

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	Charlotte Thompson &Leah Torosian
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	Tiffany Piper
Director of Children's Ministries	Kathleen Schales

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

November is here! It is one of my favorite times of the year. In our house this is a time to gather together and enjoy a wonderful meal and to express our gratitude and thankfulness. As I reflected over the last few years of Thanksgiving, the sermon series for November, "Gratitude: Living a Life of Thanksgiving" just kind of wrote itself. As we approach Thanksgiving, it is the perfect time to reflect on living our lives with intention by being grateful and thankful. Gratitude is more than just a feeling, it is a way of life that can completely transform the way we relate to God and to one another. The Bible is filled with verses that encourage us to cultivate gratitude. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (AMP) we are reminded, "In every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Gratitude is, in essence, an act of worship. We recognize how God has been working in and through our lives, and respond with worship to who God is and that God is worthy.

To live a life of thanksgiving involves making gratitude a daily practice. We incorporate gratitude into every aspect of our lives. This could be starting the day off with a thankful heart because it is a new day and it is a gift that has been given to us. It could be a moment that we pause during the day to appreciate the many blessings that often go unnoticed. It could be a warm smile or a helping hand or even a beautiful sunrise. When we live out thankfulness and gratitude, we are recognizing God's presence in our lives. Sometimes this is hard; we are so busy or have so many demands on our time that we forget to live out our thankfulness. My challenge to you this season is to be intentional about being thankful and grateful. What if we lived out our thankfulness? Imagine the impact we could have on those around us. We could show kindness to someone who is having a hard day. We could share our resources with someone who is struggling with food shortage. What if we were a shoulder for someone to cry on? What if we encouraged someone who is having a difficult day? All because we lived out our thankfulness for all the blessings we have received and we want to pass them on to others.

This is the whole point of this sermon series, that we live our lives being thankful, and recognizing the power that thankfulness and gratitude can make in our own lives and how that can affect those around us. My challenge to you is that you will not only intentionally be thankful throughout November but that you will be thankful every day of your life. Make a list of what you are thankful for and keep that list so that when bad things happen in your life, you can look back at your list and be reminded of your many blessings. Gratitude is a powerful force that can enrich each of us. It does not happen once a year, but is a way of living. Let us strive to cultivate a spirit of thanksgiving within our church and in our individual lives. By doing so, we honor God and inspire one another to embrace gratitude as a way of living. May it be so today and throughout our lives!

-Pastor Chad

Dear Church Family,

November 2023



This past month, we've been talking about being good stewards of the gifts God has given us. In the young adult group, we've been discussing the financial side of stewardship: tithing, paying bills, keeping track of our money instead of just spending until we can't anymore. I've also been attending the stewardship study on Monday nights. Bruce Barkhauer has some really deep things to say about stewardship. There were two things that stuck out to me. The very first day is titled "Stewardship Starts with WOW!" He was talking about our attitude toward giving. We need to look at stewardship as an opportunity instead of an obligation. The other thing that stuck out is very similar. It came up in our conversation during week 3. We were talking about giving (again) and I brought up Day One. I said that we need to not be thinking, "ugh. I have to give again." Pat Adams said, "I get to give!" That little word makes all the difference! We get to show people who God is and how much He loves them! I hope you remember that you get to share God's love and His resources with the people and community around you, and that you do it with love and kindness.

In Christ's Service, Charlotte & Leah, youth sponsors

Calendar:

November 5, 12, 19, 26: youth and young adults, 7pm at the Thompsons'.

In November and December, we'll be working on life skills: cooking, cleaning, sewing, etc.

Thanksgiving dinner: TBD

BOARD MEETING

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA

OCTOBER 15, 2023

Present were Jane Ono, Jennifer Earle, Laurie Fitzgerald, Charlotte Thompson, Chad Thompson, Michael Gutierrez, Andrew Guzman, Jordan Williams, Pat Adams.

Chairperson Jane opened the meeting at 11:58 by lighting the Christ candle. All present read the mission and vision statements and the scripture aloud. Jane prayed. Chad led a devotional.

Minutes from September were approved on a motion by Jennifer and a second by Andrew. Motion carried.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communication – Website has been updated.

Education

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth – will clean up and reorganize upstairs cubby.

Property – Chad and Joey washed AC.

Stewardship and Outreach – Study groups are going well. Planning Consecration Sunday Luncheon.

Technology – There needs to be an official inventory of equipment. Techs would like at least a week's notice before a planned event.

FINANCE REPORT

Jennifer presented the printed financial report.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Visitations, counseling, asked to officiate at funeral of community member, leading stewardship studies, working on bible study and preparing for new grief group. Has attended regional meetings.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Youth will join young adults. Young adults will meet each Sunday. Leadership will focus on life skills for November.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AB-506

All members of the board need to finish their 2 hours of training and show their certificate by the end of 2023.

Updating Policy and Procedure

Updated B Laws were distributed to members to be reviewed. Discussion and a vote to accept or revise will take place at the November Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Demographic Information – Jose Martinez (minister of new church ministry for our region) gave our church a detailed demographic document pertaining to Selma. Chad suggested we form a committee to study the information about Selma. Jennifer suggested each section's information be presented to the board. She offered to present the first section.

REVISION OF EDUCATION TEAM

Kathleen Schales would like to be the Director of Children's Ministries and be just one section of the Education team. After some discussion the board agreed. Kathleen will be the Director of Children's Ministries.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Dr Valles and wife and families

Makayla

Chad closed the meeting with prayer at 12:45 p.m.

Next Board Meeting will be on November 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted

Pat Adams



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.

A friend of Charlotte Thompson's step-dad had a heart attack and is in the hospital. His name is Russ Kulow. Let's pray Russ back to health and surround him with good doctors and nurses. Pray also for his family.

Please pray for Karen and Corena's friend Freida. She is back in the hospital with infection in her leg. Let's surround her with prayer.

Makayla Sierra was in a car accident. She and her passenger are ok, just a few bumps and bruises. She was quite upset after the accident, even the driver of the car she rear ended tried to calm her down. Jessica's car took the worst of the incident. The doctor said nothing is broken but he gave Makayla crutches to take the pressure off. Crutches can be difficult so let's pray that she learns how to use them.

Please pray for Nancy and Joe Bonilla. Nancy was taken to the hospital with a breathing obstruction, but is being placed on comfort care. She seemed to conquer the breathing obstruction only to have a cardiac episode. Her husband Joe needs prayer for comfort and calm - they have been married a very long time.

Also pray for Liz Thornburg Martinez's grandson Morgan. He is going to Stanford Hospital for an intensive bone marrow operation. Someone from his family will need to be with him in the hospital for the next 5 or 6 weeks. Lots of prayer needed for the family, the doctors and all involved.

Please pray for Jim Olinger. James and Corena found him on the floor of his condo. Let's surround Jim, his family and his doctors in prayer.

Thank you so much for your faithful and generous support!
(Funds updated as of 6/30/2023 and do not include expenses incurred.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elders Meeting -

Sunday, November 5th after worship

Board Meeting -

Sunday, November 19th after worship

Men's Ministry Breakfast -

Saturday, November 11th @ 9am at McCoy's

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:

Esther Group -

Saturday, November 11th @ 9:30am at Pat Adams'

Miriam Group -

Tuesday, November 14th @ 9:30am at Marsha Staley's

And now a blurb from our Accessibility Task Force:

Accessibility Task Force Conversations:

In June, the Board appointed a task force to research options regarding the accessibility challenges we are facing with our church building and present the information to the Board.

The options that the team is researching are:

1. **Staying** in our current building.
2. **Renting and Nesting** with another congregation
3. **Purchasing** an available, accessible space.

While these three options seem to be straightforward, they actually branch off into a large number of (creative) possibilities. "What would it look like if.....?" brings long (productive) discussions that are, while exciting, mentally taxing (in a good way)! Please be in continuous prayer for the Task Force in its diligent research and discernment for what the future might look like for our ministry as Selma Disciples. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7th, 2023.

Your Accessibility Task Force:

Michael Gutierrez (chair), Rev. Chad Thompson, Christian Cabral, Jennifer Earle, Yolanda Gonzalez, Tony Imperatrice, Leah Torosian, Charlotte Thompson, Jordan Williams

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

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

.....Young Adult Group (Every Sunday)..... **7pm**

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

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

Tuesday:(No activities).....

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

Thursday:Chi Rho/CYF **3:45pm**

.....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.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	3 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	4 CCC Dress Rehearsal 10a
5 Elders Meeting after worship CCC Concert 2:30p "Blessings & Praise" Young Adults 7p	6 Narcotics Anonymous 7p	7	8	9 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	10 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	11 Men's Breakfast @9:00a @Legends Esther Meeting 9:30a @Pat Adam's
12 Young Adults 7p	13 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p	14 Miriam Group @Marsha's 9:30a	15	16 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	17 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	18
19 Board Meeting after worship Young Adults 7p	20 Narcotics Anonymous 7p	21	22	23 Thanksgiving (The Best Day Ever!!!)	24 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	25
26 Young Adults 7p	27 Extending Hands Ministries 8a Narcotics Anonymous 7p	28	29	30 Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p	1 Alcoholics Anonymous 7p	4  Church Calendar

November

- 0 1: 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: Clarissa Zarate
- 17: Nancy McGuyer
- 19: Dana Orosco
Noah Thompson
- 20: Ken Armstrong
- 21: Hector Hernandez & Cindy Jurado-Hernandez '15
- 22: Alfred Duran
- 25: Gary Woods
Alicia Palomino
- 29: Stella Sienna



SERVING IN

NOVEMBER 2023



PRESIDER	SCRIPTURE
5. Abel Sandoval	Thessalonians 5:18; Luke 17:11-19
12. Jessica Williams	John 12:1-8
19. Leah Torosian	Mark 5:15-20
26. Makayla Sierra	Luke 18:35-43

COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 5. Jennifer Earle & Alan Langstraat
- 12. Charlotte Thompson & Jane Ono
- 19. Jordan Williams & Charlotte Thompson
- 26. Alan Langstraat & Leah Torosian



JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

- 5. Cora Fluker-Pulley & Karen Blanchard
- 12. Kathleen Schales
- 19. Kathleen Schales
- 26. Liz Martinez, Laura Thornburg, Alicia Palomino



OCTOBER 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

1. 42	15. 38	29. 52
8. 39	22. 36	



SELMA AG BOOSTERS

DRIVE-THRU DINNER

\$60

DINNER FOR 4

\$60

3 NOVEMBER, 2023

TRI-TIP, GREEN BEANS, RICE PILAF & DINNER ROLL

AG Alley (off of Wright st.)

Pick up 5:30-7:00pm

Purchase Tickets at:

Selmaagboosters.com

(559) 696-1121



Selma Community Church Choir

BLESSINGS & PRAISE

Fall Concert



Kenneshae Murray, conductor
Jordan Williams, pianist

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 | 2:30 PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
2026 ARRANTS ST., SELMA, CA 93662

www.selmadisiples.com

THE VILLAGE BARN PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS



THE LAST FIVE YEARS

BY JASON ROBERT BROWN
DIRECTED BY ANI MARDEROSIAN

NOVEMBER 2-5

TICKETS AND INFO
THEVILLAGEBARNPLAYHOUSE.COM

FRI & SAT
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WITH LIVE MUSIC,
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FRIDAY NOV. 3

JOIN US FOR A
TALK-BACK WITH
THE ACTORS!

COATS FOR HOPE



SHARE THE WARMTH
Winter Coat Drive

Please consider donating
new/gently used adult
sized winter coats.



Drop off donations to
me personally:
On 11-11-2023
10am- 2pm

Northeast corner of Herndon
& Millburn in Fresno, CA.

OR

Mon thru Fri
Nov 6th - 10th,
9am to 4pm at the
Selma Fire Station
1711 Tucker Street
in Selma, CA.

www.portraitsofhopeministry.com

Selma Community Church Choir

Calling all Choral Singers!
Sing with us this season!

"BLESSINGS AND PRAISE"

Fall Concert

November 5, 2023 @ 2:30 PM

Kenneshae Murray, guest conductor

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"Images of Adoration"

December 10, 2023 @ 2:30 PM



2018 Christmas Cantata

REHEARSALS begin Saturday, 9/30 @ 10:00 AM.

LOCATION: First Christian Church, 2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Send an email to fccselmachoir@gmail.com for more information!



JOIN US FOR OUR HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE ON
11/17/23 FROM 9AM - 6PM & 11/18/23 FROM 9AM-3PM

EVENT INCLUDES:

- ★ SNACKS
- ★ DRINKS
- ★ MUSIC
- ★ RAFFLES



MR. AND MRS. CLAUS
WILL BE JOINING US
ON 11/17/23

★ *SANTA ONLY STOPPING BY ON 11/17/23
FROM 3PM-5PM

*Selma's Christmas Parade,
Santa's Arrival & Holiday Street Faire*
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2, 2023
LINCOLN PARK
5:30P.M. -8:00P.M.
PHOTOS WITH SANTA!
CHRISTMAS PARADE, CRAFTS & FOOD VENDORS
GIFT DRAWING FOR GIRLS AND BOYS!



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THE CALLER

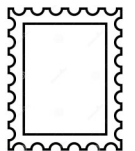
NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



EDITION #LXVII
November 2023

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:

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