

The Caller

Newsletter of the
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

2026 Arrants St. ‡ Selma, CA 93662

APRIL 2021

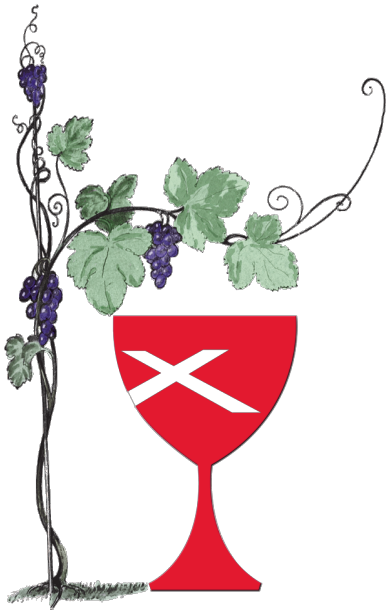
Edition LXV, No. 4

*'Commit your work to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.'*

Proverbs 16:3

OUR MISSION IS...

...to grow our faith in Christ and share it with others,
to connect people to God and to each other through love, and
to create hope by providing opportunities for people to serve.



CHURCH HOURS:

MON.- THURS., 9 AM – 12 PM

PHONE:

559-896-2691

EMAIL:

Church: fccselma@sbcglobal.net

Pastor: fccselmapastor@yahoo.com

Youth: fccselmayya@yahoo.com

WEBSITE:

www.selmadisciples.com

Prayer Chain:

Jennifer Earle 559-896-2358

jen4earle@gmail.com

Easter Worship Schedule



April 2, 2021 @ 7:00 PM

on YouTube, hosted by First Christian Church



April 4, 2021 @ 10:30 AM

Easter Worship Celebration on the Church Lawn!

Bring your own chairs and wear your masks.

(Pray for beautiful weather!)

*If you wish to bring Easter Lilies
You are more than welcome to.*

*If you have flowers to share,
please bring them to the church by
8 AM to decorate the cross.*



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 04: Laurie Fitzgerald
06: Mitch & Tina Ritchie '91
14: Rev. Maria Tafoya
18: Gary Ono
19: Leilani Niswander
23: Aileen Imperatrice
25: Hugh & Pat Adams '64
27: Larry Mathis
Michael Gutierrez
29: John Terry
30: Crystal Xiong



All-Church Clean Up Day Saturday, April 10, 9:00 AM

Help us spruce up our space so we can have it beautiful for in-person worship! Contact Jane Ono (559-313-3968) for duties that will be needed (*anyone can help – there will be jobs for people with all abilities*).

Tahoe Joe's Fundraiser
Thursday, April 29
11:00 AM - 10:00 PM


Tahoe Joe's®
Famous Steakhouse

Supporting our Community Outreach Ministries

Get large, delicious meals for your family all while supporting the important ministries our church is involved with.

Tickets are \$20 each.

You can help this be successful by helping us sell tickets.

Please contact Jennifer Earle and/or the Church Office to buy or checkout tickets.

Our goal is to sell a *minimum* of **150** tickets.

We believe we can do more!

REV. MINION



He is Risen! shhhh

We are going to worship together on Easter! This is so exciting. There will be differences that we might find hard to accept, but for right now, in the middle of a pandemic, we have to live with some changes.

A big one on Easter will be that we cannot yell out “He is Risen! He is risen indeed!” We can’t even whisper it. We can’t pray the Lord’s prayer together out loud. We cannot sing the Easter hymns that we love so much. For a while we won’t be able to sit with our friends or hug each other. The rules about physical

distancing and no singing and no responsive readings will continue until the danger of the virus spreading is gone, and we have no idea how long that will be.

When I think about these restrictions I feel like something has been taken away from worship. And yet . . . there have been times in the history of the church and even in some parts of the world right now when rules like these kept Christians alive. If you can only meet in twos and threes, and must whisper so no one outside the room you are in can hear you read the Scriptures or pray, and must hide your Bible, you might feel discouraged. But if your faith is so strong that you are willing to endure any hardship in order to worship God in company with others, then you will do whatever is necessary.

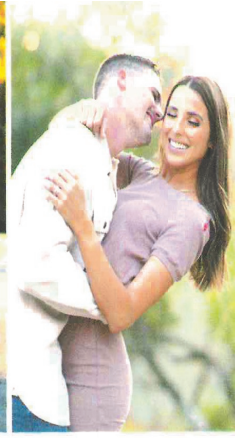
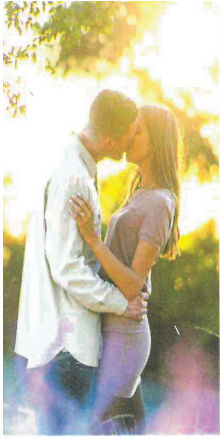
We are blessed because we don’t have to meet in secret. We don’t have to pretend we are not Christian. We don’t have to hide who we are. We just have to abide by some guidelines intended to keep us all healthy. They are going to be a challenge for us, but we can do it.

This Easter truly will be a day of new beginnings for us. We will be trying new ways of doing things in and around worship, figuring out what works going forward, at least for now. Just as the world changed on that first Resurrection Day so many years ago, so too will our world change (again) as we move forward from our Easter celebration this year. Let us go forward into this new way of being in a community of faith with joy and anticipation.

He is Risen!

Pastor Maria

I will be on vacation April 5– April 19. If you have a pastoral emergency, you may call Leah Torosian, Chair of the Elders. For anything else, please call the church office.



Save the date

Torin & Kellie October 9, 2021 San Luis Obispo, CA

theknot.com/goforthegoldstein

Women's Ministries



All are welcome, please come join us!

Esther Group

Saturday, April 10th @ 9:30 AM
at the home of **Jennifer Earle,**
1327 Peach, Selma.

Miriam Group

Tuesday, April 13th @ 9:30 AM
at the home of Marsha Staley,
2737 Olive, Selma.



FCC Board Meeting Minutes
Feb. 21, 2021, 2:00 PM
Via Zoom

Members attending: John Terry, Marsha Staley, Dave Highbaugh, Jane Ono, Jordan Williams, Chad Thompson, Kenneshae Murray, Alan Langstraat, Pastor Maria Tafoya, Teresa Keck.

The meeting was opened at 2:10 by Chairperson John Terry. He lit the Christ candle, read Matthew 6:33 and the church Mission Statement, then prayed.

Dave moved to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Marsha and carried.

Team Reports

1. Dave reported that Spiritual Growth Team met on Zoom Jan. 24th and chose theme for Lent, "Are We There Yet?". Lenten services are planned and prayer partners chosen.
2. Alan fitted new locks on several doors to improve church security.
3. Financial Report-- Marsha sent budget sheets to board members. Any inconsistency with passed budget will be corrected.
4. Pastor Maria shared a letter received by the church from Week of Compassion board thanking FCC for continuing and increasing financial support.
5. John expressed appreciation to quarantine crew for their continuing efforts.

Unfinished Business

1. Reopening will take place when Fresno County reaches red tier.
2. Library electrical work is done.
3. Building security-- new locks and new alarm keypad installed.

New Business

1. John discussed possible questions to be addressed in anonymous congregational survey. Alan and Chad suggested waiting until later.
2. Ministry Teams-- Spiritual Growth and Christian Ed. should be discussed in future.

Prayer Needs

Larry Mathis
Hugh and Pat Adams and family

Next Board meeting will be
March 21 at 2:00 pm on Zoom.

Chad offered closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Teresa Keck
Board Secretary

First Christian Church, Selma
March 21, 2021, On Zoom

Those present were John Terry, Pastor Maria Tafoya, Leah Torosian, Marsha Staley, Jennifer Earle, Alan Langstraat, Kenneshae Murray, Jordan Williams, Dave Highbaugh, Jane Ono, Teresa Keck.

The meeting was opened by Chairperson John Terry at 2:01 pm. He lit the Christ candle, read Matthew 6:33 and the church Mission Statement; then offered prayer.

CONSENT AGENDA was approved after motion by Jordan and second by Marsha.

- A. Minutes of February meeting were accepted with no corrections.
- B. Team Reports were emailed to board members.
 - 1. Flowers are needed for Easter. Setting up will begin at 8:00 am. Service will be on lawn with masks and social distancing.
 - 2. Library work is almost finished; some high painting still needed.
- C. Finance Report
 - Giving is below last year because of Covid.
 - Payroll Protection Plan approved.
 - Expenses are being kept down wherever possible.
 - Kathleen is submitting reimbursement for expenses for library.
 - Memorial funds- considerable amount received in memory of Bert Baker.
- D. Pastor's Report
 - There is money in budget for Regional Meeting attendance.
 - RightNow Media--educational and study materials available for \$80 per month, which is too expensive when free materials are available online.
 - 12 Step groups will be allowed to meet in future, following covid safety guidelines. AA will change their meeting time to 6:30 on Fridays.
- E. Youth and Young Adults
 - Weekly meetings are examining God-given gifts.
- F Repairs by Alan including locks and alarm keypad appreciated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Reopening on Easter. Subsequent services will be indoors with masks, social distancing and other safety measures, at 25 percent capacity
- 2. Congregational Survey tabled til later.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Custodian-- Omar is cleaning church again, may need scheduling. Jordan will talk to him.
- 2. Church Clean-up Day will be held April 10, starting at 9:00 am, with jobs for all abilities. Jane will make a chart.
- 3. Community Outreach-- Tahoe Joe's take-out dinner Thursday, April 29. Tickets will be \$20 each. Jennifer will check tickets in and out.
- 4. Jennifer planted flowers at church; needs hose to water them. Teresa will donate hose.

PRAYER NEEDS

- 1. Easter service and return to in-person church.
- 2. Gary's dad and Leah's dad both passed away March 5. Families need prayer, especially Leah's brothers Chris and Jordan

Next meeting will be April 18, 2021, after church (with social distancing).

Dave gave closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 2:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Keck, Board Secretary.

Youth NEWS AND EVENTS

The CCNCN Outdoor Ministry Committee is so excited to be planning for in-person, onsite camps at CGC! We will run shorter camps this year to ease ourselves more comfortably back into group situations. We will begin Junior, Chi Rho, and CYF camps on a Tuesday at 1:00 and camp will end as usual at 11:00 on Saturday. We will also have many safety protocols in place which we can alter or reduce if situations change. We will promote small group pods and do everything possible outdoors. Our current plans will be outlined in the registration materials to be posted by the end of March.

- **April 17** Director Training by Zoom
- **May 22** Staff Training
- **May 31** Staff Registration Forms Due
- **June 22-26** Junior Camp (completed 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades)
- **June 22-26** Chi Rho Camp (completed 6th, 7th, and 8th grades)
- **June 26-28** JOY Camp (completed K, 1st, and 2nd grades and accompanied by an adult)
- **June 28-July 3** CYF Camp (completed 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades)

Leanne Stump
Director of Outdoor Ministries



No Cost COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Quick and easy vaccination at no cost to you



Tuesday - Friday
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Selma Senior Center
2301 Selma St
Selma, CA 93662

Sign up here:



cur.tv/selmavax
or Call: 888-702-9042

PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Leah Torosian and family, Her dad, **Carl Morgan**, has passed away on March 5. Please keep **Leah and all of the family** in prayer.

Larry Mathis is recovering at home and will have home IV antibiotics which it will be Kelli's job to do. Pray for both of them.

Janet Berry, wife of **Don** and sister-in-law to **Bob and Linda Berry** passed after a long battle with cancer. Let's surround this family in prayer as they grieve her death.

Gary Schales and family. His father passed away on March 5. Let's surround the whole family with our prayers.

Rev. Janice Hill, the pastor of the First Congregational Church in Tulare. Janice's daughter passed after a long battle with cancer. Let's surround her with prayer.

Lillian Lewis, our friend of the congregation, has died peacefully in her sleep March 26th. She was 102. Cards can be send to the family care of:

*Mary Jo Lewis
5924 E. Burns Ave.
Fresno, CA 93727*

Continued prayers also for **Liz Thornburg Martinez's** brother, **Carsten**, Liz thinks his death is imminent and asks that we pray for his wife, **Mildred**.

PRAISES:

First Christian Church, Selma Food Bank together with Central Valley Food Bank Ministry provided 97 bags of food for 298 family members in the month of March.

TESTIMONY:

"In September of 2019 I attended a Holy Budgeting 101 class that was given at your church. At that time I had been out of a job for over a year and was feeling hopeless about my situation. I was worried about attending the class because I thought it would make me feel even worse about my situation. Well, my experience was the exact opposite of what I thought it would be. I felt welcomed, I learned about budgeting, I was reminded that I wasn't the only one who has made financial mistakes and I left feeling empowered and hopeful. It's been over a year and I was thinking about that class and how it prepared me for what was coming a couple of months later (COVID19). I'm happy to say that I'm doing much better, I have a job and am still using the skills I learned in the class." - *Anonymous*





Next Board Meeting April 18th after worship

SCRIPTURES FOR APRIL

- 04: **(Easter Sunday)** Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)
11: *Guest Preacher: Rev. Chad Thompson*
18: *Guest Preacher: Cindy Jurado-Hernandez*
25: John 10:11-18 (CEB)

PRESIDERS

Dawn Linhoff
Jennifer Earle
John Terry
Charlotte Thompson



SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Newsletter:

16th of the month @ 10:00 AM

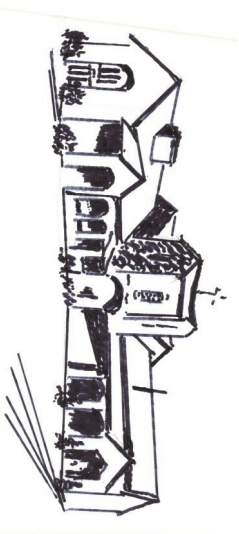
Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Pastor Maria's day off is Monday.*

CHURCH STAFF

MINISTERS The Congregation
SENIOR PASTOR..... Rev. Maria Tafoya
Minister of Evangelism and Outreach Rev. Chad Thompson
Minister of Youth/Young Adults..... Leah Torosian
Minister of Music Jordan Williams
Choir Director Kenneshae Murray
Organist..... Anthony Imperatrice
Child Care..... Ashley Petree
Chair of the Congregation (2021)..... John Terry
Chair of the Elders (2021)..... Leah Torosian
Administrative Assistant Dee Anne Douville
Custodian..... Omar Ruiz
Communications Coordinator Jason Torosian



STAMP



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"seinadiscriptes"



*"First Christian Church
of Seima, California"*