this group and are in 6th – 12th grade, please reach out to Charlotte Thompson, Leah Torosian, or the church office. We meet on Sunday nights from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Thompson's house.

The Young Adults are still collecting and sorting clothes for the Support Closet. If you'd like to donate, please let us know. Our date will be November 22 from 1 to 4 pm.

Serving together, Charlotte Thompson and Leah Torosian, Youth Co-Directors



Selma Community Church Choir and Friends present

ALL THINGS NEW

Fall Concert

NOV | 09 | 2025
2:30 PM

JACOB PASALAKIS
CONDUCTOR

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662
Free admission - donations appreciated!

Stewardship Month

This Month we had four Guest Preachers that we would like to highlight and give thanks to.

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum
Rev. Vicki Firch
Rev. Sophia Jackson
Cody Fedor

Thank you all for coming and preaching for our congregation, we loved hearing the messages. If you missed their sermons, visit our Youtube channel to check out their messages!

Spaghetti Luncheon

Thank to all who helped make the Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser possible! We raised lots of money that will continue to help support our ministries and community!

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.

Please pray for **Casey DeBaets' grandmother** and their family. She has an extensive heart history and continues to face health challenges. Pray for her strength, healing, and comfort for her, and for peace for the family as they support her.

Pray for our teams that are looking at two new places for our congregation to move to. Ask that God would grant them wisdom, clarity, and unity as they discern the best space for our future ministry and growth.



PRAISES & GRATITUDE

A huge thank you to each and everyone of you who took the time to bring a dish to the Consecration Luncheon! They were all absolutely delicious and made the lunch special! - Stewardship Team



OCTOBER 2025

STEWARSHIP

MONTH



Spaghetti
Lunch

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:

Gathering Desire Community Fellowship

2244 Oak Grove Rd, Suite 3412, Concord, CA 94598-9991

Rev. Carolyn Anderson



Selma Community Outreach Ministries

2001 Whitson St, Selma, CA 93662

Pastor Delfina Vasquez



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.
- **Choir Rehearsal:** See November Calendar on page 7 for all dates.
- **Bible Study:** Thursdays @ 4:00 PM
- **Baptism Class:** Sundays @ 2:00 PM
- **Elders' Meeting:** Sunday, November 2nd after worship
- **Fall Concert:** Sunday, November 9th, @ 2:30 PM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, November 8th @ 9 AM at Legend's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

Esther Group: Saturday, November 8th @ 9:30 AM at Jennifer Earle's

Miriam Group: Tuesday, November 11th @ 9:30 AM at Marsha Staley's

- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, November 16th 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

October 19, 2025

Present were Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Jennifer Earle, Leah Torosian, Lisa Piper, Charlotte Thompson, Joey Thompson, and Pat Adams.

Lisa opened the meeting at 11:59 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Lisa then prayed.

Minutes – Minutes of the August and September meetings were read. Jennifer moved to accept the minutes. Leah seconded, motion passed.

Financial Report – Jennifer reviewed the budget and asked if there were any questions. We ended the month in the black. At this time the P, G & E bill seems to be our main problem. We need to all do our part to conserve. Pat moved to accept the report as presented. Charlotte seconded, motion passed.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – Jordan will work with Samantha to make sure people know about all of our activities.

Education – No report

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth - Planning for Advent.

Property – No report

Stewardship and Outreach – Consecration Sunday is October 26.

Tech – Still looking for help for the back. The computer has been updated. Two new speakers were added.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

Chi Rho will begin studying a new book. Young Adults are working to set up a **Comfort Closet** for people to come and “shop” for clothes. The first one will be on Oct. 26.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 1 Sunday, worked at the Food Bank, made 14 visits, taught baptism class, Elder's meeting, Men's fellowship and worked at Christian Café. Led the stewardship class. Chad will take vacation from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – Bobby has ordered them.

Streamline committees – Needs to be done before the nominations for next year.

Organ – Organ is in the sanctuary but a key piece is missing. Tony will address the issue.

Procedure for becoming an open and affirming church must be followed. Eighty-five percent or more of the congregation must agree. We must write a statement representing what our church stands for.

Alarm – At the present time the office is the only room alarmed.

New Building – possible new buildings that have been explored are P,G & E building, Rite Aide, Sandy's Furniture all are too expensive. We would like to let the congregation know that we continue to look and are not giving up.

Building Committee – Jordan was added to the building committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Nov. 24 to Dec. 1 is the Thompson's vacation. During that time we will need to replace Joey for building clean-up. Also for working the sound system for Sunday, Nov. 30.

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.

The board agreed to honor the \$900 bid Chad got for the pruning of the three trees on the side of the church. Chad will check on the price to work on the parsonage trees.

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

Chad wanted to give a heads up to the nominating committee who will begin meeting after committees are streamlined.

Lisa closed the meeting with prayer at 12:50 p.m.

Next Board Meeting November 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Join us in December at First Christian Church, Handford as we join hands in supporting their new pastor, Rev Dr Petreza Newton .

DECEMBER 7, 2025

505 W Cameron St, Handord, CA 93230

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 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) 10:30AM

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)



NUMBERS FOR OCTOBER 2025

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

05: 44
12: 42

19: 31
26: 41



GIVING

General Fund: \$5,279.48

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.)

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.

Thank you for your faithful support of our ministry in Selma through time, talent, and treasure!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 CCC Rehearsal 10:30 AM
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	3	4	5 Choir Rehearsal 6 PM	6 4 PM Bible Study	7	8 Men's Breakfast 9 AM Esther Group 9:30 AM CCC Rehearsal 10 AM
9 Fall Choir Concert 2:30 PM	10 Food Bank 8 AM	11 Veterans Day Miriam Group 9:30 AM	12 Choir Rehearsal 6 PM	13 4 PM Bible Study	14	15 CCC Rehearsal 10 AM
16	17 Caller Submissions Due	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 6 PM	20 4 PM Bible Study	21	22 CCC Rehearsal 10 AM
23	24 Food Bank 8 AM	25	26	27	28	29 CCC Rehearsal 10 AM
30						

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November

- 01: Marsha Staley
- 11: Bob & Linda Berry '61
Mary Beth Muro
- 12: Hector Hernandez
Jordan Williams
- 13: Laith Guzman
- 14: Cora Fluker-Pulley
- 15: Dave Highbaugh
- 16: Karley Lassley
- 17: Norah DeBaets
- 19: Noah Thompson
- 20: Ken Armstrong
- 21: Hector Hernandez & Cindy Jurado-Hernandez '15
Marshall Ovalle
- 25: Gary Woods
Alicia Palomino
- 27: Annie DeBaets
- 29: Estella Williams-Ruiz



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

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

PRESIDER

- 02: Alan Langstraat
- 09: Pat Adams
- 16: Marsha Staley
- 23: Jessica Williams
- 30: Jennifer Earle



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 02: Jane Ono & Pat Adams
- 09: John Terry & Alan Langstraat
- 16: Jordan Williams & Pat Adams
- 23: Alan Langstraat & John Terry
- 30: Jane Ono & Charlotte Thompson



DEACONS

- 02: Marsha Staley, Laura Thornburg, Will Thompson
- 09: Makayla Sierra, Clemente Gonzalez, Jennifer Stellpflug
- 16: Kathleen Schales, Karen Blanchard, Tina Ritchie
- 23: Gary Schales, Lisa Piper, Liz Martinez
- 30: Laura Thornburg, Will Thompson, Marsha Staley

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 02: Leah Torosian, Samantha & Jennifer Stellpflug
- 09: Lisa Piper, Tiffany Piper
- 16: Kathleen Schales, Zoe Thompson
- 23: Laurie Fitzgerald
- 30: Kathleen Schales

