

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,

“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9). God is speaking to Joshua after the death of Moses. Can you imagine, Moses, the great leader who led Israel out of Egypt and wandered around the dessert for forty years, has just passed away and Joshua will take up the leadership mantle? What thoughts and feelings were running through his mind? Then God speaks to Joshua and tells him be strong and don’t be afraid, because He is with him. In the first chapter of Joshua, God tells him to be “strong and courageous” three times and “don’t fear” twice. It seems to me that Joshua was afraid; maybe he even had his doubts. However, it was going to be okay because God was with him. Maybe, just maybe, we need to hear these words spoken to us today, “Don’t be afraid, and be courageous, because I am with you.” Maybe we need to hear it because we’ve lost our job, or because we are having health problems, or we have suffered loss of a friend or loved one, or we are in a discernment process for next steps, or we have been devastated by the storms of life. It could even be when we turn on the news and are disheartened by what we see and hear. It could be taking a step of faith that pushes us beyond what is comfortable. Whatever it is, we each face circumstances where we are afraid and have our doubts. I hope that, like Joshua, we will hear these words spoken to us to be strong and courageous and know that God is with us wherever we go!

Pastor Chad

Dear Youth and Church Family,

Have you ever had moments where you can't sleep? This occurred just last night. When this happens, I do one of two things: I read, or I pray. Last night I felt that I needed to pray. As I was praying, it felt that God was speaking to me saying, "You have many things to do and many things going on. In the midst of all these things, don't forget to take time to rest and to stay connected to me." I was in shock, because the reality was that the more I had on my to-do-list, the less time I took for self-care, and more importantly, the less time I spent with God. I was reminded of how Jesus would go away from the crowds and the noise and spend time in prayer. If Jesus needed to do it, what makes me think that I can get away with not doing it? My power is not enough, I need to stay connected to the power source that keeps me charged. I believe that it is a reminder to us all! No matter how busy our lives get, self-care is important and what is even more important is keeping connected to God through devotions, prayer, and meditation; this list is not all encompassing. We all have moments where we have too much on our plates. During these times we need to intentionally create space for self-care and space to stay connected to God. We are all different so if morning doesn't work for you find a time that does, but just do it.



We are headed into summer, and camp at the Community of the Great Commission is right around the corner. Camp registrations are due May 25th. Young Adult/Adult Camp (ages 18 and up) is June 8-11. Junior camp (completed 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades) is June 18-22. Chi Rho camp (completed 6th, 7th, and 8th grades) is June 18-24. JOY camp is (completed K, 1st, and 2nd grades and must have a Grandparent or other adult companion) is June 24-26. CYF camp (completed 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th) is June 25-July 1. The theme for camp this year is "This is Our Prayer." If you would like to go, please talk to me and we will find a way to get you to camp.

In Christ's service,
Chad Thompson
559-356-0080
ctsquared@msn.com

Calendar:

- May 4, 3:30 pm: CYF/Chi Rho @ the church
- May 13, 9:00am: Men's Ministry Breakfast
- May 18, 3:30 pm: CYF/Chi Rho @ the church
- May 20, 11:00 am: Mini golf @ Blackbeard's
- May 21, 7:00 pm: Young Adult Group @ our house
- May 25, 3:30 pm: CYF/Chi Rho @ the church
- May 27, 8:00 am: Volunteer @ the Animal Shelter
- May 27, 7:00 pm: Movie night on the church lawn
- May 28, 5:00 pm: Young Adult Group @ our house

Celebration of Life
Jason Torosian
Saturday, May 6, 2023
11:00 AM
(Reception to follow)

When a boring summer seems inevitable...



Friends & Fun & Fabulous Staff! Interactive Spiritual Exploration



Community of the Great Commission

SUMMER CAMP

- June 8-11 Adult camp (ages 18+)
- June 18-22 Junior camp (entering 4th-6th grades)
- June 18-24 Chi Rho camp (entering 7th-9th grades)
- June 24-26 J.O.Y. camp (entering K-3rd grades, accompanied by an adult)
- June 25-July 1 CYF camp (entering 10th-12th, including graduated seniors)

Mark your calendars today!
For more info, go online to:
https://ccncn.org/summer_camps.php



PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

PRAYER CHAIN: Please send prayer requests and praises to **Jennifer Earle**, 559-896-2358 or jen4earle@gmail.com

Jennifer is out of town May 1st - 10th.
Please send any prayer requests and praises to
Jane Ono (janeono3@gmail.com) or
Janice Baker (janbaker3@sbcglobal.net).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Teresa Keck, Liz Martinez and Jessica Williams have all tested positive for COVID. Please pray that their cases are light and short.

Abel Sandoval's brother-in-law was taken to the hospital due to pain, He asks I for ongoing prayers for his sister, brother-in-law, their children.

Jennifer Earle and Marsha Staley are leaving for Greece. Pray for traveling mercies for all 10 of the family who are going. They will return on May 10th. If you have prayer concerns while I am gone contact Jane Ono or Janice Baker.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

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

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the hugs, the cards, the words of comfort, and your loving support as we celebrated the life of our Mom/Grandma (Placida Basque). We appreciated every bit of it and we are so honored to call you our family.

Vivian Abella and Jordan & Jessica Williams

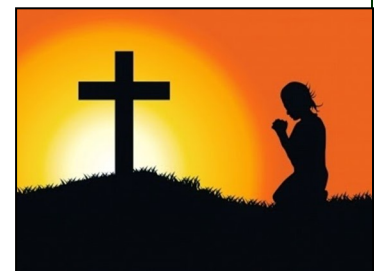
A very special thank you goes out to my church family, and especially my Junior Worship kids, for remembering, and celebrating my birthday!

Unfortunately, celebration was immediately followed by prayers and condolences for my mother, Bonnie Murray's unexpected death. As most of you know, our family has suffered many losses in the past five years: both of my parents and both of Gary's parents, as well as my grandfather.

Your prayers gave me strength and endurance through God, and a comfort we all very much needed. You are all our beautiful friends in Christ and we are forever grateful for you in our lives.

May God shower you with Spring blessings.

**Kathleen Schales
and the Schales/Murray/
Sumpter families**



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

\$0.00 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

\$155.23 raised out of \$500.00

Thank you so much for your faithful and generous support!
(Funds updated as of 4/29/2023 and do not include expenses incurred.)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Selma, California

Board Minutes
Sunday, April 23, 2023

Members Present: Yolanda Gonzalez, Jane Ono, Marsha Staley, Rev. Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Laurie Fitzgerald, Jennifer Earle, Cora Fluker.

Guests in attendance: Abel Sandoval, Joseph Avalos, Leah Torosian, Jennifer Stellpflug, Samantha Stellpflug.

Meeting began at 11:44 AM. Chairperson Jane Ono lit the Christ Candle; all read Mission and Vision statements and Core Values and corresponding Scripture; and Jane opened with prayer.

Minutes from March meeting were read. Jennifer Earle moved to approve the minutes as presented. Marsha Staley seconded. All approved.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS: Website being updated with a new look

EDUCATION: No report.

FELLOWSHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

-Because Pentecost is on Memorial Day Weekend, we will be observing and celebrating it on June 4th instead.

-Lent season went well, theme was consistent throughout season.

PROPERTY: Chad and Joey fixed sprinklers. New gardener excited to work with us.

STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH:

-“Taco Night” fundraiser planned for end of May.

-Thinking ahead to Stewardship Month theme.

-Reminded and encouraged to keep in mind 2023 Theme of “Connexion” and be aware of how any of our activities help us connect to each other, our community, and with God.

TECHNOLOGY: New equipment was purchased and donated. Newer equipment will be purchased as time goes on to continually update/upgrade and improve sound in worship and stream.

FINANCE REPORT

We are doing better with PG&E bills. Still need to continue being aware of making sure saving energy where we can.

PASTOR’S REPORT

-Pastor Chad met with Vivian/Jessica/Jordan, Kathleen, and Leah for Celebration of Life services. Because of all the losses we have been experiencing, he would like to offer Bible studies and a support group around grief.

-Chad meets with Pastor Josue monthly to check in and pray for our churches.

-Made visits, including with Maria Tafoya.

-On rotation to deliver invocation at City Hall meetings.

-Chad would also like to do “Lunches with the Pastor” again to stay connected and have conversations with congregants about the church.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT REPORT

- Recently had a movie night with groups.
- Wanting to plan a trip to Disneyland.
- Wanting to work on plans to go to Mexico to help build houses next year
(Open to all church members as well)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REINVIGORATING CHURCH:

Marsha had an idea to add to Chad's idea of Grief Support Group/Bible Studies other issues that people struggle with (e.g., dementia...)

PROJECTS:

- Chad will make forward movement with adding lights to ramp side of the building as well as a light above the steps leading to the sanctuary doors.
- Jordan will be working with Michael to discuss additional speakers in the sanctuary, as it still hard to hear at certain moments during in-person worship.

AB-506: Paperwork is done and submitted!

LIFEGROUPS: Chad will continue working on this.

NEW BUSINESS

BBNBTL: After Chad suggested that the church have a booth to have presence at upcoming block parties, a good and passionate discussion ensued with strong ideas for wanting to have events within neighborhoods that need to see the support we as a church/community want to give.

ACCESSIBILITY TALKS: Chad shared that it is time that we as a church need to have complete and honest discussions followed by actions in regards to the accessibility issues in our current building. We must explore options (e.g., retrofit current building, stay and rebuild current building, relocate and rent a space, relocate and build, etc.) and set dates to have congregation have open conversation about what we need to do and make a decision. Leah Torosian shared helpful insight as someone who has experience and knowledge in accessibility.

The board is encouraged to be in deep prayer before our next meeting so we can continue the conversation.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Yolanda's sister and brother-in-law
- Maria Tafoya
- Jane's Granddaughter
- Gary Ono
- Jordan's energy as he continues to have a lot of gigs

Jane closed in prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, May 21st

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Williams, substitute secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pizza Lunch - Sunday, May 7, after worship

As a “thank you” for providing food for the food drive, the church is providing pizza for the congregation. Come and fellowship with food!!!

Elders’ Meeting - Sunday, May 7, after worship

(Grab pizza before heading to the meeting)

Mother’s Day - Sunday, May 14 @ 10:30 AM

Join us in worship as we celebrate our mothers and mother-like figures in our lives.



Board Meeting - Sunday, May 21, after worship

Taco Night Fundraiser on the Lawn

Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Because **Pentecost** is during Memorial Day weekend (May 28th), we will be observing the celebration on **June 4th**.



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.



MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Friendship Day	6 11a Celebration of Life: Jason Torosian
7 Elders Meeting	8 8a Extending Hands Ministries Food Pantry 8a	9	10	11	12	13 930a Esther Group
14 Mother's Day Spiritual Growth	15 Caller Submissions Due	16 930a Miriam Group	17	18	19	20
21 Board Meeting	22 8a Extending Hands Ministries Food Pantry	23 6p Taco Tuesday Fundraiser	24	25	26	27
28 PENTECOST	29 Memorial Day	30	31		 Church Calendar	

MAY

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 01: Diane Woolwine
- 03: Alex & Patrice Dmitriev '97
- 10: Estefania Gonzalez
- 12: Gary Schales
- 19: Anna Armstrong
- 22: Tiffany Piper
- 28: Dorothy Babiarz
- 29: Sarah Dmitriev
Caden Linhoff



SERVING IN MAY 2023



PRESIDER

- 7. Jordan Williams
- 14. Laura Thornburg
- 21. Alan Langstraat
- 28. Karen Blanchard

SCRIPTURE

- Psalm 31:1-5; 15-16
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Acts 7:55-60
- Matthew 28:16-20

JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 7. Liz Thornburg
- 14. Laurie Fitzgerald
- 21. Karen Blanchard
- 28. Jane Ono



COMMUNION ELDER

- 7. Leah Torosian
- 14. Jordan Williams
- 21. Jane Ono
- 28. Charlotte Thompson



APRIL 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

02. 53 (worship)	09. 72	23. 48
63 (Cantata)	16. 45	30. 32

THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



EDITION #LXVII
May 2023

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

Selma, CA 93662

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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