

# *The Caller*

*Newsletter of the  
First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)*

2026 Arrants St. ‡ Selma, CA 93662

## **JANUARY 2021 Edition LXV, No. 1**

The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I  
will hope in him."

Lamentations 3:24.

## **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., WED., THURS., 9 AM – 12 PM**

### **PHONE:**

**559-896-2691**

### **EMAIL:**

**Church:** [fccselma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccselma@sbcglobal.net)

**Pastor:** [fccselmapastor@yahoo.com](mailto:fccselmapastor@yahoo.com)

**Youth:** [fccselmayya@yahoo.com](mailto:fccselmayya@yahoo.com)

### **WEBSITE:**

[www.selmadisciples.com](http://www.selmadisciples.com)

### **Prayer Chain:**

Jennifer Earle 559-896-2358

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



## Esther & Miriam Circle News

There will be no meetings during January until further notice.

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## Spiritual Growth Meeting

**January 24th  
2 PM on Zoom**

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## Central Valley Food Bank Ministry

During December we provided food for 255 family members!

Bags for distribution are packed on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 03: Christian Cabral  
11: Kellie Ritchie  
19: Stan Riggs  
21: Alan Langstraat  
25: Anthony & Aileen Imperatrice '92  
26: Rene Wells

*Have we missed your special day? Is something incorrect? Contact the church office and let us know!*

*Please call 896-2691 or email [fccselma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fccselma@sbcglobal.net)*

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**Join us monthly for Coffee Zoom**

**Every 2nd & 4th Sunday at 11:30 AM**

To visit and catch up with old friends and make a few new ones.  
Look for the Zoom invite in your email every Sunday right after worship.

## REV. MINION



### Welcoming 2021

This may be the first New Year I have approached with the fervent prayer that it will be better than the one we are leaving. I mean, I have prayed for a new year to be happy and filled with blessings before, but this year . . . pretty much anything will be an improvement.

There is no question that 2020 was a terrible horrible no good very bad year for us and for the whole world. As a congregation we have had to make a lot of changes and adapt our “traditional” ways of doing things - like worship services. Board and Elder meetings. The Cantata. We have made plans knowing we might have to adjust them at the last minute. We have prayed - a lot.

But it hasn't been all bad. We have seen people step up and take leadership roles while the folks who usually do those things are unable. We have embraced technology to a much greater extent. We have learned new ways to be community and new ways to stay connected with the whole congregation, not just the people who show up on Sundays.

*“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”* (Lamentations 3:24).

This verse will be on the front page of every Caller in 2021 so that we will be reminded that the coming year is all about hope. It has been too easy to slide into a feeling of hopelessness these last months. Depression and suicide have been increasing since the Covid related shutdowns began in March. Now we can see light the end of the tunnel, with vaccines becoming available. We can look ahead to being able to gather in person again. We still don't know when that will be, but we can be a bit more confident that we will be able to do that without worrying about having to stop again. We can be filled with hope that the New Year, 2021, will bring all manner of good things, new things, hoped for things. In 2021 we can surely say, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.”

Pastor Maria



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2021

2:00 PM

Our by-laws require that we have an annual meeting. Due to Covid restrictions we cannot meet in person, so here is what we will do.

We will send the Slate of Officers and the Proposed 2021 Budget to you by email and/or US mail on or just after January 17th.

You will mail or email your vote (yes/no) back so it arrives at the church office **no later** than January 28, 2021. **Please** do this as we need a quorum to accept the budget and slate of officers.

January 31 at 2 pm we will hold a congregational meeting on Zoom for any questions or discussion of the Budget or slate of officers. You will get an email shortly before the meeting time with the meeting ID and pass code.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

**First Christian Church, Selma, California**  
**Sunday, December 20, 2020 -**  
**Board Minutes 2pm Zoom Meeting**

**Members present:** *John Terry, Marsha Staley, Leah Torosian, Maria Tafoya, Jordan Williams, Hugh Adams, Pat Adams, Alan Langstraat, Dave Highbaugh, Jennifer Earle, Teresa Keck*

The meeting was opened at 2:00 pm by chairperson, John. He lit the Christ candle, read our Mission Statement & Matthew 6:33. John prayed. Jennifer moved that the consent agenda be approved as presented. Marsha seconded, motion carried.

**Additional Team Reports:** Spiritual Growth Team put up the Christmas decorations and will meet on Jan. 10 to remove them.

**Finance Report:** Jennifer reported that our giving is down by about \$2000.00 per month so our checking account is decreasing by about that amount each month.

**Pastor's Report:** Maria will take two weeks of vacation after Christmas, only week days.

**Youth Report:** Meeting each Sunday evening. Up to about 8 at this time some who have been gone are back during times home.

**Unfinished Business:**

Re-opening - Not happening yet.

Thompson Property - Comps are still in the works - Leah will let us know when she gets info.

Library - Kathleen is looking for people to be on her committee. There have been some people who have voted on the library paint samples.

Nominating Committee - Leah moved to accept the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. Dave seconded, motion carried. The Slate of officers will be voted on by the congregation by the Jan. 31 Congregational Meeting.

Budget Team - Jordan reported that the Budget Committee decided to stay pretty much the same as last year. They plan to have several checks through the year to see how things are going and to make adjustments as needed.

Congregational meeting - the congregation will vote for the budget and the officers by mail or e-mail by Jan 28. The results of the vote will be announced at the Congregational Meeting on Jan. 31 on Zoom.

The Board recommends that Jordan take some time off. He has been working none stop to make sure our Sunday Services are on line each week. Maria and Jordan will decide when will be the best time.

### **New Business:**

Insurance - Marsha and John met with Zach Folmer about the church's insurance. The 2020 insurance bill was \$9652 and the 2021 bill will be \$12,065. It will be an increase of about \$200 per month.

Purchase of extra church pews - Jennifer moved that extra pews could be purchased for a donation of the purchaser's choice. Marsha seconded, motion carried. Henry Langstraat would like to purchase a pew. His donation will be earmarked for the library remodel.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10. Next meeting will be Jan. 17 at 2:00 on Zoom. Congregational meeting Jan. 31 on Zoom.

Alan closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted. Pat Adams, board secretary



## PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

### Prayers For:

**The Williams/Basque Family:** A peaceful transition for their brother, uncle/great-uncle.

**Christian Gutierrez:** her dad is still in ICU fighting both COVID and pneumonia and taking oxygen treatments every hour.



Friends of **Cameron and Rene Wells:** Sal and Nen have their middle child in the hospital. Her liver and kidneys are failing and the doctors called to say there is nothing they can do.

### Those who recently tested positive for COVID.

**Clemente Gonzales** as he recovers from a recent surgery. Pray also for **Yolanda and family**.

**Jane Ono** asks for prayers for, **Bill**, who used to own Wilkin's Drive-In. He was injured and is in the hospital in very serious condition. Let's surround him, his family, the doctors and nurses with prayer.

**John Hanson**, who we prayed for earlier, has passed. Please surround the **Helen Chavez Hanson family** with prayer.

Please pray for **Vivian Williams**. She and her co-workers will get the COVID vaccination. Even though they know it will protect them, they are a bit anxious. I'm sure this also applies to **Lisa Piper**, **Ben Langstraat** and other nurses and doctors that we know. Let us surround all of them with God's care.

### Gratitude for:

Safe travels for the **Williams Family, Jessica, Jordan & Vivian** and **Placida Basque**.

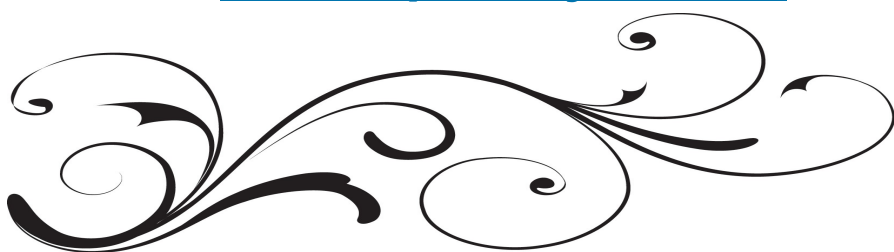
**Christian Gutierrez:** her mom beat COVID (finally tested negative)

**Alejandra Tejada's** mother's surgery last week was successful. Her mom, **Teresa**, is resting at home and both thank you for your prayers.





**Pastor Maria will be sending a weekly eBlast to keep everyone up to date on re-opening plans and other info that can't wait for the Caller. if you are not receiving a Tuesday eBlast, please email her to make sure your name is on the list. [fccselmapastor@yahoo.com](mailto:fccselmapastor@yahoo.com)**



**PRAYER CHAIN**

*Jennifer Earle is leading the prayer chain. You may send prayer requests to her at 559-896-2358 or [jen4earle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jen4earle@sbcglobal.net).*



# Happy New Year 2021

May this year bring new happiness,  
new goals, new achievements  
and a lot of new inspirations on your life.  
Wishing you a year fully loaded with happiness.

[WWW.YOURNAME.COM](http://WWW.YOURNAME.COM)



## Next Board Meeting

January 17, 2021

on Zoom at 2:00 PM

2 PM Congregational Meeting  
January 31, 2021 on Zoom

## SCRIPTURES FOR JANUARY

### BOOK & VERSE

### FOCUS

03: Matthew 6:5-8 CEB	Pray in your closet
10: Matthew 5:43-48 CEB	Pray for others
17: Luke 23:33-34 Message	Forgive them
24: Matthew 26:36-46 CEB	Praying to God's will
31: Matthew 6:7-13 CEB	Lord's Prayer

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES



### Newsletter:

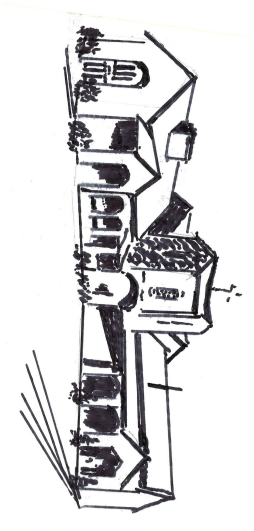
16th of the month @ 10:00 AM

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday *from* 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## 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 (2020) .....	John Terry
Chair of the Elders (2020) .....	Dave Highbaugh
Administrative Assistant.....	Dee Anne Douville
Custodian .....	Omar Ruiz
Communications Coordinator.....	Jason Torosian



STAMP



[www.seinadisciples.com](http://www.seinadisciples.com)

**You Tube**

"seinadisciples"



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of Selma, California"