



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



December 21st, 2025—4th Sunday of Advent

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

 fccchico  fccchico  YouTube FCCChico  ChicoFCC

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

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Welcome and Announcements (Dave Hoppe)

- Today – Fellowship in Koinonia Hall following worship
- Wednesday – Uplift Boutique Closed for Christmas Eve; 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Chico First Baptist in FCC's Sanctuary
- Thursday – Christmas Day; No Worship Team Breakfast
- Saturday—10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- Next Sunday – After Fellowship, the Capital Campaign will meet in Room 6
- The Church Office will be closed from December 24th until January 5th.
- 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. Call to Worship (Dave Hoppe)

Here in worship—

we pray together,

we stand together,

we sing together,

we listen together.

Here in worship—

we are not alone.

So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to
worry, remember this moment.

We are not alone.

Let us worship our with-us God.

V. Greeting One Another

VI. Candle Lighting Liturgy

In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence
of love?

We see love all around us.

We see love when people hold open the door.

**We see love in a warm embrace, homemade
cookies, a phone call after a long day.**

**We see love in random acts of kindness and
intentional acts of empathy.**

We see love all around us.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all
around us.

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of
this good news.

May this flicker of light help us remember that even
in a fearful world, love is here.

Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright.

We only have to look for it.

Light candle.

Thanks be to God for a love like that!

Amen.

VII. Opening Hymn – CH #170 “How Great Our Joy!” (Joshua Hegg)

While by the sheep we watched at night,

lo, there appeared an angel bright:

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Born is the Child, in manger small,

whom God has sent to save us all.

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Go you this night, and you shall find
the Savior born for humankind.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

Jesus, the gift from heav'n above
fills all our hearts with joy and love.
How great our joy! Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Glory to God who reigns on high!
Glory to God who reigns on high!

VIII. Call to Confession

Friends, every day we are given choices—
the choice to be a friend, to be an ally, to extend a
welcoming hand.
Some days we choose wisely, but from time to time, we
inevitably get it wrong.
That is one of the many reasons we need the Prayer
of Confession.
In this moment of prayer, we are able to practice the
art of forgiveness.
So join me in this transformative moment.
Join me receiving grace. Let us pray.

IX. Prayer of Confession

When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?

**Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make
mistakes.**

**Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.
Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.**

**Now we must ask—
when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?
Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?
Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see ours?**

**Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.
Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.
Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.**

We accept your grace and would love to start again.

May it be so, with God's help.

Alleluia, amen.

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

XI. Isaiah 41:5-10 (NRSVUE) (Dave Hoppe)

The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.

Each one helps the other,
saying to one another, "Take courage!"
The artisan encourages the goldsmith,
and the one who smooths with the hammer
encourages the one who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, "It is good,"
and they fasten it with nails so that it cannot be
moved.

But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
you whom I took from the ends of the earth
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, "You are my servant;
I have chosen you and not cast you off";

do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you; I will help you;

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

XII. Matthew 1:18-25 (NRSVUE) (Dave Hoppe)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no

marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

XIII. Sermon – “Give Me Your Hand” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Song of Invitation – CH #171 “God’s Love Made Visible” (Joshua Hegg)

God’s love made visible! Incomprehensible!
Christ is invincible! His love shall reign!
From love so bountiful,
blessing uncountable make death surmountable!
His love shall reign!
Joyfully pray for peace and goodwill!
All of our yearning he will fulfill.
Live in a loving way! Praise him for every day!
Open your hearts and pray. His love shall reign!
God gave the Son to us to dwell as one of us--
a blessing unto us! His love shall reign!
To him all honor bring, heaven and earth will sing,
praising our lord and king! His love shall reign!
Open all doors this day of his birth,
all of good will inherit the earth.
His star will always be guiding humanity
throughout eternity! His love shall reign!

XV. Moments for Mission

XVI. Prayers of the People

XV. Communion Song-- CH #167 “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (Joshua Hegg)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When, lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed the Savior’s birth

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,

and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

XVI. Institution of Communion (Mary Kearns, elder)

XVII. Partaking Communion Together

XVIII. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIX. Postlude (Joshua Hegg)

Please see insert for FAQ, Attendance, Credits, lists of Christmas Flowers and Christmas cards, and additional announcements

- **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!**
www.fccchico.com or scan the QR codes:



Scan Me to Visit our Website



Scan Me to Donate

- **Deadlines:** Sunday Bulletin-Wednesdays, 10 am; Callerito weekly email-Thursday 10 am; Caller, monthly newsletter-15th at noon.

Attendance for December 14th, 2025

Online: 22 Sanctuary: 57 **Total: 79**

- Graphic "I Am With You" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- "How Great Our Joy!" Words: Traditional German carol, alt. Music: Traditional German melody; arr. Hugo Jüngst, c. 1890 Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain. CCLI# 7106320
- "God's Love Made Visible!" Words: Iola Brubeck, 1975 Music: Dave Brubeck, 1975 © 1985 Malcolm Music (BMI), a div. of Shawnee Press, Inc; international copyright secured; all rights reserved; reprinted by permission. CCLI Song # 597093
- "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Words: African-American spiritual; adapt. John W. Work, Jr., 1907. Music: African-American spiritual; arr. William Farley-Smith, 1986. Arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Words: Public Domain. Music: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI# 3063235
- Hymns Used By Permission. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI Copyright License # 37151

Christmas Flowers: The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary have been given to proclaim the Gift of Love that came on Christmas, and in joyful celebration, memory or honor of those who have enriched our lives.

- * Georgeanne Bennett & Bob Johnson, in honor of our parents
- * Lori Terrell-Adrian, in celebration of my family
- * Peggy Davidson, in memory of my parents
- * Marie Grandeen, in honor of family and friends
- * Amy Lee, in honor of Peggy Davidson, and in honor of Tom Shifflet
- * Nancy Thompson, in celebration of the Kokjer families, the Thompson families, and the FCC families
- * Wanda Story, in honor of all my friends, and in memory of all members of my family
- * Hillary Erwin, in celebration of family
- * Bobbe Guerra, in memory of June Billmeier
- * Lisa Blann, in memory of my dad, Sankey Hall
- * Karen Read in honor of Velma & Cecil Read, and Geneva & Clay Wallen
- * Tom Shifflet, in loving memory of Anne Shifflet

Christmas Cards: Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas Cards! They are decorating Koinonia Hall.

- * Karen Zinniel, LHP Interiors
- * Peg Taylor Center
- * Christian Church Foundation
- * Darrel & Mary Louise Hunter

Upper Room Devotionals: The Upper Room Devotionals for January and February 2026 are now in the Sanctuary, in the entrance hallway on the shelves.

The Caller: The January edition of our monthly newsletter, *The Caller*, is available in the sanctuary

Calendar for December 21st-28th, 2025

This Sunday—4th Sunday of Advent

- 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 Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Tuesday

- No Music Practice until January

Wednesday—Christmas Eve

- Uplift Boutique closed
- 7:00 p.m. Joint Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Chico First Baptist, FCC Sanctuary

Thursday—Merry Christmas!

- No Worship Team Breakfast

Saturday

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

Next Sunday—1st Sunday After Christmas

- 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 Koinonia Hall
- **After Fellowship, Capital Campaign meeting, Room 6**
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

The Church Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 2nd, and will reopen on Monday, January 5th, 2026.