

The Caller

Newsletter of the
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

2026 Arrants St. ‡ Selma, CA 93662

JULY 2021

Edition LXV, No. 7

*'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





COMING EVENTS????

It's been hitting triple digits pretty regularly for the last month and we've already had a couple of flex alerts reminding us to keep our use of electricity down. A severe drought means we might face water shortages later this summer. The mask and building capacity mandates ended a couple of weeks ago in California, but today the World Health Organization suggested that even fully vaccinated people should

put their masks back on because the Delta variant is uber contagious. And the coronavirus numbers are rising in Fresno County - not as fast as earlier in the pandemic, but still . . . At church we can sit together, but only sing with masks on. We still aren't passing the offering tray or communion. Some of the elements of worship we are used to having just aren't happening right now. We're planning for September Sunday school, choir practice, and Youth meetings as "usual," but it's hard to know exactly what will happen.

Looking back over what it used to be like makes us unhappy because we miss our normal routines. Looking ahead brings anxiety because we simply do not know what next week will look like, never mind September. We keep hoping to be able to say "this is the new normal" but there is no new normal yet - everything keeps changing! So what do we do when we just don't know what's coming?

In Luke chapter 12 we find the parable of the rich fool, who decided to build a new barn to hold his abundant harvest so that he would be set for life, not knowing he would die that very night. Jesus says, "*Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life . . . can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?*"

What we need to do right now is live in the present moment. Yes, we can make plans. But we can't count on them happening the way we want them to. We can remember the past, but look ahead to a future that looks different than we had supposed it would. We can try new things because we have learned over the last 16 months or so that some new things can be pretty exciting. Others, not so much, but at least we tried. Primarily, though, we need to trust that God will provide exactly what we need at the precise time that we need it. In essence, we need to keep the faith.

As the old hymn says, "*We've come this far by faith, waiting on the Lord, trusting in the Holy Word. God's never failed us yet.*" Truth.

Pastor Maria

Young Adult Corner



Happy Summer 2021. The Young Adults are meeting on Sunday evenings at 7 pm at the Parsonage. We're back to meeting in person, but will continue to use Zoom as needed. Pastor Maria is currently leading our study about our denomination, on the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We plan to use that as a backdrop for exploring other denominations and their practices. Anyone is welcome to join us.

I am also looking forward to September when we plan to bring back the Youth Group. All youth from 6th to 12th grade are invited to participate. If you're interested in participating or being a Youth Sponsor, please reach out to me or contact the church office.

In His Love,
Leah

Thank you so much!

If you have been able to come to the church in the last couple of months you may have noticed that things look a little different. In the sanctuary pews have been re-configured, new carpet laid and the wood floors re-finished. The Library has been completely re-decorated and is now our Hospitality Lounge. We have already used both of these spaces, of course, but now it is time to bless and dedicate them to their purposes. We will be doing that at the very end of our worship service on July 11th.

A number of people were especially involved in making these improvements happen and we would like to express our appreciation.

Hugh and Pat Adams
Jennifer Earle
Andrew and Victoria Guzman
David Highbaugh
Tony Imperatrice
McConnel "Mac" Coakwell

Alan and April Langstraat
Bonnie Murray
Omar Ruiz
Diane Highbaugh
Thompson Family
Jordan Williams

SAVE THE DATE!

July 11, 2021 after Worship

Blessing of the Sanctuary and Hospitality Lounge

Join us as we bless and rededicate our newly renovated spaces and express appreciation for those who made it possible!



July 18, 2021 after Worship

Board Meeting

Friday, August 6, 2021

Annual Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser.

Stay tuned for details!

 **The City of Selma,
Selma District
Chamber of Commerce
& Selma American Legion Post 12** 
invite you to

**SELMA'S 31st COMMUNITY
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**

SATURDAY, July 3, 2021

*Selma High School
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.*

Activities include:

HONORING OF VETERANS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

FOOD BOOTHS & COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

ENTERTAINMENT : DAVID AGUALLO BAND

\$5.00 ~ Adults

\$2.00 ~ 5 - 12 yrs.

Children 4 & under~FREE

Preferred Parking ~ Only \$2.00

Bring Your Lawn Chairs/Blankets

NO Ice Chests or Outside Food

Call 891-2235 for more details

Celebration of PRIDE Service

What a wonderful, moving worship we had! So many comments have come in via text, email, and Facebook posts that trying to list them all would take up the entire newsletter! So we chose one to share with you all, from the **Rev. Dr. Ben Bohren**, our former Regional Minister.

“What an honor to be watching this PRIDE service with my dear friends in Selma. FCC is truly a light for the LGBTQ+ community in central CA. Thank you for your courage and commitment to the full inclusion of ALL God's Children in the love and grace of our Creator. Thank you for being faith-full to the open and affirming welcome of Jesus. Inspiring music; beautiful litanies; and a powerful, biblically based sermon! Keep proclaiming this Good News right where you are”.

Our grateful thanks to all who participated in the worship service:

<i>Karen Blanchard</i>	<i>Alfred Duran</i>	<i>Jennifer Earle</i>
<i>Michael Gutierrez</i>	<i>Jay Hernandez</i>	<i>John Hopkins</i>
<i>Teresa Keck</i>	<i>John Terry</i>	<i>Leah Torosian</i>
<i>Cameron Wells</i>	<i>Rene Wells</i>	

TECH CREW

Michael Gutierrez *John Hopkins*

TOWER QUARTET

Lianna Elmore *Erin Adams* *Matt Smoke* *Kelvin Diaz Inoa*

QUARANTINE QREW

Kenneshae Murray *Jessica Williams* *Jorge Flores*
Joe Vigil *Jordan Williams*

Reading the Bible through Queer Eyes

Wednesdays @ 7 pm
July 14 - August 18, 2021
(Location TBD)

There are two basic kinds of Biblical interpretation:

Fundamentalism says the text means whatever it means to the person reading it today. God's word is not complex and the meaning is not hidden.

Historical-Critical Interpretation says we must know about the language, the people, the times in order to understand most accurately and fully.

This 6 week class will use the historical-critical method of interpretation to look at what has been learned about the texts referring to same-sex relationships.

To sign up, call Pastor Maria
(Bring Your Bible!)

Interest in Huntsman/Thompson Property *Input Needed!*

The Selma Fire Department would like to purchase the property FCC Selma owns on the corner of Huntsman and Thompson so they can build a new fire station to better serve the north end of the city. Before they make a monetary offer, we need to know whether the congregation is in favor of selling.

We have held the title to this property since 2001 with the intention of building a multipurpose facility on it, and plans for that building were drawn. However, we do not have anywhere near enough money to even think about building. We do pay for periodic mowing and property taxes each year. Money from the sale of the property would go into our new building fund.

The Board recommends selling the property to the Selma Fire Department so they can better serve our city.

What do you think? Should we sell the property? Yes or No?

Please prayerfully consider your opinion and tell the church office as soon as possible by email fccselma@sbcglobal.net or telephone **559.896.2691**

**NOTHING
NOTHING**
CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD
ROMANS 8:31-39

> REGISTER NOW



DISCIPLES
VIRTUAL GATHERING

**SATURDAY
08-07-21**



Let's be the church
we say we are.

Disciples over the nation are getting together for virtual worship, fellowship, and workshops! Find more information on the event and registration here: <https://disciples.org/2021-virtual-gathering/>

PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

PRAYERS FOR:

Larry Mathis went back to the hospital with an infection, after just experiencing a heart ablation a few weeks prior.

Bonnie Murray as she deals with a diverticulitis diagnoses and other health issues.

Dawn Linhoff experienced numbness in her leg and doctors don't have a diagnosis for her symptoms after being admitted to the hospital. She will be seeing neurological specialists.

GRATITUDE:

First Christian's Food Pantry served 119 **people** during the month of **June**. Thank you to **ALL** who help make this food pantry possible.

"I would like to start off by saying thank you to everyone who took the time out of their day to write to me, I very much appreciate the money you all gifted me and just know that will go to things I need. Although I have not seen all you guys since the pandemic started I still think about you guys and pray everyday to bless everyone single one of you guys. Now that I have graduated high school I am starting a new chapter in my life. I know that if I ever need any help I can count on the members of the church. I look forward to seeing you all soon and hope you stay safe during these hard times. Once again thank you for everything."

Sincerely, Vlad Villaseñor

"Dearest Church Family and Friends,
I would like to thank you for healing prayers. God is with me in my recovery and He alone can help me. Thanks to God, for all my blessings of good health and friendships. I owe everything to our God.
Blessings to all of you. (Praying to see you all soon!)
My love always, Josephine Sihota

Many thanks to the folks who helped and made the Father's Day BBQ a success (and cool on the lawn)! A special thanks to **Joe Vigil** and his two sons for setting up tables and canopies before worship; to **Vonnie Murray** for preparation; and to **Isidro Martinez-Andrade** for cooking such AMAZING burgers!

PRAYER CHAIN

Jennifer Earle is leading the prayer chain. You may send prayer requests to her at 559-896-2358 or jen4earle@sbcglobal.net.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

July

- 2: Jasmin Soto
- 4: Gene Duncan
- 5: Jason Fuller
- 7: Sayd Guzman
- 8: Johnathan Carrillo

*(Adopt-A-Cop) SPD name: mail to
C/O Selma Police Department
1935 E. Front St., Selma, CA 93662*

- 9: John Arevalo
- 14: Geneva Torrez
- 15: Michelle Ritchie
- 20: Marcus Arevalo
- 21: Leah Torosian
- 24: Ashley Petree
- 30: Virgie Cortez

GIVING TO FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

There are a number of ways you can
support our ministries in Selma:

Mail

2026 Arrants St., Selma, CA 93662

Online (PayPal)

www.tiny.cc/fccselmagive

“Bill Pay”

through online banking

EXTRA WAYS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH

AmazonSmile

*(Go to smile.amazon.com and choose
First Christian Church as your charity.
Search for “First Christian Church 93662.”)*

Facebook Donate

www.facebook.com/selmadisciples

Donating Supplies

*The church could always use an extra book of stamps
or more reams of paper, among other things.
Contact the church office for what is needed
on a consistent basis*

Directory Updates!

Transitions...a new face in the office!

As you may have heard, **Dee Anne** has left us as our Administrative Assistant to take care of her grandchildren full-time. We have been so blessed by her work in the office. We will miss her greatly!

Cora Fluker-Pulley has stepped in to be our new Administrative Assistant. Stop by to say “Hi!” and welcome her to this area of the church ministry!



SCRIPTURES FOR JULY

04: Psalm 123 (NRSV)
11: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 (NRSV)
18: Psalm 24 (NRSV)
25: Mark 6:30-34 & Jeremiah 23:1-4

THOSE SERVING IN JULY

PRESIDERS

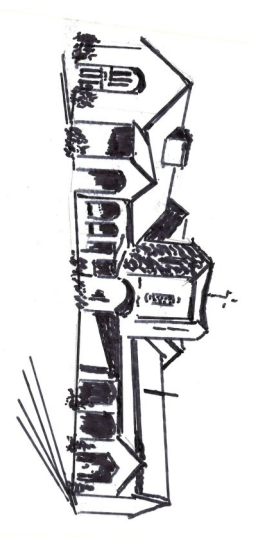
04: Dawn Linhoff
11: Michelle Ritchie
18: Lis Thornburg-Martinez
25: Andrew Guzman

COMMUNION ELDER

Jane Ono
Kathleen Schales
John Terry
Jordan Williams
(Lockup:)

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
Child Care OPEN
Chair of the Congregation (2021)..... John Terry
Chair of the Elders (2021)..... Leah Torosian
Administrative Assistant..... Cora Fluker-Pulley
Custodian..... Chad Thompson
Communications Coordinator..... Jason Torosian



STAMP



www.seinadiscriptes.com

You Tube

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*"First Christian Church
of Seima, California"*