

# The Caller

Newsletter of the  
First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

2026 Arrants St. ☩ Selma, CA 93662

MARCH 2020

Edition LXIV, No. 3

*'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.

### PHONE:

559-896-2691

### EMAIL:

**Church:** fccselma@sbcglobal.net

**Pastor:** fccselmapastor@yahoo.com

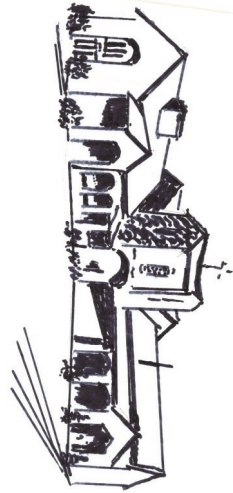
**Youth:** fccselmayya@yahoo.com

### WEBSITE:

www.selmadisciples.com



STAMP



Names

Address

City, State Zip Code



www.selmadisciples.com

YouTube

"selmadisciples"



"First Christian Church  
of Selma, California"

*All Family & Friends are Invited to the:*

MOE MURRAY *Minigolf* MEMORIAL



**POTATO PICKER OPEN!**



**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**MINIGOLF TOURNAMENT 1- 3 PM**

**at Adventure Park in Visalia: \$10 per entry (ages 8+)**

(kids ages 7 & under free with paying adult; spectators also free)

*followed by*

**POTATO POTLUCK SSJ SOCIAL! 4 – 7 PM**

**AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SELMA**

awards, freewill offering, Irish-themed potluck  
& more fun than you can poke a stick at!



**Bring any kind of potato dish to share for the table, if ye are able!**

**ATTEND ONE OR BOTH EVENTS – preferably both!**

**Proceeds going to CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS 2020**

for the campers & staff of the South San Joaquin area  
attending Camp at Tamarack or CGC!

*You're Invited...*

*The City of Selma would like to invite  
you to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for  
the new Peter Ringo Park Playground*



**Join us on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.  
Peter Ringo Park**

Corner of Nebraska and Mitchell Avenue, Selma CA  
Questions– Please Call City Hall 891-2200



cprs

CamelTime

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

### Sunday Bulletin:

Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM

### Newsletter:

16th of the month @ 10:00 AM

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

M - TH 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.....Ashley Petree  
Communications Coordinator..... Jason Torosian

## SCRIPTURES & TITLES FOR MARCH

<u>BOOK &amp; VERSE</u>	<u>SERMON</u>
01: Matthew 4:1-11 CEB	The Journey Begins
08: Genesis 12:1-4 CEB	Following Directions
15: Luke 15:11-32	Recalculating
22: Ezekiel CEB	Surviving the Desert
29: John 9:1-17 CEB	Where are we?

## LAST MONTH'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY TRADITIONAL	THURSDAY CONTEMPORARY
2/2: <b>40</b>	("WORSHIPREPLAY")
2/9: <b>72</b>	Pella Lutheran Church Visiting
2/14: <b>14</b>	"With One Mind Prayer Service"
2/16: <b>42</b>	2/13: <b>9</b>
2/23: <b>45</b>	2/27: TBA
2/26: <b>33</b>	Ash Wednesday Service

**Spring Forward March 8th, 2020**



**PANDA IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Fundraiser for Selma Community Church Choir**

**March 9, 2020**

**12:00 PM—8:30 PM**

**Location - 2785 Floral Ave., Selma**



Your help is needed for a  
*Special Mother's Day Project!*

Please send, Charlotte Thompson, pictures of your mom, or someone who has been a mother figure to you.

Include names of the people in the picture and when the picture was taken. Please send it to [ctsquared@msn.com](mailto:ctsquared@msn.com) before **May 1st**.







## Repent and Believe

I am writing this on Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. For many this is a day of prayer and fasting. For others it's business as usual. For me, it's a little of both. As I read through the scripture readings for tonight's service, repentance and forgiveness are much on my mind.

**Repentance** - the activity of reviewing one's actions and feeling contrition or regret for past wrongs, accompanied by commitment to change for the better.

**Forgiveness** - a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.

There are some spiritual practices designed to help us repent and forgive. One is to write a list of all the people we have harmed so that we may repent and make amends. The other is to write a list of all the people or groups who have harmed us and working toward forgiving them. The name most often left off these lists is our own, and we are often hard put to forgive ourselves.

For example, children often think divorce is their fault and no matter how many times the parents tell them otherwise, they persist in blaming themselves. Abused spouses often blame themselves thinking if they were only better partners their abuser wouldn't "have to" hurt them. If we carry anger or guilt around with us for something that happened a long time ago, we are only hurting ourselves. For these things and others like them we must repent and forgive ourselves. Lent is a good time to examine ourselves to see if there is anything in our hearts that requires repentance or forgiveness. If for some reason we believe that we cannot forgive ourselves, remember that God has already forgiven us, and requires that we forgive others (even ourselves) as many as 77 times if necessary.

Tonight each person attending worship will receive a nail to remind us where this road will lead Jesus, and a purple string to remind us that we are part of a community of faith, walking the road home alongside him. Each face will be marked with ashes in the shape of the cross. Each person will be told, "Repent and believe the Good News," the Good News of God's steadfast love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. May any darkness on our road home to Jesus this Lenten Season be made light through repentance and forgiveness.

Pastor Maria

## SERVING IN March

	<u><b>GREETER(S)</b></u>	<u><b>PRESIDER(S)</b></u>
01:	Marsha Staley	Debbie Brown
08:	Jennifer Earle	Alan Langstraat
15:	Lisa Piper	Laura Thornburg & Alicia Palomino
22:	TBA	Alfred Duran
29:	TBA	Janice Baker

## **ELDERS**

	<u><b>OFFERING</b></u>	<u><b>COMMUNION</b></u>
01:	Jennifer Earle	John Terry
08:	Debbie Brown	Chad Thompson
15:	Jane Ono	Leah Torosian
22:	Jennifer Earle	Kathleen Schales
29:	Debbie Brown	John Terry

**LOCK-UP:** Pat Adams

(Prep)

## **DEACONS**

01:	Charlotte Thompson	Tina Richie	Anna Armstrong	Michael Gutierrez
08:	Diane Highbaugh	Christian Cabral	Jorge Flores	Jessica Williams
15:	Rene Wells	Karen Blanchard	John Hopkins	Dawn Linhoff
22:	Laura Thornburg	Haley Stump	Marsha Staley	Jeff Terry
29:	Tina Ritchie	Becky Moreno	Liz Thornburg	Clarissa Zarate

*Please call a sub if you are unable to do Communion preparation!*

# Schedule for MARCH 2020

## SUNDAY, 3/1

**3:00 PM**

Concert at FCC – Valerie Loera  
mezzo-soprano

## THURSDAY, 3/4

**7:45 AM**

Food Pantry at the S.M.A.R.T. Center

## FRIDAY, 3/5

**3:30 PM**

Ribbon Cutting @ Ringo Park

## SATURDAY, 3/7

**1 PM – 3 PM**

Mini golf Tournament at Adventure  
Park in Visalia

**4 PM – 7 PM**

Potato Potluck SSJ Social at FCC

## SUNDAY, 3/8

**11:45 AM**

Board Meeting

## MONDAY 3/9

**12 PM – 8:30 PM**

Panda Express Fundraiser for Selma  
Community Church Choir

## TUESDAY, 3/10

**9:30 AM**

Miriam Group at Vonnie Murray's

## THURSDAY, 3/12

**6:30 PM**

WorshipReplay Service at FCC

## SATURDAY, 3/14

**37th Annual Founders Day at  
Chapman University**

## THURSDAY, 3/12 CONTINUED

**9:30 AM**

Esther Group at April Langstraat's

**9:30 AM**

Disciples Men's Ministry meeting at  
Denny's

## TUESDAY, 3/17



## THURSDAY, 3/19

**7:45 AM**

Food Pantry at the S.M.A.R.T. Center

## SUNDAY, 3/22

**2:00 PM**

Concert – Jessica Williams

**5:00 PM**

Taize' Service @ FCC Hanford

## THURSDAY, 3/26

**6:30 PM**

WorshipReplay Service at FCC

## SUNDAY, 3/29

**11:45**

"Fan Fest" CWF sponsored Lunch  
after service.

**2:30 PM**

Fresno Community Choir, "Finding  
Refuge"

## SPRING RENEWAL REGISTRATION!

Dear CCNC-N Powerful Women,

With this year being the 100th Anniversary of the culmination of a decades-long movement for women's voting rights, it seems fitting that we come together to renew our passion for affecting change!

Our theme for this year's Spring Renewal includes that same passion!  
*"Affecting Change: Personally, Locally, Nationally and Globally"*



Woodland Christian Church  
509 College St., Woodland, CA 95695  
March 14, 2020 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Registration is only \$25 and includes lunch!  
Register Online at: [Spring Renewal 2020 Registration](#)

More information about specific workshops and our keynote speaker is coming soon!  
We promise it's going to be empowering, engaging and amazing!

**New time change for Youth Group  
They will meet on Thursdays at 6:30 PM**

## "Carpet Cash" Campaign Phase #1



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: **Envelopes available**

*Thank you for taking part  
in making God's  
sanctuary beautiful!*



## Christian Women's Fellowship



*Miriam Group* will be meeting on Tuesday, **March 10th, 9:30 AM**, at Vonnie Murrays' home (12475 S. Temperance, Selma)

*Esther Group* will be meeting on Saturday, **March 14th, at 9:30 AM** at April Langstraats' home (2307 Azalea, Selma)

***Please Join Us!***

## Are YOU registered for Chapman Founder Day,

**March 14, 2020?**



Chapman University in Orange, CA is holding its 37th annual Founders Day on March 14. Come and hear the Rev. Dr. William Barber II as he speaks to us about issues of poverty, racism and social justice. He will be both the morning teacher and the afternoon preacher.

Want to know more about William Barber? Check out his website: <https://www.breachrepairers.org/>. There you can learn more about his work to revive Martin Luther King, Jr.' Poor People's Campaign and create local and state networks to work on issues of injustice.

Registration closes on March 12th. A full schedule and registration is found online at [www.chapman.edu/founders-day](http://www.chapman.edu/founders-day). If you cannot register online, please call the Office of Church Relations at **714-997-6760** for assistance. And we are serious—do not let the cost of registration keep you away. If you need a scholarship call or email [churchrelations@chapman.edu](mailto:churchrelations@chapman.edu) and ask for it.

## FCC Weekly Schedule

### Sunday:

9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
6:30 PM Young Adults Meeting (*Parsonage*)  
6:00 PM Iglesia PC

### Monday:

7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous

**Tuesday:** (*No activities*)

### Wednesday:

7:00 PM Iglesia PC  
7:17 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday:

6:30 PM WORSHIPREPLAY (*2nd/4th Thursdays of the month*)  
6:30 PM Trinity Life Church  
6:30 PM Youth Group Meeting at FCC

**Friday:** (*Office Closed*)

7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**Saturday:** (*No activities*)



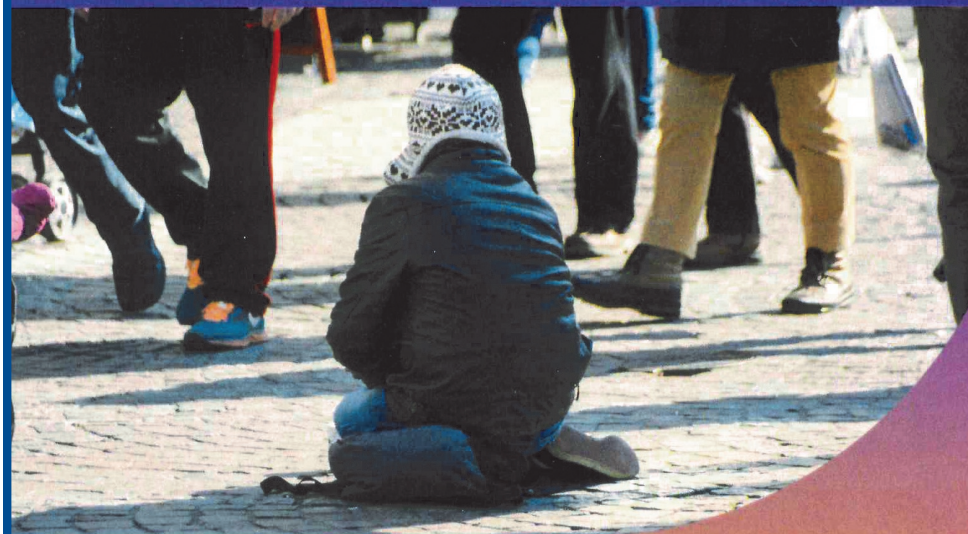
# March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1: Hugh Adams; Sylvia Wells
- 2: April Langstraat
- 6: Bill & Diane Stewart '71
- 10: Jason Torosian
- 11: Bill Stewart, Sr.
- 15: Haley Stump; Billie Sanchez
- 17: Patrice Dmitriev
- 18: Diane Highbaugh; Jason & Leah Torosian '00
- 19: Robert Luna
- 20: Bill & Dee Anne Douville '82
- 23: Becky Moreno; Lisa Piper
- 24: Britton Duran
- 28: Mitch Ritchie; Tina Ritchie; William Thompson
- 29: Dawn Linhoff
- 31: Mark Babiarz

*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)*

## FC MasterChorale

FRESNO COMMUNITY CHORUS, INC.  
Conducted by Dr. Anna Hamre



### FINDING REFUGE

Henry Mollicone's  
*Beatitude Mass for the Homeless*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 | 2:30PM**

Paul Shaghoian Concert Hall | Fresno, CA | Tickets \$25

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## PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

Welcome to **Chief Joseph Gomez**, appointed Selma's New Police Chief. His start date will be March 2, 2020. Let us keep him in prayer as he begins this new work.

**Phil "Red" Starr** has been moved to an assisted living resident. His new address is 2855 Prescott Ave. Clovis, CA 93619. Please keep him in your prayers.

Prayers for **Diane Stewart's** brother, **Bill Wilson**. He had surgery on February 14th in Shreveport.

Pray for **The Stone Family**, **Shirley Stone**, has passed away. David and Michelle Stone are good friends of **Mitch and Tina Ritchie**.

### 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).



***All are encouraged to join!***

**Disciples Men's Ministry**  
will be  
meeting on  
**Saturday, March 14th,**

**9:30 AM at Denny's**  
**2763 Highland Avenue, Selma**



**Thank you** to all faithful supporters of the Food Pantry. ***Distribution days are held on the first and third Thursdays at the SMART Center!*** During the month of **February** there were **73 bags** of food given out to **298 people**. *Your donations are always greatly appreciated.*

**Next Board Meeting**  
**March 8, 11:45 AM**



### **Selma Cares**

Dear First Christian Church,

Thank you for your help in collecting toys and food products for Selma Cares. With your help Selma Cares was able to distribute over 400 boxes of food to Selma families deemed "most in need" by local teachers on Saturday, December 21, 2019, with over one thousand toys being given to children of the same selected families. On the same day, an additional 150 food boxes were given to senior citizens who reside in our community.

In addition to the Christmas event, Selma Cares also assists local families throughout the year, helping with utility payments or purchasing needed groceries and other necessities upon referral or request.

Selma Cares could not continue to make the holidays brighter for approximately 2,500 parents, children and senior citizens if not for you and other caring community partners. On behalf of the Board of Directors, local volunteers and the families/seniors served, thank you again for your support. It is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Bob Allen, Board President