

THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



MAY 2024

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

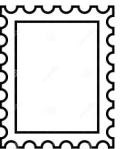
Selma, CA 93662

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

Year of INTENTION

2024

- 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	Jeannette Maldonado
Bookkeeper	Lorraine Adaya
Child Care	Tiffany Piper
Custodian	Josiah Thompson

CHURCH LEADERS

Chair of the Congregation	Jane Ono
Chair of the Deacons	Marsha Staley
Chair of the Elders	John Terry
Children's Ministry	Kathleen Schales
Communications Coordinator	Jordan Williams
Property	Clemente Gonzalez & Andrew Guzman
Stewardship & Outreach	Leah Torosian
Technology	Michael Gutierrez

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church Family,

At the 170th Annual Gathering held last week; the theme was "New Wineskins: Inspiration, Imagination, and Innovation." The keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Kelly Cowell. She challenged us to put "new wine into new wineskins." We are facing challenges in the church that we have not seen before, and to serve our communities, we will need to become more creative in our approach to being the church in our current context. The question posed was, "What new wine (or new ways of being the church) will we pour into new wineskins?" We have seen a change in our culture that has affected our churches. We have seen churches that are struggling financially and numerically. Yet our mission to reach out to our communities and beyond is still our mandate. We have been commanded to reach out and make disciples. To address injustice, to live out the commandment of love, and to disciple others.

With fewer resources, we work to use the resources we have creatively. Maybe it is time that we carry the charge that Jesus tells his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). When we look around at our churches and see fewer in attendance, or we look at our budgets and wonder what is happening, I want to encourage and challenge us to recognize that we hold to the mission passed down to us. When Jesus tells his disciples and ultimately us to go into the world baptizing, making disciples, and teaching them all that Jesus taught, we can either mourn about what we see or recognize that we still have a mission, a mandate to fulfill. Let us pray for the laborers, let us continue our mission, and let us be the church we have been called to be, even if it means that we look for new ways of being the church (new wine) as we face new challenges and have new opportunities to be the church. God is not done working, and thus, we move forward no matter the challenges we face.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come.
We have only today. Let us begin." ~Mother Theresa

Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

There are two things I want to talk about in this edition of the Caller. The first is Young Adult group. Last Sunday at the board meeting, Leah said we're talking about Proverbs and Problems. It made me laugh but it's totally true! As I read the Proverb of the week, the young adults will stop me when something stands out to them. Sometimes, we don't even get to the Proverbs. We've discussed everything from having toxic friends to asking someone out. Please join us every Sunday night at 7pm. We meet at our house (2307 Azalea St, Selma. The NW corner between the high school and Jackson). Not sure you qualify as a young adult? If you're younger than me, you're a young adult.

The second thing I want to talk about is CAMP. When Chad came home from Annual Gathering, he was so excited to tell me that camp is FREE this year! That's super helpful for us because 7 out of 8 in our household are attending camp this year. We would love to have you join us! There is adult camp for anyone over the age of 18 who isn't in high school. That will be June 6-9. Junior camp (coming out of grades 3-4-5) will be June 23-27. Chi Rho (coming out of grades 6-7-8) and CYF (coming out of grades 9-10-11-12) will be June 23-29. Kids coming out of K-1-2 can come to camp with an adult from June 28-30. You can find more details and the registration forms at CCNCN.org. The theme this year is Linked by Love.

Please talk to me or Leah with questions about Young Adults. Chad, Kathleen Schales, and I can answer questions about camp.

In Christ's Service,

Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian

Youth and Young Adult Ministers



Spring Fling Soirée April 12, 2024



"Cabaret in Concert" April 13, 2024



PRAYER PAGE

PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

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



Continued prayers for ...

Bob Berry, Devin Fitzgerald, Duane Geyer, Lisa Luna, & Morgan Thornburg

The **Task Force** and the challenging research they are doing to present the best options possible to the congregation.

Mark Sanchez who recently had heart surgery.

Joan Schlesing who is currently in a rehab facility for a broken leg.

The **brother of Leah Torosian's cousin Marcia**, who made an unexpected recovery after having been in ICU with a not-so-good prognosis. Please keep praying for the family.

Our Community Church Choir will be singing with other choirs from around the U.S. at Carnegie Hall!

Please keep them in your prayers as they travel, rehearse sacred music, and share God's love through "These Ancient Words."

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Leah Torosian had two biopsies which both came back negative (so no breast cancer is present)!



Everyone who helped set up and tear down for our annual Soirée (Jane, Jordan, the Thompsons, Stella, and others!); **"Chef Deaver" and Chef Assistants** for a beautiful spread of hor d'ouerves and desserts; **Jessica, Jayromy, and Friend** for swing dancing entertainment; **Preston Ward** for being our "bartender"; and **Servando Tovar** for opening up Page Funeral Chapel for anyone to have easy access to restrooms.

Ali Ruiz, Jordan Williams, instrumentalists, and vocalists for putting together a fantastic "Cabaret in Concert Program" and the behind the scenes help that made it possible, especially **Michael Gutierrez** and **Josiah Thompson** on tech!

There was a generous donation to our Regional Church for camp, allowing all camp registrations for this year to be paid for! Take advantage and sign up!

PRAYING FOR FELLOW DISCIPLES

Let us pray for our sister churches in our Region:
for their vitality and the mission God has called them to do.

This month:

First Christian Church, Chico

295 E. Washington Ave Chico, CA 95926

Rev. Jesse Kearns, senior pastor



BOARD MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA
April 21, 2024

Present were Jane Ono, Jennifer Earle, Kathleen Schales, Leah Torosian, Charlotte Thompson, Yolanda Gonzalez, Laurie Fitzgerald, Chad Thompson, Jordan Williams, Marsha Staley, Michael Gutierrez, Teresa Keck.

Jane opened the meeting at 11:58 a.m. She lit the Christ candle, read Mission and Vision Statements and scriptures, then prayed.
Yolanda read a devotion.

Marsha moved to approve minutes from March. Teresa seconded, Board approved.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. Communication — Web site in progress.
2. Education — going well.
3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth — planning Mother's Day breakfast and Father's Day lunch.
4. Property — Chad reported people no longer staying on property since incident when trash spread around and church tagged.
5. Stewardship and Outreach — upcoming fundraiser at the Habit.
6. Technology — Michael reported we need to decide what is expected of Tech and address scheduling.

FINANCE REPORT — not available.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Sermons, grief group, baptisms, meetings, Annual Gathering.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

Small but active group.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Lifegroups — touched on in sermon.
2. Updating Policy and Procedures — completed except for vote.
3. TaskForce — meeting soon.
4. New Bookkeeper hired.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Camp — free this year.
2. Meetings — not everyone can arrive on time because of multiple duties.

Prayer Concerns

Continue prayers for those who are ill or undergoing tests or procedures.

Chad closed with prayer at 12:40 p.m.

Next Board Meeting on May 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Keck
Board Secretary

MULTI-REGIONAL MEN'S RETREAT

JUNE 1 & 2 (SAT & SUN)

Mill Creek Christian Church
1660 "S" Street (corner of Truxtun & "S")
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Rev. Dr. Paul Koch is the Regional Minister of Christian Church of Mid-America (Disciples of Christ) serving congregations in Missouri. Living in Musselfork with his wife Marcia and has three children. He authored *When the Gym Is a Man's Church* (Scholars Press, 2013) and numerous men's group discussion guides, and led weekly men's groups, several annual men's retreats, and youth events in five states.

Scripture: John 6:15 - Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. (NIV)

Theme: Return to the Wild - Honor Where You Are

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Paul Koch,
Regional Minister of
Christian Church of Mid-America
(DOC)

Registration: \$75
<https://ccncn.org/mmr>



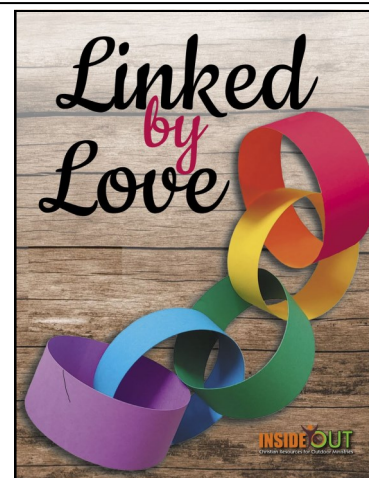
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California Nevada
9300 Alameda Blvd. Suite C 22, San Ramon, CA 94583-4143
(925) 556-9500
A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world



CCNC-N

2024 SUMMER CAMP

Join with Disciples from around the Region for family groups, silly games, crafts, and joyful sounds at Community of the Great Commission!



See dates below for your particular camp.

For more information and to register your camper, go to
https://ccncn.org/Camp_Notes.php

June 06-09 - Adult Camp (completed 9th-12th)
June 23-27 - Junior Camp (completed 3rd-5th grades)
June 23-29 - CHI RHO Camp (completed 6th-8th grades)
June 23-29 - CYF Camp (completed 9th-12th)
June 28-30 - J.O.Y Camp (completed K-2nd grades, accompanied by an adult)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Extending Hand Ministries** gives out food to the public every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
- **Cans for Camp:** We are still accepting cans/bottles to fund our scholarships for future campers
- **Spiritual Growth:** (No meeting in May)
- **Task Force:** (No meeting in May)
- **Choir Resumes!:** Saturday, May 11th at 10:30 AM in the Hospitality Lounge
- **Mother's Day Continental Breakfast:** Sunday, May 12th at 9:00 AM
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP:**
 - Esther Group:** Saturday, May 11th at 9:30 AM (Jennifer Earle's)
 - Miriam Group:** Tuesday, May 14th at 9:30 AM (Josephine Sihota's)
- **Habit Fundraiser:** Tuesday, May 21st from 4:00pm-8:00pm
Plan a night of fellowship with family, friends, fellow church members and help support organizations such as...
Christian Café, Food Pantry, Missionaries, Selma Arts Center, and Selma Cares!
Make sure you have a flyer (digital or hardcopy) when you order!
- **Men's Prayer Devotional Breakfast:** Saturday, May 18th at 9:00 AM (Denny's)
- **Pentecost Sunday:** Sunday, May 19th at 10:30 AM
Make sure to mark your calendars and be with us as we celebrate Pentecost!
Remember to wear **red** for worship.
- **Elders Meeting:** Sunday, May 5th after worship
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday, May 19th after worship
- **Graduation Sunday:** Sunday, June 9th
Do you know anyone who is a soon-to-be graduate? Let the church office know so we can include them in our celebration!



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.**



JOIN THE HABIT BURGER GRILL IN SUPPORT OF

First Christian Church

Date: May 21, 2024 Time: 4:00pm-8:00pm

The Habit Burger Grill will **DONATE 20% OF SALES** from this event to benefit your organization. Simply present printed flyer or show offer on your smart phone to cashier upon ordering.

Support your organization and enjoy:

Award-Winning Flame-Grilled Charburgers

Signature Sandwiches | Fresh Hand-Cut Salads | Delicious Sides
Frozen Shakes & Malts



The Habit Burger
3110 E Floral Ave
Salma, Ca 93662
www.habitburger.com

Giving never tasted so good
MAKE IT A HABIT



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday: Worship Service **10:30AM**
..... Iglesia DC **4:30 PM & 6 PM**
..... Young Adult Group **7 PM**
Monday:..... Iglesia DC Food Distribution **3 PM**
..... Narcotics Anonymous **7 PM**
Tuesday:..... (No activities).....
Wednesday:... Choir Rehearsal (intermittently)..... **7 PM**
Thursday:..... Bible Study (Pastor's Office)..... **10AM**
..... Iglesia DC **6 PM**
Friday:..... Iglesia DC Food Distribution **3 PM**
..... Alcoholics Anonymous..... **7 PM**
Saturday:..... Community Choir (intermittently) .. **10:30AM**

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 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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5 10:30a Worship	6 7p Narcotics Anon	7	8	9 10a Bible Study (office)	10 7p Alcoholics Anon	11 9:30a Esther Group @ Jennifer Earle's 10:30a Choir
12 Mother's Day 9a Breakfast 10:30a Worship	13 8a Extending Hands Ministries Food Pantry 7p Narcotics Anon	14 9:30a Miriam Group @ Josephine's	15	16 10a Bible Study (office)	17 7p Alcoholics Anon	18 9a Men's Breakfast @ Denny's 10:30a Choir
19 Pentecost 10:30a Worship 11:45a Board Meeting	20 7p Narcotics Anon	21 Habit Fundraiser 4-8p	22	23 10a Bible Study (office)	24 7p Alcoholics Anon	25
26 10:30a Worship	27 8a Extending Hands Ministries Food Pantry 7p Narcotics Anon	28	29	30 10a Bible Study (office)	31 7p Alcoholics Anon	
Community Choir is in New York						



MAY

- 01: Diane Woolwine
- 12: Gary Schales
- 19: Anna Armstrong
- 22: Tiffany Piper
- 28: Dorothy Babiarz
Kimberly Cervantes
- 29: Caden Linhoff

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

SERVING IN JUNE

PRESIDER	SCRIPTURE
5. Laura T.	John 15:9-17
12. Lisa P.	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
19. Alan L.	Acts 2:1-13
26. Marsha S.	Psalms 29



DEACONS
5. Marsha S., Makayla S. & Lisa P.
12. Cameron W., Jennifer S. & Cora F.
19. Andrew G., Clemente G. & Yolanda G.
26. Lisa P., Gary S. & Makayla S.



COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS
5. John T. & Charlotte T.
12. Pat A. & Jane O.
19. Jennifer E. & John T.
26. Alan L. & Jane O.



JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS
5. Jen S., Sam S., & Leah T.
12. Kathleen S. & Zoe T
19. Laura T. & Alicia P.
26. Laurie F. & Liz M.



APRIL 2024 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)		
07. 32	14. 31	21. 38
28. 35		