

# 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

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>MINISTERS</b> .....                            | The Congregation    |
| <b>SENIOR PASTOR</b> .....                        | Rev. Chad Thompson  |
| <b>Minister of Youth &amp; Young Adults</b> ..... | Chad Thompson       |
| <b>Minister of Music</b> .....                    | Jordan Williams     |
| <b>Organist</b> .....                             | Anthony Imperatrice |
| <b>Chair of the Congregation (2023)</b> .....     | Jane Ono            |
| <b>Chair of the Elders (2023)</b> .....           | Charlotte Thompson  |
| <b>Administrative Assistant</b> .....             | Cora Fluker-Pulley  |
| <b>Communications Coordinator</b> .....           | Cora Fluker-Pulley  |
| <b>Custodian</b> .....                            | Josiah Thompson     |
| <b>Child Care</b> .....                           | (Open)              |

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Church Family,

When I am not able to sleep, I will either read the Bible or I will pray. These times are when I have my most creative ideas or where God reveals something to me. This could be an area that I should work on or open my eyes to a problem that I have been wrestling with. From one of my sleepless nights, I was praying, and God revealed to me this sermon series called Breakthrough. Usually when this happens, the idea will come with possible scriptures I could use for the sermon series. This time was rare. I not only had the scriptures, but I also had the sermon titles to go with the scriptures. If we are going to have a Breakthrough as a church or as believers, we first need to Believe big and pray big. This goes along the same lines as Dream Big, a sermon I preached last year. The point of the first sermon is that we need to believe big and then follow that up with praying big. I am reminded of the two blind men in Matthew chapter 9:27-31. They follow Jesus calling out to him, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." Jesus asks them if they believe that he can heal them. Their reply was a resounding "Yes!" Jesus then touches their eyes and says, "According to your faith, let it be done to you." And their sight was restored. The blind men believed big, and I believe as they are crying out, they are praying big, praying that the Son of God would restore them. Their belief and their prayer came together, and they were healed. I believe that we as believers must believe big and then pray big and expect that God is going to move in ways that we have not seen. When I look around at the challenges we face as a community of faith, I am challenged and encouraged that we must believe big and pray big and watch God move. In Matthew 17:20-21, Jesus tells his disciples that if they have faith that is as big as a mustard seed, they can move mountains. Church, we can move mountains! Let us believe big and pray big and watch God move. I challenge you all to spend time in prayer. As we face the challenges ahead of us, let us pray and watch God move mountains.

*"Prayer is as natural an expression of faith as breathing is of life."*  
Jonathan Edwards

-Pastor Chad

Dear Church Family,

September 2023



September is my birth month and (when I was a kid) the start of school. It’s always a time of reflection and starting over for me. Like how am I going to make the next 12 months better? I love a good adventure! So should I go back to school? Maybe start painting again? Or should I take up running? Or gymnastics? Just kidding! I don’t think I could do that! But I could start reading my Bible more. And being more intentional with my words, actions, and time.

When we start a relationship with Jesus, it’s the same thing. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV) We leave the past in the past and look toward what’s new. Will you go on this adventure with me? Let’s discover what we can do!

In Christ’s Service,

Charlotte Thompson, youth and young adult sponsor

Calendar: Back by popular demand: Young Adults will meet every Sunday!  
September 3, 10, 17, and 24: meeting at the Thompsons’ at 7pm  
September 7, 14, 21, and 28: Chi Rho and CYF, 3:45-5:15pm. Let me know if a teenager you know would like to attend.  
September 15: movie and dinner, 6pm at the Thompsons’  
September 23: church yard sale, 9am at the church  
September 29: game night, 6pm at the Thompsons’

BOARD MEETING  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA  
August 20, 2023

Present were Cora Fluker, Jennifer Earle, Jane Ono, Jordan Williams, Chad Thompson, Marsha Staley, Teresa Keck.

Chairman Jane opened the meeting at 11:56 a.m. by lighting the Christ Candle, then reading the Mission and Vision statements and selected scriptures and praying.

Minutes from July were approved as presented, on motion by Marsha and second by Jennifer.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. Communication— updating website; events will be in Caller. Jessica made instagram — @Selmadisciples
2. Education — Kathleen sent Chad update— Sep. 3 is starting date.
3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth will meet next month.
4. Property — light in narthex and brick wall along ramp fixed.
5. Stewardship and Outreach — Jordan planning Stewardship Month guest preachers Jose Martinez, LaTaunya Bynum, Monica Myers Greenberg.  
Theme is FOCUS.
6. Technology — TV swapped out because of failure. Other equipment replaced.

FINANCE REPORT — Jennifer reported that we need to increase giving to meet budget.  
Yard sale will benefit budget.

PASTOR’S REPORT — Chad officiated at funeral at Baptist Church, met with Josue; has Grief Support Group continuing; will have Men’s Breakfast, Men’s Retreat, Bible Study and ongoing counseling sessions.

Youth/Young Adults Report — Leah and Charlotte are taking over. Chad will attend.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Reinvigorating Church continuing.
2. Projects — outside lighting (not high priority for now).
3. AB-506 — Board Members need to complete online training. Live-scan in September.
4. Lifegroups — Grief Support, Food Pantry, Bible Studies.
5. Updating Bylaws/Policy and Procedure — Chad reviewing and preparing suggestions. Need to update job descriptions. Need to start Action Plan.
6. Plans for the Future — Task Force meeting postponed.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Downtown Business Improvement — city may charge businesses to raise funds.
2. Cora taking some time off in October and November.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Gary Ono — shunt adjustment

Carena — stress test

Travel mercies for Jennifer, Jorge and Jessica and students Jordan self care

Jane closed the meeting with prayer at 12:43 p. m.

Next Board Meeting Sep. 17th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Keck, Board Secretary



## 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](mailto:jen4earle@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS & GRATITUDE:

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

**David White** had a stress test for his heart after experiencing pain in his chest and arm. Luckily, his heart is okay, but now he needs to have appointments to see if the issue is skeletal or muscular.

**Alejandra Tejada's father, Armando**, began chemo and is halfway through his sessions. He will be undergoing surgery to have his tumor removed following chemo.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Elder Meeting** - Sunday, September 10th after worship

**Board Meeting** - Sunday, September 17th after worship

**Men's Ministry** will be meeting for breakfast September 16th @ 9am at McCoy's!

**Esther Group & Miriam Group are returning!**

**Esther Group** - Saturday, September 9th at 9:30am in the church basement before Stan Rigg's Celebration of Life.

**Miriam Group** - Tuesday, September 12th at 9:30am at Josephine Sahota's house

**Church Yard Sale** - September 23rd at 9am

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## 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](http://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.



# SEPTEMBER 2023

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                        | Wed | Thu                     | Fri  | Sat  |
|--|--|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|--|--|
|  |  |                            |     |                         | 1<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7p                                | 2  |
| 3<br>Young Adults 7p   | 4<br>Narcotics Anonymous 7p  | 5                          | 6   | 7<br>Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p  | 8<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7p                                | 9<br>Esther Meeting 9:30a<br><br>Stan Riggs Celebration<br>of Life 11a |
| 10<br>Elder Meeting<br><br>Young Adults 7p                                       | 11<br>Extending Hands Ministries<br>8a<br><br>Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 12<br>Miriam Meeting 9:30a | 13  | 14<br>Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p | 15<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7p                               | 16<br>Men's Breakfast 9a   |
| 17<br>Board Meeting<br><br>Young Adults 7p                                       | 18<br>Narcotics Anonymous 7p   | 19                         | 20  | 21<br>Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p | 22<br>Dinner/Choir Concert<br>6p<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7p | 23<br>Church Yard Sale 9a-<br>12p                                      |
| 24<br>Young Adults 7p  | 25<br>Extending Hands Ministries<br>8a<br><br>Narcotics Anonymous 7p | 26                         | 27  | 28<br>Chi/Rho/CYF 3:45p | 29<br>Alcoholics Anonymous<br>7p                               | 30   |

## SEPTEMBER

- 02: Daniel Arevalo  
 04: Charlotte Thompson  
 11: Paul Takemoto  
 13: AJ Dmitriev  
 14: Janice Baker  
 Bob Berry, Jr.  
 Andrew Guzman  
 16: Josephine Sihota  
 19: Pat Adams  
 23: Julian Hernandez  
 24: Liz Thornburg  
 Joey Zamora



## SERVING IN SEPTEMBER 2023



| <u>PRESIDER</u>     | <u>SCRIPTURE</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 3. Jane Ono         | 2 Kings 19:14-19 |
| 10. Alan Langstraat | Nehemiah 2:13-20 |
| 17. Liz Thornburg   | Mark 2:3-11      |
| 24. Lisa Piper      | Ezekiel 37:1-10  |

### COMMUNION ELDER & OFFERTORY

3. Alan Langstraat & Charlotte Thompson  
 10. Leah Torosian & Jennifer Earle  
 17. Jordan Williams & Jane Ono  
 24. Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian



### JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS

3. Kathleen Schales  
 10. Lisa Piper/Laurie Fitzgerald  
 17. Kathleen Schales  
 24. Cora Pulley/Karen Blanchard



### AUGUST 2023 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| 6. 22  | 20. 48 |
| 13. 32 | 27. 39 |

Coming next month in October...

### Stewardship Month

## “ FOCUS: A Connexion to God’s Vision ”

FCC Selma’s annual stewardship campaign is coming up! Our theme will help us focus on true stewardship and essentials. When we zero in and focus on God, we can make a more powerful impact as Disciples in our community.

Keep an eye out for your materials (pledge cards, luncheon reservation cards, and “guide”) and then mark your calendars for special events, worship services, a small group study, and “finance 101” class.

Are you ready to **FOCUS**?



### GUEST PREACHERS



October 8, 2023

Rev. Dr. Jose Martinez



October 15, 2023

Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum



October 29, 2023

Rev. Monica Myers Greenberg

## Choir is back!

Join the church choir and help lead music with the Sanctuary Singers and share special music in worship. Come and make a joyful noise—all are welcome!

### Upcoming Rehearsals

(Wednesdays from 7:00 PM - 8:15 PM)

September 6, 13, 20, 27

### First “appearance”!

Sunday, October 1st

(World Communion Sunday)



## Dinner Concert Fundraiser

Friday, September 22, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

A group from the **Community Church Choir** has another opportunity to go to New York and sing at Carnegie Hall!

### Catered Meal (\$25/plate)

Roast Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans, Beverage

Come enjoy great food and great music!

Contact **Jordan Williams (fccselmachoir@gmail.com)** to reserve a ticket or to talk about sponsoring one of our members! Thank you for helping us represent the church and Selma through music!

### Selma Chamber of Commerce

## 16TH ANNUAL PARKIN IN THE PARK CAR SHOW

### & 3RD ANNUAL BBQ COOKOFF

**Saturday September 16, 2023**

**Lincoln Park—Downtown Selma, Ca**

Come cruise the Boulevard with us on Sept. 15th.  
Meet at Roscoe's Dogs at 5:00 pm.



*Car Show*

*10 am to 3 pm*

**CAGLIA**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

## BBQ COOKOFF

*12 pm to 4 pm*



*Beer Garden, Cars, BBQ, Music*

For more information contact  
Selma Chamber of Commerce 559—891-2235  
Email—chamberdirector@cityofselma.com



**FREE**  
ADMISSION

# October 21, 2023

**KINGSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:**

# The Peddler's Fair

**50 vendors 9AM- 3:30PM**

*Vintage, Collectibles, Crafts, Yard Sale, Food & Dessert's*

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & BEER GARDEN**

@ **Kingsburg Historical Park**

**2321 Sierra St. Kingsburg**



# WORSHIP BAGS



*are available  
for children!*

**Please pick them  
up from narthex  
closet and return  
them after the service.**

*Fall 2023 Junior Worship Focus...*

*GOD'S MAGIC  
FOR HIS FAITHFUL  
MIRACLES  
GIFTS*



***THE MAGIC BEGINS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>!***

# THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

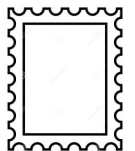


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EDITION #LXVII  
**September 2023**

**First Christian Church**  
2026 Arrants St.  
Selma, CA 93662  
559-896-2691 ☎ [fccselma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccselma@sbcglobal.net)

[www.selmadisciples.com](http://www.selmadisciples.com)  
[www.facebook.com/selmadisciples](https://www.facebook.com/selmadisciples)  
[www.youtube.com/selmadisciples](https://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