

October 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,

It's October!

I really enjoy October; it's a wonderful time

when the weather cools down and many exciting activities take place. This month, we're looking forward to the Blessing of the Animals, a Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser, Men's and Women's Retreats, The Band Review, trick-or-treating, and celebrating the shorter days with Halloween-themed donuts from Dunkin' Donuts or a Pumpkin Spice Latte from Starbucks! At church, we also kick off our annual Stewardship Campaign, with this year's theme being "LOVE LIKE JESUS." Throughout October, we will hear from inspiring speakers like Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum on October 5th, Rev. Vickie Firch on October 12th, Rev. Sophia Jackson on October 19th, and Cody Fedor on October 26th.

Jesus' love was warm, giving, and always focused on others. He welcomed strangers, cared for the needy, healed the hurting, and sacrificed himself for the whole world. As His followers, we're inspired to live, serve, and give with that same kind of love. Stewardship goes beyond simply providing financial support; it's a heartfelt spiritual practice rooted in gratitude and generosity. When we share our time, talents, and resources, we participate in Christ's work and demonstrate God's love in action. Together, we can build a church that truly reflects Jesus' heart, a welcoming, compassionate, and generous place for everyone.

In this way, we continue a legacy of stewardship that has nourished our community and will continue to do so far into the future, enriching the lives of many. Let's thoughtfully consider how we can contribute. Perhaps we can give a little more by volunteering as a greeter, assisting at the Food Bank, or even operating the soundboard. Every little bit makes a difference! What are ways we can give, whether through our money, time, or talents? As we prepare to "Love Like Jesus" during this stewardship month, may we reflect on how we, as members of First Christian Church, use our time, talents, or treasures to bring about God's Kingdom here and now in our church, community, and around the world.

~Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

October 2025

Chad is doing another round of baptism class. There are three girls in this class. One of them chose me as their Christian Friend. I love that she sees Jesus in me, or maybe just thinks I'm cool, but either way, I'm honored! But that means I need to reevaluate. I have fresh eyes watching me! I mean, I'm usually pretty good about watching how I speak to people, being helpful, and making sure I'm being kind, but there's something about knowing someone is actively watching me as an example that makes me feel the need to straighten up. In James 3:1-2, it says, "Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life." I agreed to be her Christian Friend, so I need to make sure I'm doing my best to follow God so she does too. If you have questions about being baptized, you can talk to Pastor Chad about joining baptism class.

In His Service,

Charlotte & Leah, youth and young adult co-directors

Calendar:

Regular meetings for junior high and high school kids: Sundays at 6pm at the Langstraat/Thompson home

We will be having a lock-in soon, and we're talking about going to Hobb's Grove. Dates TBA.

Nov 7-8-9 is Fall Fest in Pacific Grove. Visit CCNCN.org to register.

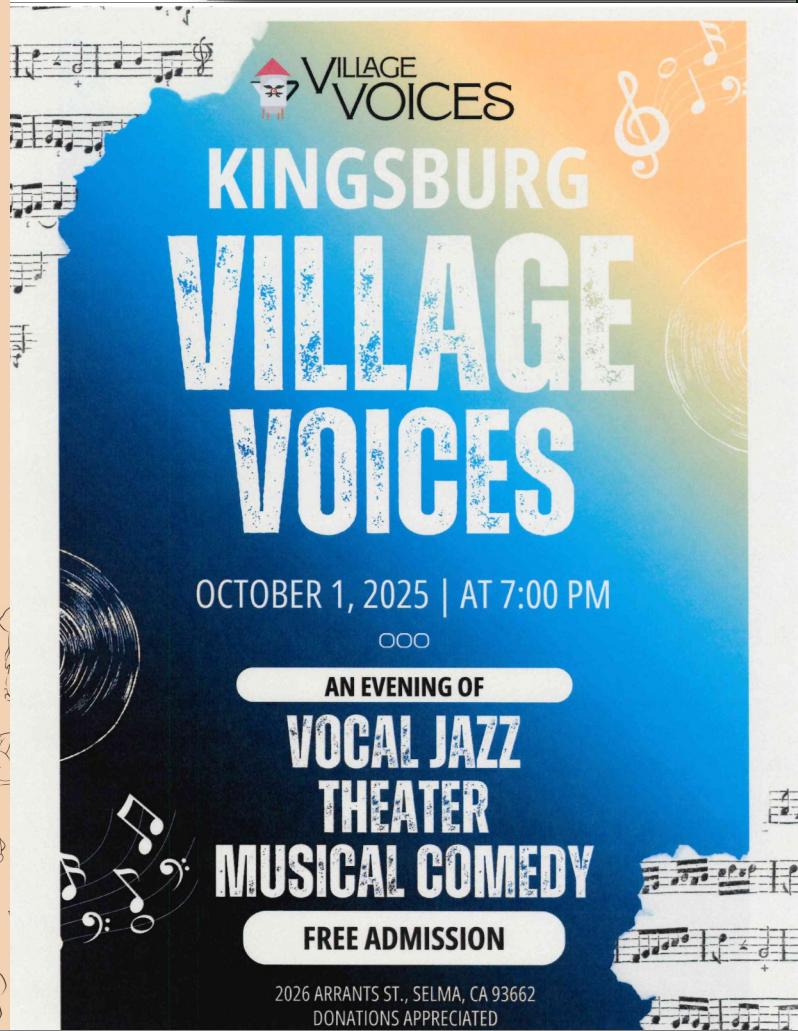


First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Selma, California

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 4, 2025

1:30 PM



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.

Jane is asking for prayer for a co-worker of her friend, Parveen. The co-worker's daughter-in-law, **Courtney**, is having her baby at 5 months due to complications. They are prepping her for a C section. Please pray for protection over both mom and baby, and for God's presence to surround the family.

Colt and Nikki Mecham's son, baby **Conway**, is still fighting for life. He was on our Prayer Chain a few weeks ago. He has now been diagnosed with a rare immune disorder (SCID) and will need a bone marrow transplant. Please lift him and his family in prayer for strength, healing, and hope.

Our church bookkeeper, **Lorraine**, is requesting prayer. Pastor Chad shared that she is being laid off from her job due to budget cuts. Please pray for peace, provision, and new opportunities.

Betty Baker fell in her room at Bethel Home yesterday and was taken to Fresno Community Hospital. She spent last night in the emergency room, but has now been moved to room 241 bed A. The Doctor said there are no fractures and no concussion, but they want to watch her kidneys and dehydration. Pray for her healing and strength.

Please pray for **Janice Pennington**, Kaci Pennington/Miller's mom. She had a heart attack in August and had two stents put in. She has gone downhill significantly since. Now she has a hiatal hernia, which is very dangerous and serious but she isn't a candidate for surgery. She also has a very serious UTI and they were running cultures to check for sepsis. Scans have been done to check for developing pneumonia. Please pray for wisdom for her doctors, for her healing, and for peace for her and her family.



PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

A huge thank you to all who filled the junior worship pantry with snacks! Your generosity is such a blessing to our leaders and kids.

A praise from Liz Thornburg about Manuel's brother, **Richard Martinez**. They tried a medication that seemed to solve the issue, so no surgery at this time. Thank God for answered prayers!

Jennifer Stellpflug, had visited the emergency room, and found out she had clots in her lungs making it hard for her to breath. She has since been put on blood thinners and is doing well, thank you all for your continued prayers during this time.



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 Vacaville

66 Vine St, Vacaville, CA 95688

Rev. Teri Baird



First Friendship Baptist Church of Selma

2606 Shaft St, Selma, CA 93662

Pastor Melvin R. Whittle



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
- **Baptism Class:** Sundays @ 2:00 PM
- **Village Voices Concert:** Wednesday, October 1st @ 7 PM
- **Blessing of the Animals:** Saturday, October 4th @ 1:30 PM
- **Worlds Communion Day:** Sunday, October 5th all day
- **Community Choir Rehearsal:** Saturday, October 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th @ 10:30 AM
- **Elders' Meeting:** Sunday, October 5th after worship
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

Esther Group: Saturday, October 11th @ 9:30 AM at

Miriam Group: Saturday, October 14th @ 9:30 AM at Vonnie Murray's

- **Spaghetti Luncheon:** Friday, October 17th @ 11 AM–1 PM
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, October 18th @ 9:00 AM at Legends
- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, October 19th after worship
- **Consecration Luncheon:** Sunday, October 26th @ 11:45 AM



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

September 21, 2025

Present were Yolanda Gonzalez, Jane Ono, Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Jennifer Earle, Leah Torosian, Omar Ruiz, Kathleen Schales, Lisa Piper, Charlotte Thompson, Laurie Fitzgerald, Tony Imperatrice, and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 11:52 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

Minutes – Reading of the minutes was tabled until the October meeting.

Financial Report – Jennifer reviewed the budget. Pat moved to accept the report as presented. Charlotte seconded, motion passed.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – Updated the web site. Ali Ruiz will help with the social media. Made video for the Soiree.

Education – Junior Worship's building project has begun and children are enjoying it.

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – Would like people to make bread for World Communion Day. Planning for Advent.

Property – Joey and Chad replaced two more ballasts. Changed filters in downstairs unit. Office is newly painted.

Stewardship and Outreach – Soiree is Sept. 26. Preparing for stewardship campaign in October.

Tech – Looking for a new case for the computer. Plan to update computer connectors.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

Chi Rho will begin meeting again after a short break for the play. Young Adults are going to set up a Comfort Closet for people to come and "shop" for clothes. They will purchase hanging racks and are asking for donations of clothing. The first one will be on Oct. 26.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 Sundays, worked at the Food Bank, made 14 visits, taught baptism class, Elder's meeting, Men's fellowship and worked at Christian Café. Chad would like for us to continue our quest to becoming an open and affirming congregation. Chad will take vacation from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Private Property church sign – Bobby still working on it. Chad will connect with Bobby before next meeting.

Streamline committees – tabled

Organ – Tony presented our options for getting a digital Organ that can be used now and then moved when we relocate.

There is an opportunity for us to purchase a digital organ for \$8,000. We would supply a new speaker system to the seller and handle the moving of the organ. After much discussion Jennifer moved that we purchase the digital organ using the following funds: Money from an anonymous donor, the organ fund, building maintenance funds, and the memorial funds for Stan Riggs and Hugh Adams. Leah seconded, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alarm system needs work. Pat moved that Chad have the authority to research the problems and seek solutions to the problems. Jennifer seconded, motion carried.

Possible new building ideas – There is property available at Whitson and North. The relocation committee of Chad, Leah, and Jennifer added Jane as their Chairman and they will research more and report at October meeting.

Yolanda closed meeting with prayer at 12:57 p.m.

Next Board Meeting October 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

Stewardship Month 2025



Love Like Jesus

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.

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

NUMBERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

07: 39	21: 43
14: 37	28: 44



GIVING

General Fund: \$4,710.07

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!**

October 2025 Stewardship Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Village Voices Concert 7 PM	2 4 PM Bible Study	3	4 10:30 AM Community Choir Rehearsal Blessing of the Animals 1:30 PM
5 World Communion Day 11:45 AM Elders' Meeting	6	7 9:30 AM Miriam Group	8	9 4 PM Bible Study	10	11 9:30 AM Esther Group Choir Rehearsal
12	13 8 AM Food Bank	14	15	16 4 PM Bible Study	17 11AM-1PM Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser	18 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Men's Devotional 9 AM
19 Board Meeting 11:45 AM	20 Caller Submissions Due	21	22	23 4 PM Bible Study	24	25 Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM
26 Consecration Luncheon 11:45 AM	27 8 AM Food Bank	28	29	30 4 PM Bible Study	31	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October

- 01: Anthony Imperatrice
- 02: Katie Schales
- 06: Jennifer Stellpflug
- 08: Carole Jordan
- 10: Preston Ward
- 12: Peggy Chadsey
- 15: Mathew & Cora Pulley '20
- 16: Vonnie Murray
- 21: Joseph Camaquin-Vigil
- 22: Clemente Gonzalez
- 23: Laura Thornburg
- 27: Vicky Armstrong
- Christan Gutierrez



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

SERVING IN OCTOBER

PRESIDER

- 05: Janice Baker
- 12: Alan Langstraat
- 19: Karen Blanchard
- 26: Liz Martinez



SCRIPTURE

COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 05: Alan Langstraat & Pat Adams
- 12: John Terry & Jane Ono
- 19: Charlotte Thompson & Jordan Williams
- 26: Pat Adams & John Terry



DEACONS

- 05: Tina Ritchie, Clemente Gonzalez, Makayla Sierra
- 12: Jennifer Stellpflug, Karen Blanchard, Kathleen Schales
- 19: Liz Martinez, Laura Thornburg, Gary Schales
- 26: Marsha Staley, Lisa Piper, Clemente Gonzalez

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 05: Laura Thornburg, Alicia Palomino, Liz Martinez
- 12: Lisa Piper, Tiffany Piper
- 19: Kathleen Schales, Zoe Thompson
- 26: Karen Blanchard, Laurie Fitzgerald

