



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

February 22nd, 2026

Pastor Rev. Jesse Kearns

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • (530) 343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com
fccchico.com • Wi-Fi Network: FCCDOC • Password: 5303433727

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

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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 – (Jean McKay)

- Today – Fellowship in **Fireside** following our worship service; After Fellowship, the Capital Campaign committee will meet in Room 6
- Monday – 7:00 p.m. Blue Cloud Arts Production will meet in the Chapel
- Tuesday – 10:45 a.m. Music Practice in Room 4
- Wednesday – 9:30 am PEO will meet in Fireside; Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper at Faith Lutheran Church with a class on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in the sanctuary at 5:15 p.m., Soup supper at 6:15 p.m., and Worship at 7 p.m.
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner; 6:30 p.m. Bible Study in our FCC Room 6, and Zoom
- Friday – 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany; FCC is serving dinner for Safe Space, Mary Kearns is the trailboss
- Next Sunday – Safe Space Winter Shelter leaves
- Printed Lenten Devotionals are on the tables near the bulletins

- Please see the back of your bulletins for the calendar
- Offerings may be put on the offering plate near the bulletins near the sanctuary's entrance

IV. Greeting One Another

V. Opening Hymn – CH #480 "I Love to Tell the Story" (Nancy Thompson)

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
 Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
 I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
 It satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
 To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
 What seems, each time
 I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
 I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
 The message of salvation from God's own holy Word

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
 To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
 Seem hungering and thirsting
 To hear it like the rest.
 And when, in scenes of glory,
 I sing the new, new song,
 'Twill be the old, old story
 That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
 To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

VI. Call to Worship – (Jean McKay)

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,
 water turned into wine,
 love after loss,
 forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
 hope for the hopeless,
 mourning turned to dancing,
 and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

VII. Call to Confession

You may have heard, “All is fair in love and war,”
or “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.”

God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love.”

God says, “Turn the other cheek.”

God’s mercy catches us by surprise.

So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in
prayer.

Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again.

Friends, let us pray:

VIII. Prayer of Confession

Loving God,

**somewhere along the way we picked up the
message that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.**

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

**We have to be somber in worship and quiet in
our studies.**

**We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions
at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a
mustard seed—unruly and untamed.**

**You turn water into wine—surprising and
extravagant.**

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.*

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

Amen.

IX. Words of Forgiveness

God’s grace is wild and unruly.

God’s mercy is abundant and surprising.

God’s love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, “Holy One, am I forgiven?”
the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

X. Children in Fourth Grade and Under are Dismissed for Sunday School

**XI. Scripture Reading Matthew 13:31-32
(NRSVUE) (Jean McKay)**

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

**XII. Scripture Reading John 2:1-11 (NRSVUE)
(Jean McKay)**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet.” So they took it. When the

person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

**XIII. Sermon -- “The Good News Catches Us
by Surprise” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

**XIV. Song of Invitation – CH #354 "Seek Ye
First" (Nancy Thompson)**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And God’s righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

**XV. Moments for Mission: Prayer Shawls
(Barbara Poetker)**

XVI. Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and
The glory forever, Amen.

XVII. Response CH # 306 "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" (Nancy Thompson)

Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline Thine ear to us,
And grant us thy peace.
Amen.

XVIII. Communion Song --CH #585 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (Nancy Thompson)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!

In his arms he'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.

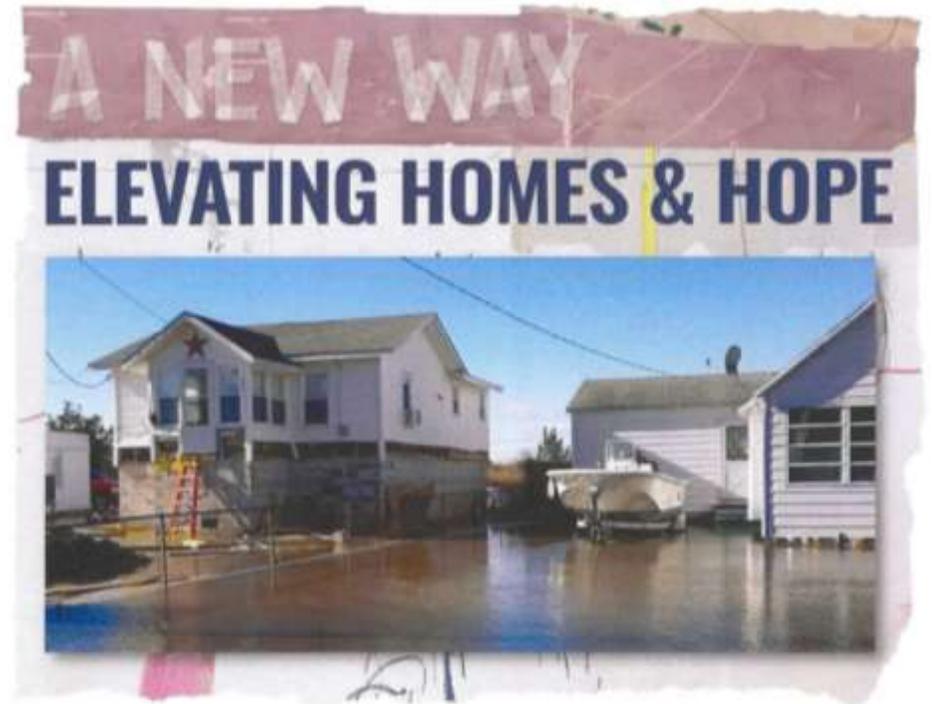
XIX. Institution of Communion (Barbara Poetker, elder)

XX. Partaking Communion Together

XXI. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XXII. Postlude (Nancy Thompson)

March and April Upper Room Devotionals are available in the Sanctuary, on the tables near the bulletins.



On October 29, 2021, Somerset and Dorchester counties experienced Maryland's worst tidal flooding in 50 years — in many places, water levels were at or higher than Hurricane Sandy (2012). This kind of massive flooding creates immediate and long-term health threats to flood survivors and to their homes. The influx of bay water carried contaminants and wreaked havoc on plumbing and electrical systems, and left homes susceptible to the growth of mold and mildew.

The 2021 storm was unnamed and undecared by federal agencies, and received minimal media coverage. Few people knew the storm even happened, let alone where to find the resources and networks needed to help survivors move toward recovery. But the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee was there. Having formed after Hurricane

Sandy, the ESLTRC was able to stand back up quickly when needed in 2021.

Following Phase One (rebuilding 10 destroyed homes) the ESLTRC imagined new ways to respond to survivor families seeking help. In spring 2024, Week of Compassion entered into a new partnership with the Eastern Shore Long-Term Recovery Committee. This partnership agreement provides salary support for the ESLTRC Disaster Recovery Coordinator as they move into Phase Two operations: a tidal flood recovery and mitigation project, aiming to use volunteer labor to elevate 100 homes that flooded in 2021 and are at risk of repeat flooding in Somerset

Story originally shared March 2025. Additional details and photos follow a recent Week of Compassion partner visit. See the 2026 Special Offering theme video "A NEW WAY" for more! [WeekOfCompassion.org/2026](https://www.WeekOfCompassion.org/2026)

and Dorchester Counties. The intention is to make homes healthy and safe, to “reduce the risk of repetitive damage, provide better stewardship of funding entrusted to us, and improve the quality of life for surviving families.”

Two of the poorest counties in the state of Maryland, Dorchester and Somerset residents live primarily in HUD-owned public housing; almost half the population of Crisfield MD (Somerset Co) lives in supported housing units. In response to this need, the ESLTRC stepped into Phase Three of their work – partnering with the city of Crisfield to build new affordable homes on previously abandoned lots and making homes affordable and available to new homeowners. Crisfield Mayor, Darlene Taylor, celebrates the way relationships nurtured over the last decade have made possible the development of this multi-phased approach. She emphasizes “those are things that only come from long-term partnerships.”

With the increased intensity and frequency of storms, the strategy – to not repair homes without also elevating them – has gained not only notoriety, but also support from the community to make lasting changes. The people of the Eastern Shore value the long-term recovery effort and the significant mitigation component.

This intersection of socioeconomic status and climate vulnerability is



where the resources and creativity of Week of Compassion, our partners, and community-driven response meet. Coming alongside climate-vulnerable communities like the Eastern Shore is a significant shared priority among ecumenical partners and local leaders.

Mayor Taylor notes, “When the ESLTRC came in, from the beginning, they built relationships of trust in our community... The vulnerable in our community are often overlooked, but one of the things the ESLTRC was so good at was making sure those who were most in need... were the ones who actually received services. What we have now is a whole new paradigm, a new trust model.”

This is where Week of Compassion is eager to engage – relying on ecumenical connection and innovative local leadership to find **A NEW WAY** makes the program successful, and most importantly, provides tangible hope and new possibility for survivors right in their own communities.



SPECIAL OFFERING 2026 FEBRUARY 15 - 22

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God’s people transform suffering into hope.

- **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 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 subscribe to our mailing lists, see a map of our facility, donate online, and learn more about us!**
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- **Deadlines:** Sunday Bulletin-Wednesdays, 10 am; Callerito weekly email-Thursday 10 am; Caller, monthly newsletter-15th at noon.

Attendance: February 15th, 2026

Online: 10

Sanctuary: 47

Total: 57

- Bulletin Graphic: “We Are Small, We Are Numerous, We Are Deep” by Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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February 22nd -March 1st, 2026

This Sunday—Week of Compassion Ends

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 & on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary & Worship Streamed Live on Zoom & Facebook
- Fellowship in **Fireside**
- **After Fellowship, Capital Campaign meeting, Room 6**
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center

Monday

- 7:00 p.m. Blue Cloud Arts Production, Chapel

Tuesday

- 10:45 a.m. Music Practice, Room 4

Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. Glenn Graves, Bethany use
- 9:30 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- No BSA this week
- Ecumenical Lenten Soup Supper at Faith Lutheran Church (667 E. 1st Ave.): 5:15 p.m. Class on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in the sanctuary; 6:15 p.m. Soup supper; 7:00 p.m. Worship

Thursday

- 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner;
- No BSA this week
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study begins, Room 6 and Zoom

Friday

- 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany
- FCC serving dinner to Safe Space, Mary Kearns is trailboss

Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)

Next Sunday—Safe Space Winter Shelter leaves

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 & on Zoom
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary & Worship Streamed Live on Zoom & Facebook
- Fellowship, **Fireside**
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- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center (SCC)