

July 2026



THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

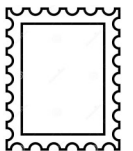
Selma, CA 93662

559-896-2691 ☎ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com

www.facebook.com/selmadisciples

www.youtube.com/selmadisciples



TO:

*As a result of all this, my loved brothers and sisters,
you must stand firm, unshakable, excelling in the
work of the Lord as always, because you know that
your labor isn't going to be for nothing in the Lord.*

1 Corinthians 15:58 (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 John Terry
Children's Ministry Kathleen Schales
Communications Coordinator Leah Torosian &
..... Samantha Stellpflug
Property..... Board
Stewardship & Outreach Jennifer Earle & Jane Ono
Technology Omar Ruiz & Joey Thompson

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

July often marks the midpoint of the year. It offers us a chance to pause and reflect on where we have been and where God may be

leading us next. As I look back on the first half of this year, I am filled with gratitude for the many ways God has been at work among us. I am grateful for worship services that have brought us together in praise and prayer. I am grateful for the friendships that strengthen our church family. I am grateful for those who quietly serve behind the scenes, including those who teach, prepare meals, visit the homebound, lead ministries, and care for our church property. Every act of service matters. Every gift contributes to Christ's ministry.

At the same time, July invites us to look ahead. God is always calling His people forward. Throughout Scripture, we find God inviting ordinary people on extraordinary journeys of faith. Abraham left his homeland. Moses led God's people through the wilderness. The disciples left their nets to follow Jesus. None of them knew exactly what the future held, but they trusted the One who was leading them. That same invitation comes to us today!

As a congregation, we continue to dream about what God has in store for us. We continue to seek new ways to share Christ's love with our community. We continue to pray for wisdom, courage, and faithfulness as we follow God's leading.

Our word for the year is **RESILIENCE**, and resilience is not simply about surviving challenges. It is about moving forward with confidence because we know God is with us. It is about trusting God's promises even when the path ahead is unclear. It is about remaining faithful to the mission God has given us.

In the weeks ahead, I encourage you to pray for our church, invite someone to worship, participate in ministry opportunities, and look for ways to be a blessing to those around you. Small acts of faithfulness often become the seeds of great things that God accomplishes. Thank you for being part of this church family. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your commitment to the work of God's kingdom. I look forward to what God will do in and through us in the months ahead.

~Pastor Chad

Youth & Young Adults

Dear church family, I hope you're all staying cool this summer. Our air conditioner went out for a few days and we are so grateful we could get it fixed!

There are three events coming up that many of our young adults are involved in:

On July 25, we will have another round of our support closet. Preston is currently working on a photo shoot so we can show people the beautiful clothes we have for them. We will also be offering popsicles and ice water to keep them cool while they're "shopping." We've also started a new Instagram page for the closet. You can find us at [selmasupportcloset](#). Just look for this picture



The women's fall retreat is also coming up! The cost is \$350 but that includes two nights and five meals. If you need help with paying, the church and the region have some money available to help.

The women's retreat *is* the same weekend as our 10th anniversary Selma Community Church Choir concert. We will be back in time from the retreat for this celebration!

Stay cool out there!

Love, Charlotte and Leah, youth and young adult co-directors



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Taking a trip this July? Or just hanging out at the local park? Snap a quick photo of your summer adventures and send it to fccselma@sbcglobal.net. We'll feature a collage of our community's summer travels in next month's issue!

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:

Pray for everyone struggling in our current economic situation. It is very tough to continue on when everything seems very grim. Uplift those around you and help where you can, reach out and check on you neighbors, friend, and family.

Please pray for **Micheal Gutierrez**. He has been breaking out in hives. His meds are helping but it's not making things easier during such a busy time of year.

Pray for **Diana Cordero**. She took a test for certification to work at the Dialysis Center. Pray that it all works out how God planned it, and what is right for Diana.

Pray for Marion Clifton's friend, **Carolyn**. She will soon be starting six months of chemotherapy for lymphoma. Please pray for strength and support from those near and far as she goes through this time.

Jessica, Makayla, and Stella's cat, Casper, passed away after struggling with health issues that weren't able to be treated. Jessica is heartbroken. Please pray for all of them, animals are a gift from God, and are so special. It is extremely difficult to lose our fur babies.

Please pray for **Tiffany Piper**. She is at the hospital in Reedley having contractions. They are giving her medication to stop them. She is only 34 weeks. Please pray that she has the care she needs, and the baby.

Heather Chu has put down one of her cat, Kitty. She has been trying to stay strong for her son, **Patrick**. Pray that her son and Heather have strength, and are filled with comfort in this hard time.

Please pray for **Pastor Chad**. He got a call from the knee doctor, they couldn't get him in until August 17. He went in for and appointment and they were able to up his appointment to the end of June. This is amazing, but he still needs prayers that the appointment will give more answers and hopefully send him on the path to recover.

Kathleen is asking for prayer for the woman who was her grandfather's caregiver/special friend at the end of his life, **Lynn Chastain**. She is undergoing her third cochlear implant surgery. It has been a very rough journey for her being deaf from birth. Please pray for her strength and comfort, it is hard to go through this.

Please pray for **Gail Strohl and her family**. Gail lives in Hawaii but is trying to get a job on the mainland in Arizona to be closer to family. She is hoping to fly in. Her mom and dad both suffer from dementia and are in care facilities but her dad had become psychotic with hallucinations and delusions. Her two boys live in Washington and she has so much to deal with. Pray for guidance and light throughout this difficult time.

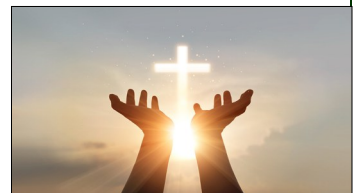
Pray for **Tabby Bailey Shiplee**, originally from Selma, now living in Arkansas. She is daughter-in-law to Karen's Mom's friend, Becky. Tabby had breast cancer and has been having chemotherapy. Her blood pressure and white blood cell count have suddenly dropped and she is in the ICU. Please pray for the doctors and medical staff as they work to improve her condition. Pray for her strength to keep fighting through this.

Please pray for **Sophia Jackson and her sister**. Their mother passed away. Please pray for both of them and their friends and family; give them strength and comfort through this time of grief and loss.

Ross Spiritosanto is the brother of one of Kadi Fitzgerald's Friends. He was at his uncle's funeral and had a heart attack. He needs a quadruple bypass but they aren't sure his body is strong enough. They were running pre-op tests to see if they can do it. All this happened in Seattle, he is from Davis. After testing he was able to get the surgery and it went well. Pray for his full recovery and strength throughout the healing process.

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Praise for **Tiffany Piper** and her new baby. **Theodore** arrived at 2:00 am on Tuesday the 23rd. They are both doing well and are thankful for all of the 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.

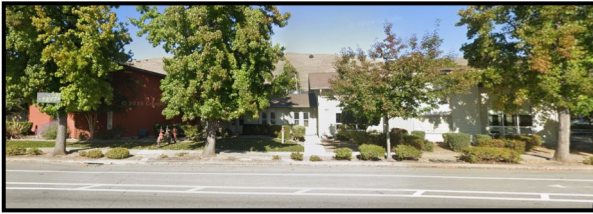
Feel free to send cards with words of encouragement for their members and ministry.

This month:

Niles Discovery Church

36600 Niles Blvd, Fremont, CA 94536

Rev. Jeffery Spencer



New Hope Family Church

2220 Hicks St, Selma, CA 93662

Pastors Louis and Elisa Quintana



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
- **Elder's Meeting:** Sunday, July 5th, after worship ends.
- **Men's Devotional Prayer Breakfast:** Saturday, July 18th @ 9 AM at Denny's
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**

Esther Group: No Esther Group Meeting

Miriam Group: No Miriam Group Meeting

- **Spiritual Growth:** TBA
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, July 19th after worship.

If you would like an announcement in the Caller,
contact the office by the third Monday of the month.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 17, 2026 (No Full Board Meeting In June)

Present were :Yolanda Gonzales, Lisa Piper, Jane Ono, Leah Torosian, Jordan Williams, John Terry, Jennifer Earle, Chad Thompson, Joey Thompson and Pat Adams.

Yolanda opened the meeting at 11:56 by lighting the Christ Candle. All read aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures. Yolanda then prayed.

Minutes – Minutes of the April meeting were read. Jennifer moved to accept the minutes as printed. Leah seconded, motion carried.

Financial Report – Jennifer reviewed the budget and explained that we are not meeting payroll in a timely manner in addition we are unable to put money away for insurance and taxes. Our goal is to find ways to meet our payroll in a timely manner and be able to put money aside for insurances and taxes. We brainstormed some ideas to help make up our shortfall. Members will present our problem to the congregation. We will have another enchilada voucher sale and a yard sale.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Communications – More work on the website to improve and update it.

Education – No report

Property – Fellowship Landing Leak – Andrew has parts for lights but has been unable to do the work yet. Chad repaired the switch by the kitchen.

Stewardship and Outreach – Looking at 8/1 to have a yard sale on the front lawn from 7:00 to 12:00.

Technology – Omar has stepped down. Someone will get the parts from him and have someone else fix the computers. Added extra digital import and export board. Need extra help in the sound booth.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Preached 4 sermons and led 3 Bible studies, worked at the Food Bank, and the Christian Café. Made 7 pastoral visits, attended an Elder's meeting and a board meeting. Chad will have two funerals, camp training and planning meetings, Annual meeting and men's ministries.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT REPORT

Leaders were able to connect with kid's parents. Leaders are going to try some new ideas to better engage the group.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

CRV recycling – Tabled until further notice.

Options for a new worship space – Jordan presented updated options for worship spaces. Nothing was decided.

NEW BUSINESS

Sabbatical for Jordan – The board agreed to give Jordan a sabbatical.

Reception for Pride Service – Reception will be in the hospitality Lounge after the Pride Service on Monday, June 1, 2026. We will have cookies, punch and water.

Letter from Charlotte to the Board – The board members read the letter and tried to address the issues. Hopefully, if we all work together we can get our finances back on track.

Next Board Meeting will be July 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Adams, Board secretary

Stewardship Thoughts

Our Shortfall campaign was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generous spirit of our congregation and the little extra so many gave during June, we raised \$5,016.10. We are grateful for each gift—whether it represented a cup of coffee, a quick meal, or an Amazon click. Thank you for your faithful stewardship, and we encourage you to continue giving as you are able.

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 JUNE 2026

In-Person Attendance

SUN MAY 31	WORSHIP 34
SUN 7	WORSHIP 31
SUN 14	WORSHIP 28
SUN 21	Worship 24
SUN 28	Worship 26

GIVING:

GENERAL FUND: \$ 7,448.95
 2026 MONTHLY GOAL: \$ 8,233.00

(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 Bible Study @ 4 PM	3	
5 Elder's Meeting After Worship	6	7	8	9 Bible Study @ 4 PM	10	11
12	13 Food Bank @ 8 AM	14	15	16 Bible Study @ 4 PM	17	18 Men's Breakfast @ 9AM
19 Board Meeting After Worship	20 Caller Information Due	21	22	23 Bible Study @ 4 PM	24	25
26	27 Food Bank @ 8 AM	28	29	30 Bible Study @ 4PM	31	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

- 04: Gene Duncan
07: Sayd Guzman
Jacob Marquez
13: Omar Ruiz
14: Geneva Torrez
Riesling Fitzgerald
15: Michelle Ritchie
21: Leah Torosian
22: Casey DeBaets
24: Emrys Piper
30: Virgie Cortez
31: Charlotte Chavez



Happy Anniversary

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

SERVING IN JULY

PRESIDER

- 05: Alan Langstraat
12: Marsha Staley
19: Charlotte Thompson
26: Pat Adams

SCRIPTURE

- Romans 7:15-25
Psalm 119:105-112
Psalm 86:11-17
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS

- 05: Leah Torosian & Jennifer Earle
12: Jessica Williams & Charlotte Thompson
19: Jennifer Earle & Pat Adams
26: John Terry & Jennifer Earle



DEACONS

- 05: Karen Blanchard, Brent Burwell, Marsha Staley
12: Brayn DeBaets, Casey DeBaets, Will Thompson
19: Liz Martinez, Makayla Sierra, Kathleen Schales
26: Will Thompson, Tina Ritchie, Zoe Thompson

JUNIOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- 05: No Junior Worship
12: No Junior Worship
19: No Junior Worship
26: No Junior Worship

