SEPTEMBER 2026

THE CALLER

First Christian Church, Pomona

Disciples of Christ
"Where Edges Meet"

Join Us Sundays at 10am for

WORSHIP SERVICE

In-Person at
1751 Park Avenue, Pomona, CA. 91768
or Online via Facebook Live:
First Christian Church Pomona

1751 N. Park Avenue
Pomona, CA. 91768
Phone: 909-622-1144
Email: fcc@fccpomona.org
Website: fccpomona.org

OFFICE HOURS
TH/F: 10am to 3pm
Wed. By appointment only
Sun. 8:30am to 11:30am

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to share that Sunday, September 6, 2026, the congregation voted to call **Rev. Cheri Metier** as our next Senior Pastor! After nearly a year of listening, searching, and prayerful discernment, we are grateful and excited to welcome her into our church family. We look forward to all that she will bring to our congregation through her leadership, compassion, creativity, and deep commitment to sharing God's love with all.

Thank you to the Search and Call Committee for the many hours of thoughtful work, and to the entire congregation for your participation, prayers, and trust throughout this process.

Please join us in celebrating this exciting new chapter and in warmly welcoming **Rev. Cheri Metier** as our next Senior Pastor! Her first Sunday with us will be October 4th.

With gratitude and excitement,
Alicia Martin

Meet First Christian Church Pomona's New Pastor!

Rev. Cheri Metier is an ordained minister through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has dual standing with the United Church of Christ. She attended San Francisco Theological Seminary and completed her Master of Divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary. Cheri also has a teaching credential and B.A. in Political Science from CSU, San Bernardino and taught in public schools for many years.

Her call to ministry is to inspire and equip Kindom builders. Cheri has a big heart for social justice for all people and lives this out in her role as Executive Director and Co-Founder of Interfaith Worker Justice of San Diego County (IWJSD). She serves on the Regional Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pacific Southwest Region as the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee Chair. Cheri's expansive commitment to her faith-rooted justice is exhibited in a myriad of ways including serving as the Scholarship Chair of the International Christian Scholarship Foundation, Treasurer of the POINT Interfaith Team, an Anti-racism Educator for the PSWR, and in many other capacities.

Rev. Cheri believes and teaches that *"(L)iving out our Christian values of love of God and neighbor is the mission of God's Church for every time and place. We are God's revelation for such a time as this. Love and compassion for every person, regardless of faith, politics, race, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, primary language or other ways humans differentiate is the heart of this revelation. Christians are instructed to be co-creators with God until the brokenness of this world is healed and justice is the standard and peace prevails – 'Thy Kingdom Come'."*

Rev. Metier is a born and raised southern Californian. She was born at Pomona Valley Hospital and grew up in Montclair. She and her wife, Lorraine, currently live in San Diego with their dog named Justice, 3 cats and 4 turtles. They have two adult children who also live in SoCal and are the proud godparents of 11-year-old Daniella.

Please join us in welcoming Rev. Cheri Metier to FCC Pomona

Sunday, October 4th

Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Back to School:

a reflection on education, partnership, and the persistence of hope

Dear Friends,

Around our house, August means back to school. The summer schedule disappears. Mornings start earlier. Backpacks are packed again. There are new teachers, new classes, new routines—and, depending on the child, varying levels of enthusiasm about all of it. It is all pretty ordinary. And maybe that is why I have been thinking about it differently this year.

A few weeks ago, I was reading a report from Community World Service Asia (CWSA), one of Week of Compassion's longtime partners. We have worked alongside CWSA for many years through earthquakes, floods, refugee response, and the slower work of helping communities rebuild their lives. One story stayed with me.

Her name is Ayaza. She is 11 years old and lives in Kumbhar Bhada, a remote village in Pakistan's Umerkot district. For years, there was essentially no school for girls in her village. Girls stayed home, helped their families, worked around the house, or worked in the fields. That could easily have been Ayaza's story too. But the community wanted something different for their daughters.

Working with CWSA, they reopened the village school. There is now a woman teaching there. There are books and school supplies, a place for children to play, and a daily meal. And Ayaza goes to school.

When she was asked what she wants to be when she grows up, she didn't hesitate. She wants to become a teacher. I keep coming back to that. An 11-year-old girl, in a village that went nearly two decades without a functioning school for girls, is already imagining herself becoming the person who will teach the next generation. There is something about that kind of hope that gets me. And I see it elsewhere in CWSA's work.

Week of Compassion has been supporting education for Afghan refugee children through CWSA. Their most recent report told us that 180 students are continuing their education. Of those, 129 are girls. Those numbers matter. But what caught my attention was what was happening around them. Nineteen Afghan teachers have received training. Parents are meeting regularly with teachers. And English classes that began with the students have expanded to include some of their mothers. I don't know that anyone planned for that.

The children were learning, their mothers saw an opportunity, and the circle simply got bigger. This is the part of humanitarian work that rarely makes the news. This summer has been a reminder of how quickly life can change. We have watched earthquakes strike Indonesia, Colombia, and Venezuela. Here at home, communities have been hit by flooding and severe storms, including families in Indiana and Texas who are facing the long road of recovery. Every week seems to bring another disaster, another community suddenly finding itself in the headlines. Our partners know those headlines don't tell the whole story.

Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

Back to School:

a reflection on education, partnership, and the persistence of hope (cont.)

Sometimes Week of Compassion is able to respond immediately with emergency support. Other times, we intentionally slow down. We listen. We wait for our partners to tell us what they are seeing and what communities actually need. I've learned over the years that responding quickly and responding faithfully are not always the same thing. The work that changes lives often begins after the headlines fade.

A school reopens. A teacher receives training. Parents organize. Children return to a classroom. A mother decides she wants to learn too. None of that is dramatic. But increasingly, this is where I find hope. Not because everything is okay. It isn't.
Hope, at least the kind I see through our partners, isn't pretending that suffering isn't real. It is people deciding that suffering doesn't get to make every decision about what happens next.

And that brings me back to Ayaza. As children in our own communities head back to school, I find myself a little more grateful this year for how ordinary that can feel. We complain about schedules and early mornings. We buy school supplies. We wonder how another summer disappeared so quickly.

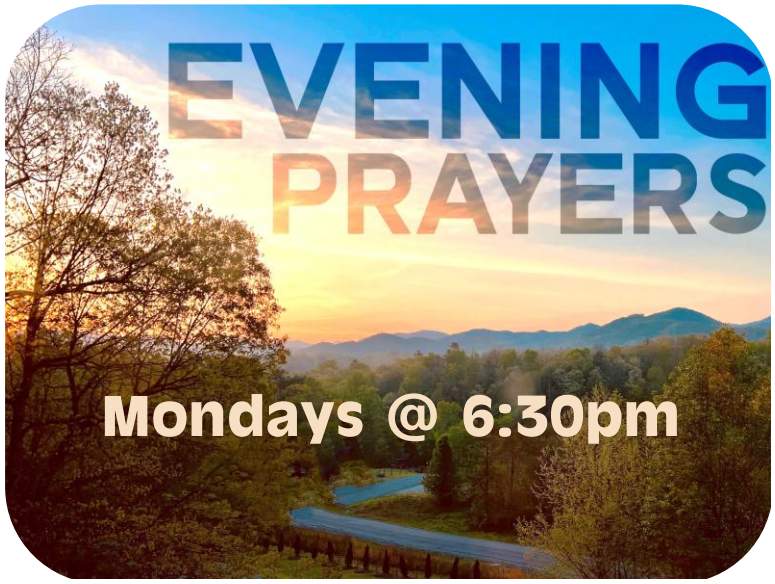
And somewhere in Pakistan, an 11-year old girl is walking into a school that not very long ago, wasn't there for her. She wants to become a teacher. Maybe someday another little girl will walk into a classroom and find Ayaza waiting for her. I hope so. And I am grateful tat, through Week of Compassion, we get to walk alongside communities and partners who are making stories like hers possible.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Vy T. Nguyen
Executive Director
Week of Compassion

Photo: CWS-Asia, Kumbhar Bhada

Join us for fellowship and faith

Weekly @ First Christian Church Pomona



Join us on ZOOM for some respite from the turbulence of life. Victor Luna will be leading a 30-minute prayer group online.

Lectio simply means "read" or "text". It is a prayerful reading of scripture, multiple times, interspersed with silence. Join us for this spiritual practice amid your busy day.

Children's Peace Table

Children will begin in the sanctuary during worship and then meet in the front for Children's Sermon before meeting in the Library at "The Peace Table" for a fun activity before returning to Worship Service for Communion.

First Christian Church Pomona's Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF) is a group that meets monthly for service, fellowship and learning. CMF meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am. CMF's mission is to broaden the ties of connection between men of the church and deepen spirituality as well as service to the congregation. The time together is one of fellowship and learning and is open to everyone of the church.

Evening Prayers (Mondays) & Lectio at Lunch (Tuesdays) are online ministries that meet on ZOOM. Please RSVP by email to fcc@fccpomona.org with your name and contact information, or call 909-622-1144, TH/F, 10am to 3pm. To be sure to get the link in time, please RSVP by the Friday before you would like to attend. The Adult Sunday School and Children's Peace Table are in person on Sundays at First Christian Church, 1751 N. Park Avenue, Pomona.

All are welcome!

Walking the Labyrinth
Mindfulness & Meditation

~David Fronk

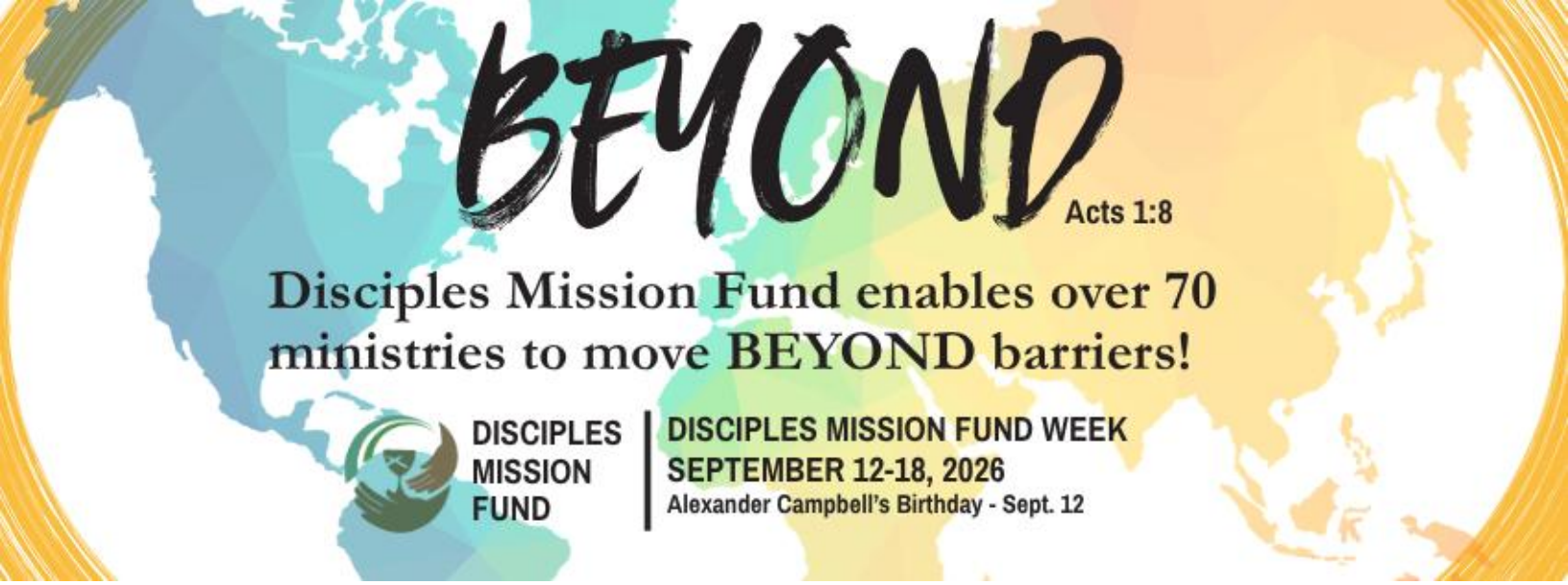
1st Saturdays
1pm to 3pm

1st & 2nd Sundays
11am

1st Tuesdays
6pm to 8pm

The labyrinth is an ancient religious tool for prayer, spiritual discernment, centering and grounding. Our replica of the Chartres Labyrinth at First Christian Church Pomona is open the first and second Sunday of the month after morning services and on the first Saturday and Tuesday of each month for those seeking peace and self-guided meditation. The labyrinth has only one path with no tricks and no dead ends. Come find the quiet center. All are welcome. Please arrive 20 minutes before ending time as the labyrinth generally takes 15 minutes or more to walk.

Thank you for letting us know you are coming. Please be sure to wear socks as they are required for walking the labyrinth (no shoes). If you have any questions, email: fcc@fccpomona.org



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ~Acts 1:8, NRSVUE

Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 remind us that the church has always been called to move beyond what is familiar, to cross barriers, build relationships, and bear witness to God's love in every place. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are sent into our neighborhoods, across cultures, and around the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

God's love is never confined by geography, culture, tradition, or the barriers we create. Through the Disciples Mission Fund (DMF), the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) extends Christ's love beyond barriers to serve, connect, and transform lives across the United States, Canada, and around the world.

During Disciples Mission Fund Week, we invite you to journey Beyond as we celebrate the ministries your gifts make possible. Throughout the week, you'll discover inspiring stories, videos, reflections, and testimonies that demonstrate how DMF equips congregations, supports leaders, strengthens communities, and shares God's love wherever it is needed.

Join us September 12–18 as we explore how God continues to call the church beyond what is familiar and into new opportunities for ministry and mission. Together, we are living out the promise of Acts 1:8, extending Christ's witness beyond every barrier.

You can donate online by scanning the QR code →

FCC Pomona Child Development Center

CDC CORNER

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Hilda O.-Koorn

Happy September!

It is Community Helpers & Hispanic Heritage Month

As we welcome the new month, we embrace a new school year with a smile, and with wonderful plans to conquer during the exciting journey ahead. Thank you all who participated in the 3rd annual fundraising carnival-open house extravaganza event!!! It was a blast!

Important Dates:

- September 4th: Staff Development Day (Center Closed)
- September 7th: Labor Day (Center Closed)
- September 15th: Picture Day
- September 25th: Open House (5:30pm - 6:30pm)

Join our

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, September 25th

5:30PM - 6:30PM

Start your child on the right educational path for Lifelong Learning!

We offer a loving and caring environment for NEWBORNS to PRE-K. The developmental emphasis of our curriculum focuses on literacy, math, science, motor skills and social skills. Our teachers are California State Certified allowing children to receive a high-level learning experience as well as preparing them for the future of their education. We are CPR/1st Aid certified and fingerprint background cleared!

Open Enrollment Year-Round

Book your tour NOW! ~ Walk-Ins are welcome!

Call us at (909) 629-3636

Visit us at cdcpomona.com or

email us at cdc@fccpomona.org

We are located at:

1751 N. Park Avenue, Pomona, CA 91765

Inland Valley HOPE PARTNERS

5K WALK & RUN

53RD ANNUAL WALK FOR THE HUNGRY & HOMELESS

SUPER HERO

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

8:00AM REGISTRATION
9:00AM WALK BEGINS

CLAREMONT COLLEGES SERVICES
101 S. MILLS AVE, CLAREMONT

REGISTRATION $25
STUDENTS $20

FREE FOR CHILDREN
12 & UNDER

FOOD, CONTESTS, POPCORN, BALLOONS, FACE PAINTING, GAMES, FUNDRAISING CHALLENGES, & MORE!!!

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED HELPS FEED AND HOUSE OUR STRUGGLING NEIGHBORS !

ALL REGISTERED WALKERS WILL RECEIVE AN IVHP DRAWSTRING BACKPACK.

YOU CAN REGISTER, CREATE A TEAM AND FUNDRAISE ONLINE AT:
WWW.INLANDVALLEYHOPEPARTNERS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES @ INLAND VALLEY HOPEPARTNERS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO OUR REGISTRATION PAGE.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY 2026

DEFIANT HOPE

Hebrews 10:23-25

ESPERANZA DESAFIANTE
逆流的盼望 담대한 소망

Friday-Saturday, October 16-17, 2026
Disciples Ministry Center • Fullerton, California

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: $50 for adults and $10 for all youth up to age 18. Registration includes Friday and Saturday admission, Friday dinner, and Saturday lunch. In addition, there will be a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, and closing reception Saturday afternoon. A Saturday-only registration for adults is available for $40. Visit https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/e2rvbj7 to register today.

FRIDAY DINNER/SATURDAY LUNCH (for pre-registered attendees) MENU: Gluten-free and vegetarian options will be offered. **Children in grades 5** and under will eat on site with parents. **Youth in grades 6-12** will eat together.

WORKSHOPS: A variety of workshops will be offered in the morning and afternoon and will be posted as we get closer to the event.

YOUTH ASSEMBLY: All youth in **grades 6 through high school seniors** attending on Friday are encouraged to participate in assembly-wide worship services and general programming. On Saturday, specialized youth programming will be provided during educational and lunch times. Visit the youth page https://www.disciplespswr.org/ra2026/youth for more details. Sign up for **$10 starting September 1st, for all youth under the age of 18.**

CHILDCARE AND KIDS ASSEMBLY: Childcare and kids programming will be provided to children on Friday and Saturday. Visit the childcare and kids page https://www.disciplespswr.org/ra2026/youth for more details. **Registration is $10 for all youth under the age of 18. Free childcare is available for infants and children under 5 years.** Space will be prioritized for those children who are registered by October 11; childcare is not guaranteed for those who register after October 11 or on-site.

HOTEL AND RESTAURANTS: Staying overnight before or after the Regional Assembly? Visit https://www.disciplespswr.org/ra2026/local-info for recommended hotels and restaurants/coffee shops nearby.

VOLUNTEER
If you would like to volunteer at the Regional Assembly, please contact the Regional Office: Call (626) 296-0385 or email reception@docpswr.org.

You know about the monthly "Caller" but did you know that First Christian Church Pomona has a weekly online newsletter, "The Watchlist"?

If you are reading this than you know about our monthly newsletter "The Caller". The Caller is a source of information on the services, ministries and news from First Christian Church Pomona as well as updates and events from the Disciples of Christ and our regional area Pacific Southwest Region (PSWR). We also share updates from our affiliates such at the Children's Development Center, Inland Valley Hope Partners and ICON.

What you may not know is there is a weekly online newsletter called, "The Weekly Watchlist". The Weekly Watchlist highlights details for Sunday's Worship Service, while including any upcoming events and program updates. You can access online worship and the online bulletin through "The Weekly Watchlist" as well as our other online ministries.

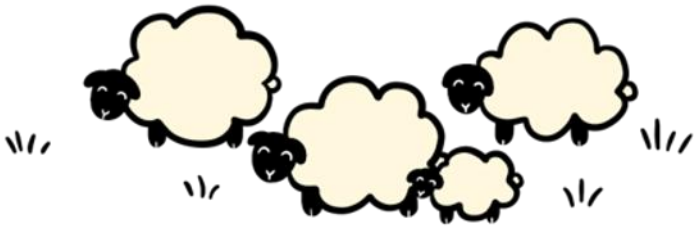
If you are not already getting the Weekly Watchlist, you can sign up today emailing the church office with your name, email address and that you wish to be added to the mailing list. fcc@fccpomona.org

Thursdays & Fridays: 10am to 3pm

Sundays: 9am to 11:30am

You can contact the Church Office by phone during office hours at 909-622-1144 and anytime by email at: fcc@fccpomona.org

CHURCH
DIRECTORY



EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!

IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

In preparing our church directory it has become apparent that we have missing or outdated information. We are asking **EVERYONE** to update or confirm their contact information **(Even if you think we already have it.)** Please fill out the form below and turn it in during offering on Sundays, email the information to fcc@fccpomona.org or send in the post to:

FCCPomona – Office
1751 N. Park Avenue
Pomona, CA. 91764

Thank you,
Sarah Campbell
Office Administrator

Name1: _____ Name2: _____

Children (minors in household.): _____

_____

Landline: _____ Cell: _____ Text: Y____ N____

Email Address: _____

Residential Address:_____

Mailing Address (if different than above):_____

Birthdays & Anniversaries (optional):

_____

Note: Mark the names of official members with an *.

Prayers, Concerns & Celebrations

Let us join together in prayer for our community and our world. To join the "Prayer Chain" call or text Donna Graham at 951-529-3149. ***Please let us know via email (fcc@fccpomona.org) if you would like to add or remove someone from the Prayer List.***

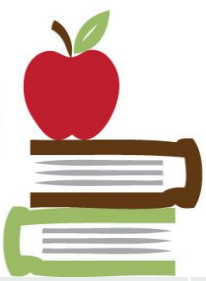
ONGOING PRAYERS

All Those Impacted by Violence, Housing & Food Insecurities, Natural Disasters, Global Conflict & Peace, Refugees & Migrants.

Joshua Henderson	Joe Nuzum
Brian & Tiffany Schindler	Elaine Ehrhorn
Pam & Dave Mowry	Annette Anderson
Michelle Diane Wallace	Janette Gomez
Elaine, Tom & Tim Reed	Cindy & Scott Moore
Lorraine & Richard Rogers	Eric Allen
Christi Wiley	Deborah Graves
Andre Alderete	Bruce Martens

We enjoy celebrating our First Christian Church Family & Friends. Please let us know if we are missing anyone at fcc@fccpomona.org

Fri. 9/11, Jim Ross
Sat. 9/12, David Fronk
Wed. 9/16, Martha Gorsuch
Thurs. 9/17, Sarah Campbell
Mon. 9/21, Marjorie Reisinger
Wed. 9/23, Bob Benza
Wed. 9/23, Jamie Gibson
Sat. 9/26, Tim Reed
Tue. 9/29, Rupert Nelson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 12:15pm, Lectio @ Lunch (Zoom) 6pm - 8pm, Labyrinth	2	3	4 CDC Staff Development Day (Center Closed)	5 9am
6 10am, Worship Service 11am, Labyrinth 11:15am, Congregational Vote	7 LABOR DAY Office & CDC Closed 6:30pm, Evening Prayers (Zoom)	8 12:15pm, Lectio @ Lunch (Zoom)	9	10	11 PATRIOTS" DAY	12
13 10am, Worship Service 11am, Labyrinth 11:15am, Diaconate & Elders' Meetings	14 6:30pm, Evening Prayers (Zoom)	15 CDC Picture Day 12:15pm, Lectio @ Lunch (Zoom) 7pm, General Board Meeting	16	17	18	19 8am – Noon, IVHP Walk for the Hungry & Homeless
20 10am, Worship Service	21 6:30pm, Evening Prayers (Zoom)	22 12:15pm, Lectio @ Lunch (Zoom) 	23	24	25 5:30pm – 6:30pm CDC OPEN HOUSE	26
27 10am, Worship Service	28 6:30pm, Evening Prayers (Zoom)	29 12:15pm, Lectio @ Lunch (Zoom)	30			

STAY CONNECTED

The Caller (Email or Post)	Monthly Newsletter that includes regional and national & association updates, FCCPomona programs and events and more.
Weekly Watchlist (Email Only)	Weekly update that includes the online and children's bulletin as well as Sunday Worship details and upcoming events.
Website	**fcc@fccpomona.org** Everything about First Christian Church, Pomona
Facebook	**First Christian Church Pomona** Live Worship Service on Sundays
MeetUp	**First Christian Church Pomona** Spiritual Practice Ministry
Instagram	**First Christian Church Pomona** Social Media Posts

The Caller goes out by the 1st of the month. The Weekly Watchlist is posted every Friday. If you would like to be added to the recipient list for The Caller or Weekly Watchlist, please send your name and email to fccpomona.org.

All articles for the October Caller are due by 10am, Friday, September 18th.

First Christian Church,

1751 Park Avenue, Pomona, CA. 91768

Phone: 909-622-1144

Email: fcc@fccpomona.org

Office Hours

Wednesdays: By appointment only.

Thursday & Friday: 10am to 3pm

Sundays – 8:30am to 11:30am

If you need anything outside of office hours, please email Sarah at fcc@fccpomona.org and she will try to get back to you within 36 hours.

Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance

As an Open & Affirming Ministry of the Christian Church we are committed to openly welcoming and affirming persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations.

FCCPomona is a certified green chalice community member within the Christian Church Disciples of Christ since November of 2016. This signifies that we are a congregation that lives out our faith by caring for creation and strive to walk gently on the earth.

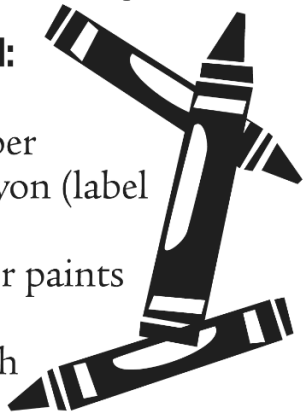
Bible Quiz

It's intriguing to think of people in Bible times experiencing the same cycle of seasons we do. Which of these books *doesn't* mention autumn?

A. Matthew
B. Jeremiah
C. Proverbs
D. Jude

Revealing the Invisible

Create some invisible art and then reveal the seasonal design.



What you need:

- Leaves
- White paper
- White crayon (label removed)
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Paintbrush

What you do:

1. Gather leaves of different shapes and sizes. On a table, arrange them flat without overlaps. Set the paper over them.
2. Hold the crayon sideways and use the long edge to color over the leaves. You'll make an invisible rubbing of them.
3. Then paint over the paper with watercolors. The areas with crayon will resist the paint and reveal the hidden leaf designs.