



Published monthly

The Caller

Volume 108, Number 8 •

First Christian Church Chico (Disciples of Christ)

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve

All Church Backyard Picnic Potluck Brunch!

Mark your calendars!!!

- Saturday, August 8th at 10 a.m.
- Peggy Davidson's home

There will be fun activities including

- Bean Bag Toss (aka Corn Hole)
- Badminton
- Connect Four
- Activities for little kids
- And more!



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FCCChico

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary and Online

First Christian Church • 295 E. Washington Ave. Chico CA 95926 • 530-343-3727 • www.fccchico.com chicodisciples@gmail.com

Mission Statement: Chico First Christian Church is an inclusive, loving community of believers in Jesus Christ who wish to explore and follow his teachings. We strive to provide opportunities to freely develop our faith through worship, Christian education, fellowship, and pastoral care. The Holy Spirit guides us in our personal and congregational outreach and mission, where we proclaim the good news and serve in Christ's name. We work for peace as embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. We help ourselves and others fulfill God's calling by discovering wholeness in our daily lives and by putting faith into action.

Staff:

- Pastor Jesse Kearns, pastorkearns@gmail.com
- Administrative Assistant: Briony Gniechwitz, chicodisciples@gmail.com
- Custodian: Connor Kearns
- Custodian: Sherrie Wells
- Custodian: Scott Hall
- Bookkeeper: Marie Grandeen

2026 Elected Church Leadership:

- **Moderator**-Maxwell Erwin
- **Vice-Moderator**-Cynthia Cantwell
- **Secretary**-Carolyn Driscoll
- **Treasurer**-Nancy Thompson
- **Congregational Life Ministry Leader**-Peggy Davidson
- **Outreach Ministry Leader**-Georgia Nelson
- **Administrative Ministry Leader**-Georgeanne Bennett
- **Member At Large**-Leslie Moore
- **Financial Secretary**-Georgeanne Bennett
- **Assistant Financial Secretary**-Carolyn Driscoll
- **Personnel Committee**-Kathy Moran, Amber McGill, Lori Terrell-Adrian
- **Elders**: Mary Kearns (chair), Georgia Nelson, Kevin Zeitler, Dave Hoppe, Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Barbara Poetker, Jean McKay, Georgeanne Bennett, Bill Peterson

- **Endowment Trustees:** Nancy Thompson, Marie Grandeen, Blaine Roberts, Carolyn Hicks
- **Deacons (not elected):** Georgeanne Bennett, Peggy Davidson, Carolyn Driscoll, Marie Grandeen, Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Barbara Poetker

Email Lists

- **Prayer Chain:** Be sure to have permission to share names and any specifics with the prayer chain.
- **Sermons:** Have last Sunday's sermon and YouTube video emailed to you.
- **The Caller: Monthly newsletter, available by email and/or mail by request**
- **The Callerito: Weekly (mostly) email.** This is also the list we use for the bulletin and meeting reminders.

Small Group Opportunities

- **Blue Cloud Arts Production** Blue Cloud Art Productions is our in-house faith zine creation group. We invite contributions from across our church—art, poetry, prose, and reflections that speak to your faith journey. All forms of creativity are welcome: quilts, knitting, embroidery, paintings, photography, writing—whatever is beautiful and meaningful to you.
- **Upbeats Music Jam** meets at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesdays. It is open to musicians of all levels, and all are welcome.
- **DWM (Disciple Women's Ministry)** is a service group open to all women of the church and meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 2:00-4:00 p.m., September through May. This circle serves the church and its congregation by reaching out to homebound members at Christmas and Easter and wherever needed. The

primary fundraiser is the annual bazaar (1st Saturday in November). Funds from the bazaar cover church kitchen supply expenses, and a part of the proceeds go to various outreach ministries.

- **Koinonia Krafters** meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Participants work on a crafting project of their choice and spend time in fellowship.
- **Healing Circle** meets each month on the fourth Friday from 1:00 pm.-3:00 p.m. in the Bethany Room. This circle is open to all members of the church. Participants may be journeying through a chronic illness, be a caregiver, or may simply be going through a stressful period in their lives. Experiences and feelings shared in the meetings are confidential and not shared outside the group.
- **Women's Bunco Group** meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month.
- **Weekly Evening Bible Study** is offered at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person in Room 6. Several 6 to 10-week sessions are offered throughout the year.
- **Sacred Grounds** is a faith-forming discussion group that meets on Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
- We offer **Sunday School** for children in 4th grade and younger. The class meets during the weekly 10:00 a.m. service.
- For more information and contact information, please contact the church office at **530-343-3727** or chicodisciples@gmail.com

Deadlines:

- Monthly *The Caller* deadline 15th of the month
- Sunday Bulletin deadline: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
- Weekly *The Callerito* deadline: Thursdays, 10 a.m.



**“For we are what
he has made us,
created in Christ
Jesus for good
works, which God
prepared
beforehand to be
our way of life.”
— Ephesians 2:10
NRSV**

I know it seems like I can't stop talking about the Capital Campaign, but it's hard not to. It was—and continues to be—an example of faith put into action. We met our pledge goal and then some, but we also received about a third of the actual funds for the three-year collection period. What an accomplishment! Most organizations either use reserve funds or borrow from the Disciples Church Extension Fund so they can begin their projects. Because we already have cash on hand, we thought it would be a great idea to start with one of our most visible projects—painting! Work started on July 6 and continues as of this writing. So far, most of the exterior walls have been painted, with only the interior and the trim left to complete. That's just one part of our beautification project, helping to ensure that our facilities look fresh, welcoming, and well cared for.



At the same time, recent events in our community have prompted us to re-examine another aspect of our capital projects. The shooting at the Butte County Library at the end of June caused us to reassess some of our priorities. I will be attending the House of Worship Safety Symposium hosted by the Chico Police Department on August 10, along with several other church leaders. Hopefully, this meeting will provide valuable guidance as we determine the best ways to keep our facilities safe and secure. The current bid we have with Crime Free Living accounts for the technological equipment we'll need, but it doesn't address other physical security improvements for some of our more vulnerable areas. Landscaping and HVAC remain important priorities as well, and we know we will need to address those projects in the near future.

Two important services in our community have come to a close due to lack of funding. The 6th Street Center for Youth, which provides services to homeless teenagers, will be closing in early August. For many years, our congregation has provided clothing, snacks, and other items for the youth served through the Center. Meanwhile, the Iverson Center, which provided mental health services to clients, has already closed. This is especially unfortunate given the obvious

need for both of these services in our community. While it is heartbreaking to see these organizations close, I'm grateful that our church has been able to respond in at least one small but meaningful way. We are currently providing meeting space for several of the support groups formerly hosted by the Iverson Center. We hope this will provide continuity of care while the board and leadership explore what the future may hold.

In other news, the annual Regional Men's Retreat will be held October 16–18 at the Community of the Great Commission. Retired First Christian Church Sacramento pastor Ted Firch will be leading the retreat, "Positive Masculinity for Changing Times." Men of all ages are invited. Registration includes Friday dinner through Sunday brunch, and all rooms are shared accommodations. Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Friday, dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., and the retreat concludes with a closing circle at 11:00 a.m. Sunday. Registration materials will be available soon through the regional office.

A search committee for our new Regional Minister is now being formed and will receive training in August before beginning the process of reviewing candidates. In the meantime, other regional leaders are working to have an interim minister in place by the time our current Regional Minister, LaTaunya Bynum, retires in December. A celebration of her ministry will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church in Concord. More information will be shared as plans are finalized.

As I look over all of these updates, I'm reminded that faithfulness often means responding to the needs and opportunities God places before us. Sometimes that means caring for the place where we worship. Sometimes it means making our facilities safer. Sometimes it means opening our doors to neighbors who need a place to gather. And sometimes it means

preparing for new leadership and supporting the wider ministry of our region.

Whatever the circumstance, our calling remains the same: to be a faithful presence in Chico and beyond, sharing God's love in practical and meaningful ways. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support the ministry of our church—with your prayers, your generosity, your volunteer hours, and your encouragement. Together, we are building more than a better campus; we are strengthening our witness to God's love in our community. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us in the months ahead.

See you in church!



Moderator Update:

We are excited to share that the Executive Committee has approved a new community outreach initiative this summer. Beginning in July, FCC Chico will be hosting Wellness Warriors, a peer-led mental health support group, in Room 5 every Tuesday.

Wellness Warriors was born out of the recent closure of the Iversen Center, a beloved local mental health resource whose funding was cut earlier this year. Organizer Christina Ross and a dedicated group of trained peer facilitators have worked hard to keep their community together, and FCC Chico is proud to provide them a home while they find their footing.

This feels very much in keeping with who we are as a congregation. FCC has a long history of stepping up when community needs arise, and this is another opportunity to do just that. We look forward to seeing what grows from this partnership over the coming months.

The full board will reconvene in September.

---Maxwell Erwin, Board Moderator

Sacred Grounds, Adult Faith Formation Class

Day: Sundays, Time: 8:30 a.m.

Where: Room 6 and on Zoom

Live Streaming Sunday Worship Service

- Zoom (Open the Zoom app. If you need to download it, go to zoom.us.)
 - Meeting ID: 3976292568.
 - Password: 5303433727
- Facebook Live:
<https://www.facebook.com/fccchico/>

Meeting Dates

No Church Board Meeting until September 8

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and on Zoom

Pastor Jesse's Schedule

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

August 2

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

***Romans 9:1-5**

Matthew 14:13-21

"It's All About Grace!"

August 9

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

***Romans 10:5-15**

Matthew 14:22-33

"How to be Lawless on the American Frontier"

Joint Service with Chico First Baptist

August 16

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

***Romans 11:1-2, 29-32**

Matthew 15: 10-28

"The Plan"

August 23

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

***Romans 12:1-8**

Matthew 16:13-20

"Living Sacrifices"

August 30

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

***Romans 12:9-21**

Matthew 16:21-28

"Saints and Strangers"

All texts and sermons are subject to change as the Spirit leads.



August					
	2	9	16	23	30
Elder	Bill Peterson	Barbara Poetker	Georgianne Bennett	Kevin Zeitler	Mary Kearns
Musician	Joshua Hegg	Barbara McElroy	Joshua Hegg	Nancy Thompson	?
Worship Leader	Lori Terrell-Adrian	Georgia Nelson	?	Lori Terrell-Adrian	Georgianne Bennett
Deacon	Carolyn Driscoll	Peggy Davidson	Marie Grandeen	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Barbara Poetker

Faith in Films

This month for Faith & Films, we'll be watching *The Social Dilemma*. Social media has transformed the way we connect, learn, and communicate—but it also has a darker side. This critically acclaimed 2020 documentary features former tech executives and engineers reflecting on the unintended consequences of the platforms they helped create.

Six years later, it'll be fascinating to revisit their warnings and ask: Where were they right? Where were they wrong? Join us for the film and an engaging conversation afterward.

The movie will be shown on Monday, August 17, at a location to be determined, and the discussion on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 6 and on Zoom.

August Birthdays

08/01	Peggy Davidson
08/01	Tom McCarthy
08/01	Barbara Stevens
08/08	Margaret Williams Maxwell
08/10	Mary Louise Hunter
08/10	Lowell Terrell
08/18	Blaine Roberts
08/18	Peyton Smith
08/19	Nakyla Stolp
08/24	Betty Cox
08/25	Amber English
08/25	Jean Kirkendall
08/28	RJ Streeter
08/28	Carol Sylvester

Blue Cloud Arts Production—Faith-Zine

Blue Cloud Arts Production Zine printed and released their 4th Edition for the 4th of July and 4 the 250th American Anniversary.

Look for it in digital format on our church website at <https://www.fccchico.com/blueclouddevotionals>

A Definition and Purpose of a Zine:

The purpose of a zine is to provide an accessible, self-published publication for creative expression, storytelling, and community building. Traditional publishing rules do not apply to zines. Zinesters use zines to share personal experiences. They are often hand-crafted. Zines thrive on their DIY, nonconformist nature. Unlike mainstream magazines published by corporate companies, they are entirely self-published and prioritize raw, authentic expression over commercial perfection.

I am new at publishing and editing and do not have a background in the field. What inspired me was reading other people's zines, and I loved their raw, authentic voices and creative expression. I wanted something for the Faith community, as that community is often overlooked in the world of zines.

Blue Cloud Arts was a name I came up with, as the hope is to look up, look up to the clouds and see where God is leading us, and to give hope beyond what we often face in our daily lives. To see beyond what we often limit ourselves to seeing.

Please put these dates on your calendar:

- Next Zine, Zine #5: Sunday, September 20th (limited printed copies available in our church sanctuary), online at FCCChico.com
- Submission Deadline: Friday, September 11th, 5 pm.
- Zine Layout Workshop and Creative Time: Sunday, September 13, 12 noon – 2 pm, in the Chapel

Theme: Fall Equinox, Letting Go, Transition, Harvest



- Psalm 65: 11 You crown the year with a bountiful harvest, even the hard pathways overflow with abundance
- Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born, a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

I am planning, planting, getting ready for the harvest. Summer is a time to reflect and prepare. Fall is a time to plant and harvest. This Summer for me has been a time of reflection, soaking up the rays of the sun and emotional growth. I hope this Summer has been good for you and that as you continue on this journey, you will be ready to turn over a new leaf this Fall. Thank you all so much, and to all who have encouraged me and to those who are helping with planting seeds. Blessings to all, as we are halfway through our Summer.

*Leslie Moore
Member At Large*

Special Offering Totals

- **Week of Compassion** (supports the alleviation of the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and the promotion of mission opportunities) \$2,230.00
- **Easter Special Offering** (supports general ministries) \$1,025.00
- **Pentecost Special Offering** (supports new church ministries) \$455.00

Giving

Your generous giving helps sustain the ministry and outreach of First Christian Church. Thank you for your faithful support. Gifts may be made online at fccchico.com or mailed to the church—no special envelopes are needed. If you wish to designate your gift for a Special Offering, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, or another purpose, simply note it on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for supporting our church with your time, talents, and tithes!

FCC Chico
Donation QR
Code:



Note: Microsoft Word refused to print this month's Caller. As a result, I downloaded Affinity, a free design program from the company behind Canva. With only a few hours to spare, I quickly recreated the Caller using this new software in about three hours. I'm still learning the program, so please excuse any rough edges. Hopefully, next month's Caller will be more polished.

— Briony Gniechwitz, Administrative Assistant



Lord, bless this
backpack and the child
who carries it. Guide their
steps, guard their heart,
and help them shine
your light
wherever they go.

Amen.



Recommendations to the Nominating Task Force Church Officers for 2027

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 your input is appreciated. Please respond now while it is still 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 the 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 _____

Please return the completed form by placing it in the collection plate, dropping it off at the church office, or mailing it to the church. Thank you.

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.

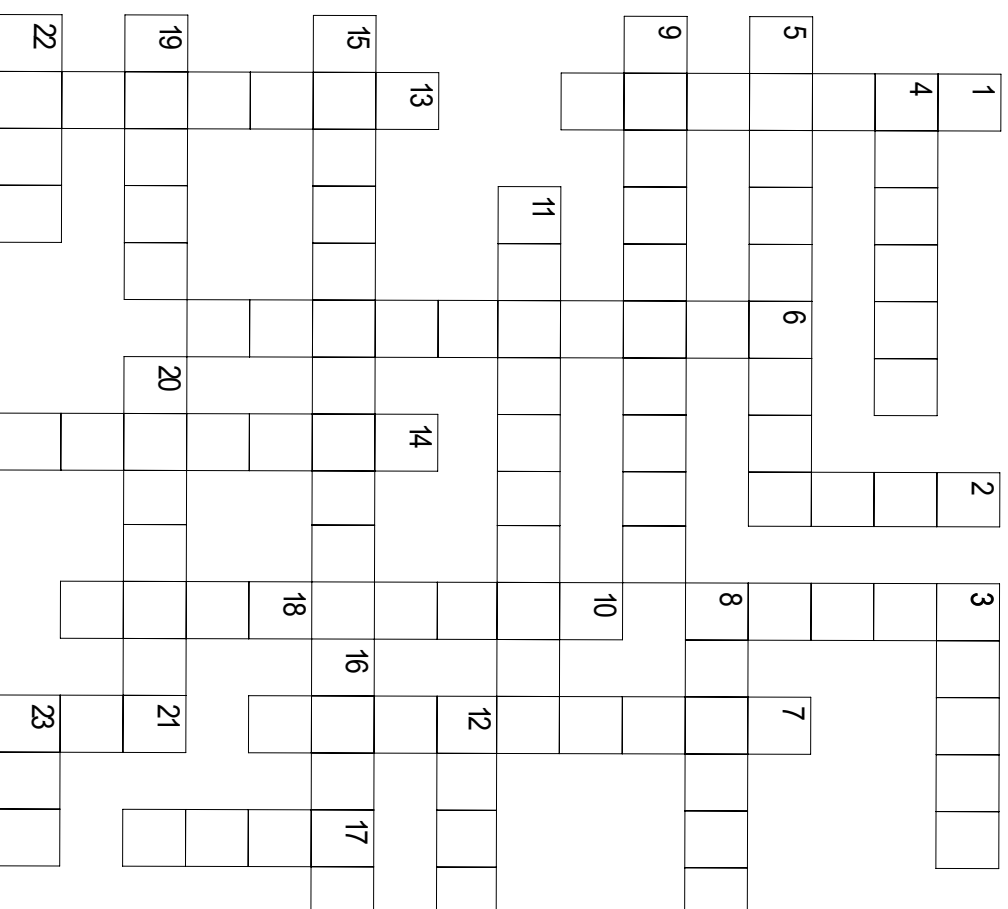
Matthew Chapter 14, Puzzle 1

Across

3. used as pasture
4. permitted by law
5. a person providing service
8. an acknowledgement of appreciation
9. where Jesus landed
11. supernatural act
12. scaly, cold-blooded vertebrate
15. sympathy for another's suffering
16. married to Queen Herodias
19. a period of time
20. settlements smaller than a town
22. having no sign of life
23. how many fish fed the crowd

Down

1. large flat dish
2. small vessel
3. an apparition
6. suffering caused by grief or anxiety
7. appetite appeased
10. physical structure of a person
13. ability to face danger or uncertainty
14. sent away
17. solemn declaration
18. alarm, fright
21. to chew and swallow food



WORD LIST

attendant
boat
body
compassion

courage
dead
dismiss
distressed

eat
fear
fish
Genesaret

ghost
grass
Herod
lawful

miraculous
oath
platter
satisfied

thanks
two
village
watch



AUGUST

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10
2 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	3 	4	5 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Koinonia Hall (Khall), Fireside (FS)	6 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, 6, Zoom	7	8 10 am Uplift Boutique Back to School Backpack Drive, 10 Backyard brunch at Peggy Davidson's
9 10 am Joint Worship with Chico First Baptist Church (CFBC), Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	10	11 9:30 am Koinonia Krafters, FS No Church Board Meeting	12 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 No CAIC Meeting 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS	13 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, 6, Zoom	14 	15 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 <i>The Coffer Deadline</i>
16 10 am Joint Worship with CFBC, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 10 am FCC Coming Sunday, service at 11 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	17 7 pm Faith in Films, TBD	18 No DWM meeting 7 pm Elders, Zoom, Chapel	19 9:30 am PEO, FS 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS 7 pm Faith in Films Discussion, Room 6	20 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, 6, Zoom	21 	22 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 Vitalant Blood Drive, K-Hall
23 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB After Church Capital Campaign meeting, Room 6 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	24 	25	26 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS	27 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, 6, Zoom	28 1 pm Healing Circle, Bethany	29 
30 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	31 					