

The Caller

Newsletter of the
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

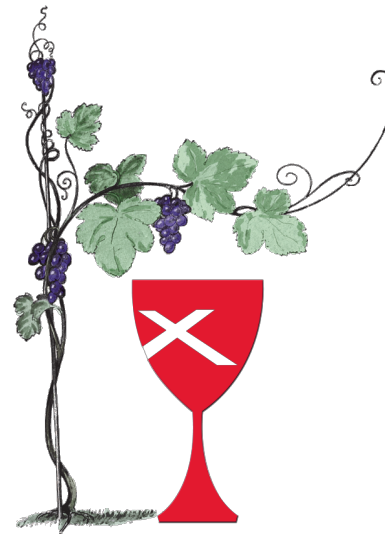
2026 Arrants St. ‡ Selma, CA 93662

AUGUST 2020
Edition LXIV, No. 8

*'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.



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STAMP

Hi Church Congregation!

Boy, has this been a rollercoaster ride! I thought by now we'd be back in the church worshipping together even if it would be under new guidelines like wearing masks, social distancing, no singing, etc. Since we're not, we're still adapting to the new way of worshipping. And by the way, isn't our Quarantine Qrew doing a fantastic job! Thank you all for all your hard work, just can't say that enough. Even though we can't worship together in person, we can still do it through the internet. If any of you are having trouble watching the services, please let us know and I'm sure we can find someone to help you out!

I would like to remind everyone that even though the Church doors aren't open for in-person worshipping, we still have a staff that is working hard so I want to personally thank everyone who are tithing regularly, some over and above what they usually tithe, and our new tither. We appreciate the money coming in. It may not always be what we'd like to get or give but every single dollar helps. We usually have had at least one fundraiser by now and August we've done the spaghetti fundraiser in the past few years to help out with our finances. Unfortunately, we have been unable to do any fundraisers this year so I would encourage you, if possible, to keep that in mind when you give your tithes to possibly give a little extra. I don't like talking about finances, as I'm sure many of you don't, but it's a reality and like I said before, even though we are not meeting in person every Sunday, we still have bills and salaries to pay for.

The Board members and the Elders are still meeting via Zoom every month to discuss the matters of the church. As I stated in my last letter, keep in contact with each other by phone, text messages, emails, cards, etc., we will get through this, we just have to trust God! Also, prayers are very important. Pray for Pastor Maria, the Quarantine Qrew and each other as I'm sure each and every one of us have been affected by this pandemic. We all probably know someone, whether a friend, family member or coworker, who have tested positive for Covid-19, keep praying for strength and wisdom and please, please stay safe!

Love in Christ!

John Terry

Next Board Meeting August 16th, 2 PM Zoom

Please pray for my Dad , **Bert Baker**, he was taken up to Community Hospital Monday with a fever, very restless and lethargic. He was unresponsive so they transported him to Community Hospital in Fresno and they just called to tell me that he is COVID 19 positive, he is in stable condition and will be there several days, but they are hoping they started treatment early enough. Prayers for healing. Thank you, **Janice**

SCRIPTURES FOR AUGUST

BOOK & VERSE

02: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 NRSV

09: 1 Kings 19:9-13

16: Psalm 133 NRSV

23: Romans 12:1-6a NRSV

30: Romans 12:9-21 NRSV

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Newsletter:

16th of the month @ 10:00 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

W- 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

PRAYER REQUESTS AND GRATITUDE

Please pray for **Pastor Jack and his wife**, of the First Baptist Church here in Selma. They have both tested positive for COVID 19. Pray for the church also as they decide how to go forward. Let us surround them with prayer.

Please pray for **John Terry's mother, Janet**. She is having a biopsy of her thyroid on the 9th. Pray for the doctor's, nurses and all who are involved. Pray also for John.

Please pray for **Melinda Chapin and the Bill Rose family**. Bill passed away on July 10th with his brother and son by his side. Thank you for your prayers.

A **friend of Charlotte Thompson** needs prayers as she files for divorce from her husband. She found out he had been molesting their children for the past six years.

Cameron Wells' mother, **Lynda**, fell and hit her knee, arm, elbow and face. She has bruises, but the worst is that she knocked her bridge work loose and broke another tooth. Prayers for healing.

Vivian Williams asks for prayer for a friend of hers who has tested positive for COVID 19. This friend is on a leave of absence from work for the 14 days of quarantine. Please pray for her and for her family.

Please pray! One of our neighbors is in Community Regional Medical Center on a ventilator after testing positive for COVID19. Let us pray for their neighbor, the doctors and nurses, and the family. **Dave Highbaugh**

It's official-official that, **Jessica and Jordan Williams** are cleared and have recovered from COVID-19, albeit they were asymptomatic a majority of the time. Luckily, the four-ish weeks in quarantine went by quickly—at least for **Jordan**.

A couple of days ago, **Joe** (who sings bass in our Sunday services) shared with **Jordan** that a friend he served with in the military had died from COVID 19 just recently. He was in a grieving spirit when he came into the church to record for service. Joe shared with **Jordan** that he felt better after singing with us. Praise be to God!

Virgie Cortez' nephew, **Mike Marin**, passed from COVID 19 on Sunday July 26, leaving a wife and 4 children. He was only 48 and had asthma. **Virgie** asks that we tell everyone "This COVID 19 is no joke! His wife and children couldn't even visit him before he died."

Please pray for the **Linhoff family**. **Dawn's** sister-in-law, **Lisa**, was found dead today. Her sister went to see why she had not been answering the phone and found her dead. **Mrs. Linhoff** has now lost two children, let's surround her with prayer.

Prayers continued on page 7

REV. MINION



Gone Phishing

I know. That is not how we spell that sport in which we try to catch fish. It is, however, the correct spelling for a very nasty kind of email many people get. We get them all the time at the church office. During July both Regional Minister Toni Bynum and I experienced someone sending emails to folks on our contact lists and making unusual requests. These were phishing expeditions.

By definition, **Phishing** “is a method of sending a user (or many users) digital correspondence that appears legitimate but is actually meant to lure a potential victim into providing some level of personal information for nefarious purposes, including identity or monetary theft.”

What happens is this: an email comes saying it is from the phone company or our email provider - or me! - and asks us to immediately respond. Sometimes it wants us to provide pass words to verify we are who we say we are, which is the first clue it might be a scam. The easiest way to check if it is legitimate is to look at the address it is coming from. If it is supposed to come from AT&T but the email address does not say AT&T, it is not legit. If it says it is coming from me, but doesn't have either my name or FCC Selma in the email address, it is not legit. If in doubt, call the person it says it is from and ask. Do NOT respond to the email until you are sure.

As President Reagan used to say, “Trust, but verify.”

Phishing succeeds because we want to trust people. If a message comes claiming to be from someone we trust, we want to believe them. So it has always been. Thus Paul warned about false teachers claiming to be of Christ. *“For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed . . . or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you submit to it readily enough. . . Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness.”*

2 Corinthians 11:4,14-15.

Pastor Maria

We invite you to register for Camp!
Camps by Zoom are on a cost-free basis.

CAMP BYTES 2020

Lighting the World!



Junior/Chi Rho Camp Combo
(youth entering 4th-8th grades)
via Zoom
July 31 - August 2

2020 Graduate Retreat
at Community of the Great Commission
August 7 - 9

CYF Camp
(youth entering 9th-12th grades)
via Zoom
August 7 - 9



To register, go online to:
https://ccncn.org/Outdoor_Ministries.php

Open to all DOC, UCC & SSJ Youth!

We are excited to see your faces & to share good stories & Fun activities!



Thank you to all the faithful supporters of our Central Valley Food Bank Ministry.

During **July** we provided food for **194** family members!

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

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

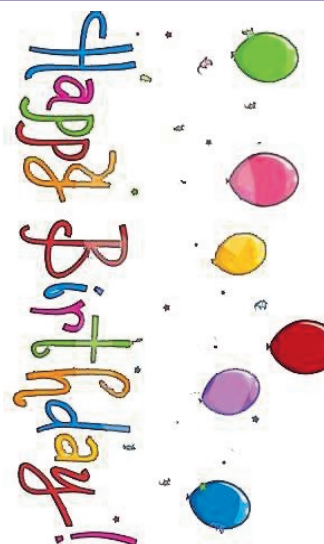


Wednesday, August 5th,
6:30 PM

United First Methodist Church, Selma

Two volunteers are needed to help Liz Thornburg Martinez package and serve ready made food items. We will do this as a take-out meal until further notice.

Please call or email Liz at 559-349-4280, emlt@sbcglobal.net if you would be able to help with this.



8/1:	Victoria Guzman
8/3:	Vivian Williams
8/3:	Nathan Stellpflug
8/3:	Cameron Wells
8/7:	Betty Baker
8/8:	Haley Thompson
8/14:	Jessica Williams
8/17:	Efrain Vasquez
8/18:	Dee Anne Douville
8/19:	Karen Blanchard
8/20:	Jorge Flores
8/22:	Randy Cunningham
8/24:	Nicholas Schales
8/26:	Chad Thompson
8/27:	Diane Stewart
8/27:	Adriana Cortes
8/31:	Jonah Linhoff

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