

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 was at Annual Gathering a few years ago when I heard these words spoken; it has become a theme for my life, and it goes like this, “We are the people of the Resurrection.” And I believe it was LaTaunya Bynum who said these words. These words speak volumes to us as we face challenges that we never expected. When hope seems diminished, we remember that we are a people of the Resurrection. Good Friday is not the end of the story. The death of Jesus was not the end of the story because Sunday is on the way. And because of the Resurrection, we have hope. May we shine the light of hope to those around us. May we commit to live as the people of the Resurrection. And may we capture a vision of what God is doing in our congregation, our community, and the world.

Saturday was an awesome day! God has moved in my life in a way I was never expecting. I remember when I was working for Dennis Langstraat when we first moved to Selma. I wasn't happy farming, but I was good at it and comfortable in the position. One day, I had a revelation. I came home from work and told my mother-in-law I was never going to be happy until I was doing what God called me to do. She said something along the lines of "told you so!" So, I went back to school and got my Master of Divinity degree. Saturday's ceremony was the culmination of years of prayer and waiting. I want to thank you all for putting your trust in me to be your pastor. I'm trusting God to lead and guide us together to grow the church and our community.

“A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

Your pastor,
Rev. Chad Thompson

Dear Youth and Church Family,

We are closing in on Holy Week where Jesus enters Jerusalem with crowds shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (John 12:13). It went from praise on Palm Sunday, to Good Friday and his crucifixion, and ultimately his resurrection. When I read the story of Holy Week I am astounded at the turn of events. You begin with a celebration, move to mourning, and move back to celebration. We read this story as we have read it many times and we already know the ending, so it loses the awe and mystery. Can you imagine with me that we are there; that we don't know the end of the story? We have heard about his miracles, and we have seen the wonders he has performed. We see the celebration and can't help but join in as Jesus rides in on a donkey. Then we hear about the Passover meal with his disciples and his arrest. Then it happens: he is crucified, and we sit in stunned silence. The story seems to have come to an end, and we are in tears as we question, "Why did this happen?" The story, however, doesn't stop there. It is not over! Then comes Sunday and Jesus is alive! In our own lives there are times that we face problems, struggles, and things seem to be falling apart. This is not the end of your story either! We are the people of the resurrection. We have hope that this is not the end and what is about to happen will shake this world and those around us. May we live as the resurrection people who know that no matter what, the story is not over, and God is about to do amazing things!



The Young Adult group meets on the first and third Sunday nights at 7:00 pm. Chi Rho (6-8 grade) and CYF (9-12 grade) are meeting on Thursdays from 3:30 pm-5:00 pm. We would love to have all your children join us!

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

Calendar:

- April 2, 5:00 pm: Game Night @ our house
- April 8, 5:00 pm: Movie night @ our house
- April 15, 11:00 am: Mini-golf Blackbeard's
- April 16, 7:00 pm: Young Adult Group @ our house

BOARD MEETING FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA MARCH 29, 2023

Present were Jane Ono, Jennifer Earle, Andrew Guzman, Michael Gutierrez, Yolanda Gonzalez, Abel Sandoval, Chad Thompson, Kathleen Schales, Laurie Fitzgerald, Teresa Keck.

The meeting opened at 11:54 a.m. Chairperson Jane lit the Christ Candle, all read the Mission Statement aloud, then Jane read the Vision Statement and appropriate Scripture and prayed.

Minutes from February meeting were approved on motion by Jennifer and second by Kathleen.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. No Communications report.
 2. Education --- Kathleen reported all going well and her assistants functioning well.
 3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth --- Getting palms lined up. Decorating cross with flowers at 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday.
 4. Property --- Andrew reported light ballasts replaced in Youth room; mistletoe removed from tree and sprinkler repaired.
- Stewardship and Outreach--- no report.

FINANCE REPORT --- Shortfall because of paying both insurance and taxes will be recouped.

Budget approved on motion by Andrew and second by Michael.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Several visits, meetings, counseling sessions.
Installation will be Sat. 25th at 11:00a.m.
Working on Lifegroups and Bible study.

(Board Meeting Minutes Continued)

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS

Going to Blackbeard's in April. Game and movie nights planned for April.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reinvigorating Church --- keep in mind.
2. Projects --- Andrew working on outside lights.
3. AB-506 --- Chad working on paperwork.
4. Lifegroups --- Chad working on them.
5. New landscapers start April 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Gathering delegates --- Chad and Charlotte will be delegates if no one else wants to.
2. Downstairs tablecloths need better cleaning.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jordan, Jessica and family.

Jane closed with prayer at 12:24 p.m.

Next Board Meeting April 23.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Keck, Board secretary

When a boring summer seems inevitable...

**GET TO CGC
in 2023!**



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 CVF 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

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Geneva Torrez is still in pain and her pink eye doesn't seem to be getting better even with the medication. Pray that the doctor can figure out how to help her get better.

Corena Blanchard saw a cardiologist and was put on a heart Monitor for two weeks. She also had a bone density test and a CT. Bone density was ok but not the CT. So she is having another one. She is feeling a bit stronger thanks all of you for your prayers. Keep them coming.

Michael Gutierrez is asking for prayer. Firebaugh was being heavily impacted by flooding and the school district is being affected.

Abel Sandoval asks prayer for his niece and mom. They have had stomach/GI issues. I pray for healing and that they are able to see the right specialist if that is what is needed.

Ongoing prayers for the Melendez and Aldama, both of which lost a loved one recently, are also appreciated.

Placida Basque, **Vivian's** mother and **Jordan and Jessica's** grandma, passed away. Please surround the **Williams family** with comfort and healing as they grieve during this time.

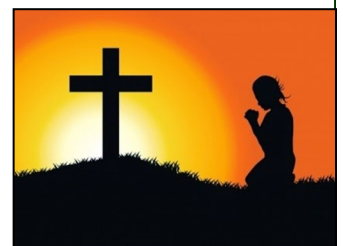
Chad's parents, **Cheryl and Tim** were in an auto accident with a semi truck and were taken by ambulance to the hospital in Bend, OR

PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

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

John Terry's brother Jim is home from the hospital. His blood clot is gone! He has been staying with John and Jeff for a few days. Thank you for your prayers.

Those who have recovered from sickness.



2023 OUTREACH GOALS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life, Christian Café, Selma Cares, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Food Pantry

\$748.10 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

\$100.13 raised out of \$500.00

Music Ministry

\$40.00 raised out of \$250.00

Organ

\$0.00 raised out of \$500.00

Youth & Young Adult

\$0.00 raised out of \$500.00

Thank you so much for your faithful and generous support!
(Funds updated as of 3/30/2023 and do not include expenses incurred.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Extending Hand Ministries** gives out food to the public every **2nd and 4th Monday of the month.**
- ◆ **WOMEN'S GROUPS:**
Miriam Group is Tuesday, April 11th @9:30am
Esther Group is Saturday, April 15th @9:30am
- ◆ **MEN'S GROUP:**
Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 15th @9:00am
- ◆ **Easter Cantata: "No Stone Could Hold Him"**
Sunday, April 2, 2023 @ 2:30 PM
Join us as the Community Church Choir brings us the Easter Story through powerful and moving music, with our very own **Michael Gutierrez** at the podium, **Jordan Williams** on piano, and friends in a string quintet.
- ◆ **Christian Café**
Christian Café will be serving the community **Wednesday, April 5th at 5pm.** To donate time or food items, **please contact Liz Martinez at 559-394-4280.**
- ◆ **Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**
(First United Methodist Church, 1702 Cross St., Selma, CA)
Join us as we remember the Last Supper in a special service in collaboration with our neighbors at FUMC..
- ◆ **Good Friday Service, April 7, 2023 @ 7:00 PM (at FCC Selma)**
Our Lenten GPS has led us to the Cross. FUMC joins us as we remember the ultimate sacrifice from God through Jesus, our Christ.
- ◆ **Flowering of the Cross**
Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 @ 8:00 AM
Bring flowers on Easter Sunday and help us decorate the Cross for worship on Easter Sunday!
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt!**
There will also be an easter egg hunter for the children on Easter Sunday after worship! If anyone has any eggs they can donate, please contact the church office!
- ◆ **FanFest Hot Dog Meal Fundraiser**
Sunday, April 16, 2023 after worship
"Wear the jersey or cap of your favorite team to church and be prepared to sing "Take me out to the ballgame." Then join us for a hot dog lunch on the lawn after church. Bring a \$5 bill to donate to Heifer International in exchange for your lunch of hot dog, cracker jacks, chips and a soda. All you can eat."



*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.***

Celebrations of Life

Placida Basque

Thursday, April 20, 2023

11:00 AM

Bonnie Murray

Saturday, April 22, 2023

10:00 AM



Easter Lilies
being received
in Honor / Memory of a
Loved One

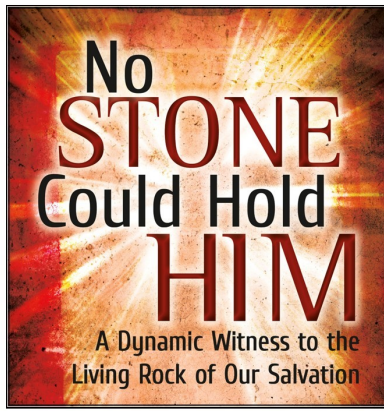
Help decorate the sanctuary with lilies this Easter in memory or honor of a loved one. Please bring them by **Sunday, April 9th, 2023** and pick up after worship. Return the form below to the church office to have their name(s) included in the Easter bulletin.

Easter Lily shared by _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

The Selma Community Church Choir
Presents the Easter Cantata...



"No Stone Could Hold Him" is a spirited witness to the ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. This powerful work by Lloyd Larson is filled with scripture-based images of Jesus as "A Rock in a Weary Land," even when tempted by Satan to "turn these stones to food"; as the Solid Rock on which we stand through "Winds of Change" and "Shifting Sand;" as Jerusalem's triumphant King who commands the rocks to keep silent; as the Cornerstone of our faith, betrayed and crucified; and as the risen Savior whom no stone could hold in the tomb. Inspired by these images, the music is bold and enlivening with rousing original music by Lloyd Larson alongside energetic spirituals and gospel songs.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023
2:30 PM

Michael Gutierrez, guest conductor
Jordan Williams, pianist
with String Quintet

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

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.



APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10a CommChoir
2 230p Easter Cantata 5p Game Night @the Thompsons	3 7p NA	4	5 5p Christian Café 7p Choir	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7p Service @ FUMC	7 GOOD FRIDAY 7p AA 7p Service @ FCC	8 HOLY SATURDAY 5p Movie Night @the Thompsons
9 EASTER SUNDAY 8a Cross flowering 1130A Pictures in front of Cross	10 8a Food Pantry 7p NA	11 9:30a Miriam Group	12	13	14 7p AA	15 9a Men's Breakfast @McCoy's 9:30a Esther Group 11a Mini-Golf @Blackbeards
16 7p Young Adults @the Thompsons	17 Caller Submissions Due 7p NA	18	19	20 11a Placida Basque's Celebration of Life	21 7p AA	22 10a Bonnie Murray's Celebration of Life
23	24 8a Food Pantry 7p NA	25	26	27	28 7p AA	29
30						 Church Calendar

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 04: Laurie Fitzgerald
- 06: Mitch & Tina Ritchie '91
- 14: Maria Tafoya
- 18: Gary Ono
- 19: Leilani Niswander
- 23: Aileen Imperatrice
- 25: Victor Villalobos
- 27: Michael Gutierrez
- Mathew Pulley
- Ali Ruiz
- 29: John Terry
- 30: Crystal Xiong



SERVING IN APRIL 2023



PRESIDER	SCRIPTURE
02. Marsha Staley	Matthew 21:1-11
09. John Terry	John 20:1-18
16. Jennifer Earle	John 20: 19-31
23. Charlotte Thompson	Luke 24:13-35
30. Jane Ono	TBA

Junior Worship Time Leaders

- 02. (Palm Sunday; No JWT)
- 09. (Easter Sunday; No JWT)
- 16. Laura/Alicia
- 23. Cora Fluker-Pulley
- 30. Karen Blanchard



COMMUNION ELDER

- 02. Jordan Williams
- 09. Jane Ono
- 16. Charlotte Thompson
- 23. Jennifer Earle
- 30. Alan Langstraat



MARCH 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

05. 34	12. 13 (Taizé)	25. 61
12. 34 (Sunday)	19. 23	26. 43

THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



Season of Lent:
"GPS for the Journey"

EDITION #LXVII
April 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