

THE CALLER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)



APRIL 2024

First Christian Church

2026 Arrants St.

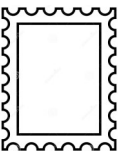
Selma, CA 93662

559-896-2691 ☎ fccselma@sbcglobal.net

www.selmadisciples.com

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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 Riley Reitzel
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,

I have been sitting with this idea of hope for a couple of years. I have had many conversations with people who are asking the question, "What is hope, and where can I find it?" Some of these conversations came from events in our world, and other conversations came from difficulties that people were going through. The one conversation that, to this day, I have not forgotten. I was working at Mayfair and I had arrived at church after lunch. When a person walking by asked if I had time to talk. My thought was, yeah, that is why I got into ministry. This person shared some of the challenges they were going through, and I couldn't help but hear the desperation in their voice. The comment that still rings in my head was when this person said, "I don't have hope for the future."

After an hour of discussion, counseling, prayer, providing them food, and getting them into a shelter. I walked away from this interaction feeling good, yet something was still bothering me. Now this conversation happened a week after Easter and after hearing during the Easter sermon that we are "the people of the resurrection." I began to contemplate this exchange in light of Easter and Holy Week. I was reminded of the disciples and how they felt that their world had fallen apart when Jesus was crucified. The disciples watched as Jesus entered Jerusalem and people were singing out in celebration to Jesus being arrested and crucified. As I reflected on this conversation, I had an aha moment, and it was that this person was living as if Good Friday was the end of the story.

But it isn't the end of the story. The tomb was not the end! Easter Sunday spoke louder than Good Friday. From the ashes of despair and hopelessness, hope burst forth. In our own lives, we face challenges and moments where we feel there is no hope. May we be reminded that the tomb was not the end of the story and our challenges are not the end of our story. Hope radiated from an empty tomb and rang out. May we become beacons of hope. May we live as Resurrection People who bring the Good News to a world that is crying out for hope. And may our song be "hallelujah!"

~Pastor Chad

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

Lately in the young adult group, we've been reading Proverbs. When I started this line of teaching, I forgot how deep the proverbs go. The first one starts out easy: "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. ⁹They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." So sweet, right? But the very next section gets a little dark: "My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. ¹¹If they say, 'Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul; ¹²let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; ¹³we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; ¹⁴cast lots with us; we will all share the loot' - ¹⁵my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths." Yikes!

This seems drastic but life is like that sometimes. Or at least it feels that way. Things are all rosy and then you fall into a ditch full of thorns. You might feel abandoned and forsaken but God says many times, "⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31:6, NIV). Jesus never promised it would be easy, he just promised the Holy Spirit would always be with us. We will never be alone! Hallelujah!

In Christ's Service

Love, **Charlotte Thompson & Leah Torosian**, Youth/Young Adult Ministers



**YOUNG ADULTS AND CHI RHO/CYF MEET ON SUNDAYS AT
7:00 PM AT THE THOMPSONS' HOUSE.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Extending Hand Ministries** gives out food to the public every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
- **Fan Fest:** Sunday, April 7th, 2024 after worship
Wear the jersey or cap of your favorite baseball team to church and join us for an "all-you-can-eat" hotdog lunch on the lawn after church. Donations to benefit Heifer International (\$5 suggested!)
- **Spring Fling Soiree:** Friday, April 12th @ 6:30 PM on the Lawn
Wine, Hors d'oeuvres, Swing Dancing, and "Piano Karaoke"!
Tickets: \$25. Contact Jennifer to buy and/or help sell.
Proceeds will benefit the church's mission/vision and outreach ministries.
- **"A Cabaret in Concert":** Saturday, April 13th @ 7:00 PM
- **Men's Prayer Devotional Breakfast:** 9:00 AM on April 13th @ Denny's
- **Women's Fellowship:**
 - Miriam Group:** Tuesday, April 9th at 9:30 AM (Marsha S.)
 - Esther Group:** Saturday, April 13th at 9:30 AM (Tina R.)
- **Elders Meeting:** Sunday April 14th, 2024 after worship
- **CCNC-N Annual Gathering:** Friday & Saturday April 19-20 at FCC Concord. Register at ccncn.org.
- **Board Meeting:** Sunday April 21, 2024 after worship
- **Spiritual Growth:** Sunday April 28, 2024 after worship



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.**

PRAYER PAGE

PRAYER REQUESTS, PRAISES, & GRATITUDE

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



Mary Beth Muro as she goes through health challenges.

Sheron Cardin (Heart Cardin's "Nana") has passed away on 3/10.

Please keep Heart and their family in prayer.

Bob Berry had hip replacement surgery.

Duane Geyer needs our prayers for him to get his life back on track.

Lisa Luna is struggling physically and emotionally with her health and feels like she doesn't have the strength to keep going. Pray for her and her family during this difficult time.

Morgan Thornburg's latest scan revealed two spots that will be monitored. There is a 50% chance that the cancer wasn't completely removed.

Members of the Task Force and the challenging work they took on to help the congregation in discerning the best options for accessibility for all of our activities.

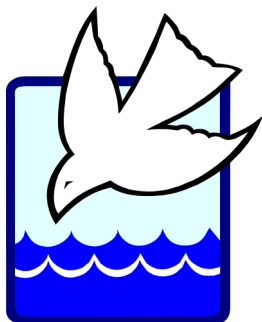
PRAISES & GRATITUDE:

Thank you to **everyone** who helped prepare and participated in our Holy Week Services in collaboration with the First United Methodist Church! It's always a joy when the people of God come together under one roof to observe special services together!

Joe Bonilla is home! He has 24/7 care, but is feeling better. Thank you for your prayers.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!!!

At Easter Worship, we welcomed **Marshall Ovalle** and **Makayla Sierra** to the whole family of God as they entered into the waters of Baptism!



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, Redding
3590 Placer St., Redding, CA 93001

Janet Chapman, senior pastor



GOT A MINUTE?

BOARD MEETING FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF SELMA MARCH 17, 2024

Present were Andrew Guzman, Charlotte Thompson, Jane Ono, Jordan Williams, Michael Gutierrez, Leah Torosian, Chad Thompson, John Terry, Marsha Staley, Kathleen Schales, Teresa Keck.

Jane opened the meeting at 11:48 a.m. She lit the Christ candle, led in reading aloud the Mission and Vision statements and scriptures, then prayed and read a devotion.

Minutes from February 18 were approved on motion by Marsha and second by Andrew.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

1. Communication — Jordan is working on website.
2. Education — Kathleen reported everything going well.
3. Fellowship and Spiritual Growth — Easter flowers needed for cross.
4. Property — Andrew and friend will work on gutters. Homeless staying on property and leaving messes, reported to police.
5. Stewardship and Outreach — Carls Jr. promotion did well.
6. Technology — Michael reported hearing assistance works well for those without hearing aids.

FINANCE REPORT

Marsha discussed highlights.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Sermons, counseling, meetings, Bible studies; Two baptisms to take place on Easter.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Life groups will be in sermons.
2. Updating Policy and Procedures — Chad nearly done.
3. Task Force update — Methodist church not amenable to sharing space. May have something definite by May.
4. Paul Carr Endowment — Jordan moved to change name to FCC Legacy Endowment Fund and to put all interest back into fund to increase income. Seconded by Charlotte and approved

NEW BUSINESS

1. New bookkeeper hired — Riley Reitzel.
2. Delegates for Annual Conference — Kathleen and Jordan.

Praise — Leah will donate her van to a family who have a child with spina bifida.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Zach and his family.

Health concerns — Chad.

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

Next Board Meeting on April 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Keck, Board Secretary

Thank you to those who helped
adorn the Cross with flowers!



**SPRING
FLING**

Soirée
ON THE LAWN

HORS D'OEUVRES SWING DANCERS

WINE
(FIRST GLASS INCLUDED WITH TICKET)

 "PIANO KARAOKE"
(BRING YOUR OWN SHEET MUSIC)

Enjoy a fancy evening out with good food and entertainment while
supporting outreach ministries and programs in Selma.
(Fancy and formal dress encouraged, but not required!)

**12
FRIDAY APRIL 6:30 PM
2024**

TICKETS: DONATION
(\$25 SUGGESTED)
(Please get your tickets by Monday, April 8th.)

fccselma@sbcglobal.net 559-896-2691 First Christian Church
2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA

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

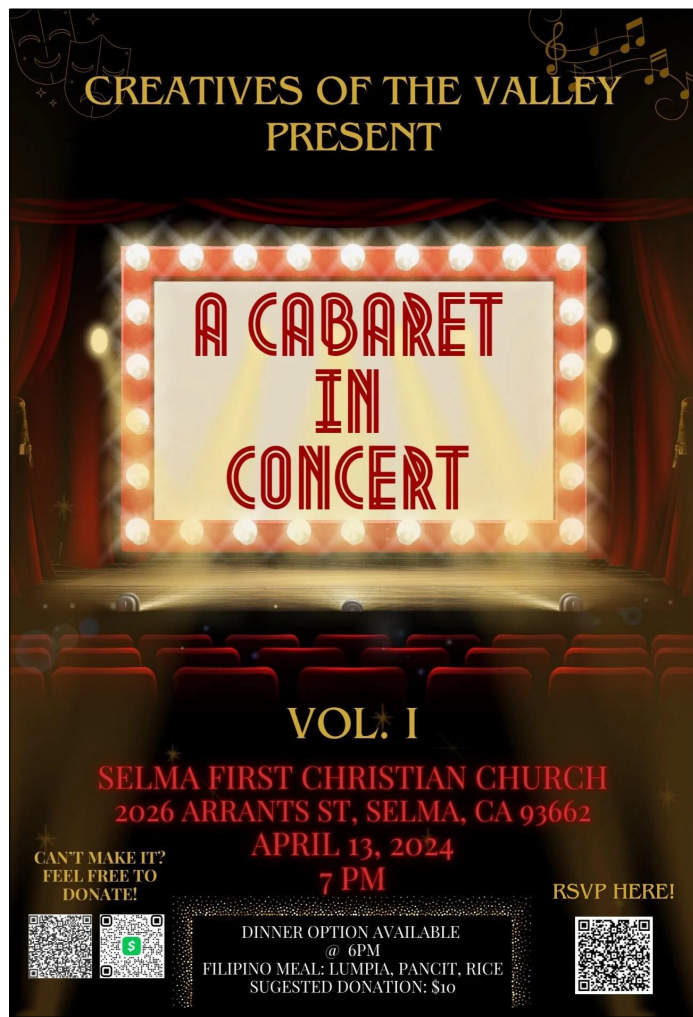
Donating Supplies

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.

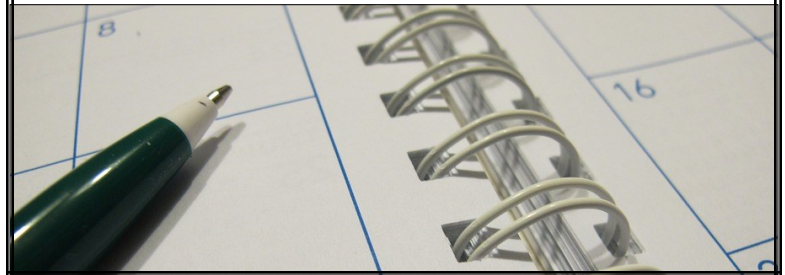
Thank you for your help in making the administration ministry successful in its work.





WEEKLY SCHEDULE

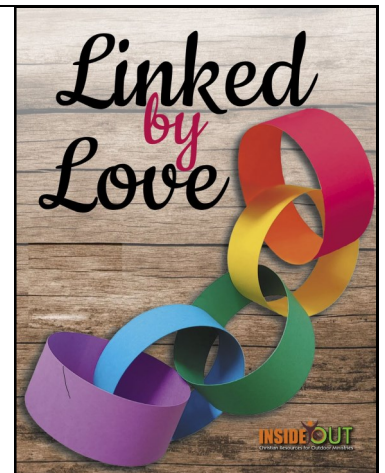
Sunday: Worship Service **10:30AM**
 Iglesia DC **4:30 PM & 6 PM**
 Young Adult Group **7 PM**
Monday: Iglesia DC Food Distribution **3 PM**
 Narcotics Anonymous **7 PM**
Tuesday: (No activities)
Wednesday: ... Choir Rehearsal (intermittently) **7 PM**
Thursday: Bible Study (Pastor's Office) **10AM**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



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 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)

APRIL 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7p Narcotics Anon	2	3	4 10am Bible Study 6p Iglesia DC	5 7p Alcoholics Anon.	6
7 1030a Worship 1145a Fan Fest 430p/6p Iglesia DC 7p Young Adults	8 7p Narcotics Anon	9 930a Miriam Group	10	11 10am Bible Study 6p Iglesia DC	12 630p Spring Fling Soiree 7p Alcoholics Anon.	13 9am Men's Breakfast 930a Esther Group 7p BroadwayConcert
14 1030a Worship 1145am Elders Mtg 430p/6p Iglesia DC 7p Young Adults	15 7p Narcotics Anon.	16	17	18 10am Bible Study 6p Iglesia DC	19 7p Alcoholics Anon.	20 CCNC-N Annual Gathering
21 1030a Worship 1145a Board Mtg 430p/6p Iglesia DC 7p Young Adults	22 7p Narcotics Anon.	23	24	25 10am Bible Study 6p Iglesia DC	26 7p Alcoholics Anon.	27
28 1030a Worship 1145a SpiritualGrth 430p/6p Iglesia DC 7p Young Adults	29 7p Narcotics Anon.	30				

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

04: Laurie Fitzgerald
Manuel Martinez

06: Mitch & Tina Ritchie '91

14: Maria Tafoya

17: Lorik Deaver

18: Gary Ono

23: Aileen Imperatrice

27: Michael Gutierrez
Mathew Pulley
Ali Ruiz

29: John Terry



SERVING THIS MONTH

<u>PRESIDER</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
7. Makayla S.	John 20:19-29
14. Charlotte T.	Acts 3:12-19
21. Leah T.	John 10:11-18
28. Jane O.	John 15:1-8



<u>DEACONS</u>
7. Clemente G., Yolanda G., Jennifer S.
14. Marsha S., Andrew G., Lisa P.
21. Cameron W., Makayla S., Andrew G.
28. Yolanda G., Jennifer S., Clemente G.

<u>COMMUNION & OFFERTORY ELDERS</u>
7. Jane O. & Leah T.
14. Charlotte T. & Alan L.
21. Jordan W. & Pat A.
28. Leah T. & Jennifer E.



<u>JUNIOR WORSHIP TIME LEADERS</u>
7. Laurie F. & Kathleen S.
14. Kathleen S. & Liz M.
21. Karen B. & Zoe T.
28. Lisa P. & Tiffany P.

MARCH 2024 ATTENDANCE (IN-PERSON)

03. 46	28. 11 (Maundy Thursday—FCC attendance)
10. 30	29. 41 (Good Friday)
17. 31	31. 89 (Easter)
24. 48 (Palm Sunday)	