

# Restoration






August 13th, 2023 Guest Preacher Laura Cowan Pierson  
Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Wi-Fi Network: FCCDOC Password: 5303433727

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • Ph. 530-343-3727 • [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)  
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**Welcome Visitors!** We are excited that you have chosen to worship with us today; all are welcome and beloved—all races, gender identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, *everyone*.

## I. Prelude – (Nancy Thompson)

## II. Ringing of the Bell

## III. Welcome and Announcements (Barbara Poetker)

- Today – Fellowship following service hosted by Tom Shifflet and Michelle Bachmann in honor of Ben Bachmann's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday
- Tuesday – 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble Practice in the Chapel. Deadline to submit articles to the monthly newsletter, *The Caller*. Elders meeting moved to next week.
- Wednesday – 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, K-Hall and Fireside.
- Thursday – 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Room 6 only
- Sunday – 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary, Zoom, and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in K-Hall following the service
- Offerings may be put in the collection plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the Sanctuary

#### IV. Opening Hymn – CH #323 “Wonderful Words of Life” (Nancy Thompson)

Sing them over again to me,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Words of life and beauty  
Teach me faith and duty.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all  
Wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call,  
Wonderful words of life;  
All so freely given,  
Wooing us to heaven.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life.

Sweetly echo the gospel call,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Jesus, only Savior,  
Sanctify forever.

Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life.

#### V. Call to Worship – (Barbara Poetker)

Sisters and Brothers, we are called:

**Called to follow Jesus. What a challenge! What an opportunity!**

Called to move, as he did, among the people; to feel with them; to care for them; to touch them and be touched by them.

**Called to name, as he did, the oppressions that destroy our world: those of which we are already aware, and those injustices we have not yet learned to recognize or to name.**

Called to discern those gifts of life God has hidden deep within each of us.

**Called to discover and to share those gifts of our hearts, our hands, our whole selves.**

Called to place our gifts in God's hands: the holy hands from which they came.

Called to follow Jesus

**and yes, we can answer; we can follow, because we have been called first to love.**

Called to be God's children.

**Called by name.**

## **VI. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School**

## **VII. Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45 Laughing Bird Version (Barbara Poetker)**

We shout your name and give you thanks, LORD;  
we will tell everyone what you have done for us.

We sing your praises in your presence,  
and publicise your wonderful achievements.

We put your name up in lights, your name alone;  
our hearts burst with joy when we approach you.  
It is you we want most of all, you and your strength;  
we try to keep near to you all the time.

Like all the descendants of Abraham and Jacob,  
and all your chosen children,  
we remember all the astonishing things you have done  
and the breath-taking wisdom of your decisions.

When you sent a famine on the land,  
destroying the crops and breaking the food cycle,  
you had already sent a man ahead to provide help:  
Joseph, who had been sold as a slave.

He had been dragged off in leg irons,  
and chained by the neck.

You spoke to him, challenging him to tough it out,  
until eventually his own words came true.

Sure enough, the Pharaoh ordered his release;  
the most powerful man on earth set him free.  
Pharaoh put him in charge of the palace,  
and made him the manager of all his possessions.  
He gave him authority over all other officials,  
to tell them what to do and how to do it.

You are the greatest, LORD!

## **VIII. Matthew 25: 35-40 (NRSV)– (Barbara**

**Poetker)**

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

## **IX. Sermon - “Restoration” (Laura Cowan**

**Pierson)**

## **X. Song of Reflection – CH #381 “Take My Gifts” (Nancy Thompson)**

Take my gifts and let me love you,  
God who first of all loved me  
Gave me light and food and shelter

Gave me life and set me free  
Now because your love has touched me  
I have love to give away.  
Now the bread of love is rising  
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered  
From the tree your Spirit sowed  
Harvest of your own compassion  
Juice that makes the wine of God  
Spiced with humor laced with laughter  
Flavor of the Jesus life  
Tang of risk and new adventure  
Taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer  
Gifts that I have yet to find,  
Skills that I am slow to sharpen  
talents of the hand and mind,  
Things made beautiful for others  
in the place where I must be  
Take my gifts and let me love you  
God who first of all loved me.

## **XI. Moments for Mission**

**XII. Prayers of the People (Mary Kearns)**

**XIII. Communion Song CH #420 “I Come With Joy” (Nancy Thompson)**

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.  
And strangers now are friends

The Spirit of the risen Christ  
Unseen but ever near,  
Is in such friendship better known  
Alive among us here  
Alive among us here

Together met, together bound  
By all that God has done,  
We’ll go with joy to give the world  
The love that makes us one,  
The love that makes us one.

**XIV. Institution of Communion (Georgia Nelson and Bobbi Robinson, elders)**

**XV. Partaking Communion Together**

**XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Laura Cowan Pierson)**

**XVII. Postlude – (Nancy Thompson)**

"No one commits suicide because they want to die."

"Then why do they do it?"

"Because they want to stop the pain."

~Tiffanie DeBartolo, How to Kill a Rock Star

# soul shop

for Everyone

The goal of Soul Shop™ for congregations is to begin working within the church to create a network of support for those who are impacted by suicide. This faith-oriented program is designed to increase awareness of suicide and discuss the steps that can be taken to reduce risks. This workshop is for parents, police, nurses, teachers, and any other concerned citizens who might want to learn how to ask the question of suicide, learn about the prevalence of suicide in the church community, and get more engaged with how to be a part of the solution.

September 30th, 2023

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

\$25 to Register



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

295 E. Washington Ave

Chico, CA 95926

Cost

\$25

Self-registration



<https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>

Or call 530-343-3727



Rev. Eileen Brownell, ordained by Centers for Spiritual Living is also a Chico Police Chaplain. For 16 years, she has assisted families and survivors of suicide. Alarmed by the increase, as well as seeing individuals 13-90 years take their own life, she became a certified Soul Shop trainer to work with faith communities to help prevent suicides and support survivors. Currently she is the only certified trainer in the 5 western states.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>

## Attendance

Attendance for August 6th, 2023:

Online: 14

Sanctuary: 27

Total: 41

## Credits

- “Wonderful Words of Life” Words and Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1874. Public Domain.
- Laughing Bird Psalm ©2002 Nathan Nettleton LaughingBird.net
- “Take My Gifts” Words: Shirley Erena Murray, 1988. Music: Colin Gibson, 1988. © 1992 Hope Publishing Co. CCLI # 1031022
- “I Come With Joy” Words: Brian Wren, 1969; rev. 1982, 1995. Music: Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. Charles H. Webb, 1987. Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Co.; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI# 3452499
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August 13th-20th, 2023

## CALENDAR

### **This Sunday—Guest Preacher Laura Cowan Pierson**

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

### **Tuesday—Caller newsletter deadline**

- 4:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel
- (Elders meeting is NEXT week)

### **Wednesday**

- 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

### **Thursday**

- 6:30 p.m. Living the Questions 2.0 Bible Study, Room 6

### **Next Sunday—Guest Preacher Joe Rogers**

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Pastor Jesse will be on Sabbatical  
June 26th through September 17th

**About Our Guest Preacher:** Laura Cowan Pierson grew up in First Christian Church Chico.

## Some FAQs for Visitors

- **What is Communion?** Communion is a part of each Sunday morning where we remember the last meal that Jesus ate with the disciples by eating bread and drinking grape juice.
- **May I receive Communion?** Yes! Everyone is invited to receive -- we have no barrier to participating in communion.
- **What's a "Doxology"?** Some Sundays we will sing a "doxology" (literally "saying of glory") after we receive the offering. It is a prayer written in 1674 and is popular in Protestant Churches -- plus, we love the words.
- **Do we say the Lord's Prayer together?** We do pray the Lord's Prayer together occasionally on Sunday mornings during the prayer time.
- **What else should I know?** We'd love to share more of our loving and inclusive community with you. At FCC, you'll find all generations worshipping together and participating in church activities. We have activities for kids and youth, and we love to share in community together.
- **Visit our website to donate online, subscribe to our mailing lists, and learn more about us!** [www.fccchico.com](http://www.fccchico.com)
- **Masks:** Masks are recommended but not required. Adult and child size masks are available in the Sanctuary as well as hand sanitizer.

## Recommendations to the Nominating Task Force Church Officers for 2024

We, the Nominating Committee, request that all members of First Christian Church, Chico seriously and prayerfully recommend those persons you believe should be asked to consider a leadership position. Indicate those names below. You may put it in the collection plate, drop it by the office or mail it to the church.

Your participation in this process is important and we appreciate your input. Please respond now while it is fresh in your mind. **Please consider the desired Leadership qualities and gifts for serving as listed below:**

**Board Moderator:** Be objective and able to listen to all sides; open to hearing all perspectives and ideas; able to keep a meeting on the subject at hand; be a calming influence.

**Vice-Moderator:** In the absence of the Board Moderator, presides at congregational and Church Board meetings and carries out all other duties of the Board Moderator. Appoints a chair of the Diaconate and assists with recruitment and training of the Diaconate. Oversees the Elders and Personnel Committee.

**Board Secretary:** Able to hear what is being said at the meeting, and record the meeting activities and actions.

**Church Treasurer:** Timely payment of bills; correct errors in a timely manner; work closely with leadership; be transparent and open; must maintain confidentiality.

**Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the Christian education, membership, worship arts, fellowship and program ministries.

**Outreach Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates evangelism, missional outreach, and Regional/General Church relations.

**Administrative Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the administrative ministries of the church including business and property.

**At Large Board Member:** Interested in the life of the church, and committed to its future thriving.

**Elders:** Willing to help care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as a part of the shared ministry of the church; committed to being equipped and to equip others; have a desire to grow spiritually, and to help others grow in their faith.

**Financial Secretary:** A numbers person; confidential, organized and efficient.

**Ass't. Financial Secretary:** Same as Financial Secretary.

**Personnel Committee Member:** Able to look at staff as employees; have an understanding and experience in business practices; listen to congregational concerns; work closely and communicate with the Pastoral Relations Committee.

**Endowment Trustee:** An understanding of financial practices; has a passion for developing planned giving programs within the congregation.

—Nominating Committee

I prayerfully recommend...

Board Moderator	_____
	_____
Vice Moderator	_____
	_____
Board Secretary	_____
	_____
Church Treasurer	_____
	_____
Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator:	_____
	_____
Outreach Ministry Coordinator:	_____
	_____
Administrative Ministry Coordinator:	_____
	_____
At Large Board Member	_____
	_____
Elder	_____
	_____
Financial Secretary	_____
	_____
Asst. Financial Secretary	_____
	_____
Personnel Committee	_____
	_____
Endowment Trustee	_____
	_____

From the FCC Bylaws, Article VII Section C: Additional nominees for any office may be made from the congregation in this manner: With the approval of the nominee, a petition signed by at least ten (10) active members shall be in the hands of the nominating committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the annual election. If such additional nominations are made, the committee shall announce to the congregation the revised slate, including all nominees for each vacancy.

**Please return the completed form either by the collection plate on Sunday morning, dropping it off at the church office, or mailing it to the church. Thank you!**