



**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**



December 28th, 2025—1st Sunday After Christmas

Pastor Rev. Jesse Kearns

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • (530) 343-3727 • 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 (Georgeanne Bennett)

- Today – Fellowship in Koinonia Hall following worship; **After Fellowship will be a Capital Campaign meeting in Room 6**
- Tuesday – No Music Practice until January
- Wednesday – Uplift Boutique closed for New Year's Eve; North Valley Intergroup Sober New Year's Eve Party, Koiononia Hall
- Thursday – New Year's Day; No Worship Team Breakfast
- Friday – 1 p.m. Healing Circle in Bethany
- Saturday—10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- Next Sunday is Epiphany Sunday, and we will have an Installation of New Church Leaders and Elders
- The Church Office is closed until Monday, 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 (Georgeanne Bennett)

In worship, we hear God's story and we ask,
"What did God do long ago?"
In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,
"What is God doing, here and now?"
In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,
"What can I do to respond to it all?"
Listen, God is speaking.
Listen, it may be time to act.
Let us worship our moving, inspiring, with-us God.
Amen.

V. Greeting One Another

VI. Opening Hymn – CH #149 “Angels From the Realms of Glory” (Nancy Thompson)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations,
You have seen the natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
Here among us shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

VII. Call to Confession

Family of faith, the invitation of our faith is simple.
We are invited to do justice, to love kindness, and to
walk humbly with God.
And yet, those acts have always been easier said than
done.
This is why we have our Prayer of Confession.
In confession, we speak honestly with God. We tell
the truth of our lives, and in response, God
offers us grace. God picks us up, shakes the

dust off our weary bones, and shows us how to keep walking toward God.

So let us go to God in prayer, not because we have to, but because God will always meet us there. Let us pray.

VIII. Prayer of Confession

**Emmanuel, God with us,
scripture tells us that you were a refugee,
but we love to forget that information.
We love to forget every act of violence.
We love to forget how many people go hungry,
or how many students do not have access to good
education.
We love to forget the injustices in our world that
feel too big for us to face.
But you are a God who refuses to forget.
So today we pray: make it impossible for us to
overlook the stories of those in need.
Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice
under the rug.
Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the
anger we feel around injustice
might fuel a fire for action.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray,
amen.**

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

X. Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (NRSVUE) (Georgianne Bennett)

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

XI. Sermon – “Free the Fire” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XII. Song of Invitation – CH #151 “The First Noel” (Nancy Thompson)

The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O’er Bethlehem it took its rest,

and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

XIII. Moments for Mission: Christmas Special Offering

XIV. Prayers of the People

XV. Communion Song—CH #147 “Away in a Manger” (Nancy Thompson)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

XVI. Institution of Communion (Joe Rogers, elder)

XVII. Partaking Communion Together

XVIII. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIX. Postlude (Nancy Thompson)

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

Attendance for December 21st, 2025

Online: Sanctuary: Total:

- Graphic "Stay With Me" by T. Denise Anderson | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Words: James Montgomery, 1816. Music Henry T. Smart, 1867. Words and Music Public Domain. CCLI# 31669.
- "The First Noel" Words: Traditional English carol (17th century) Music: Traditional English melody; desc. Healey Willan, 1926. Desc. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.
- "Away in a Manger" Words: Anonymous (19th century) Music: Attr. James R. Murray, 1887; harm. LBW, 1978. Harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.
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Calendar for December 28th-January 4th, 2026

This 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

Tuesday

- No Music Practice until January

Wednesday—New Year's Eve

- Uplift Boutique closed
- Evening, NVIG Sober New Year's Party, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

Thursday—Happy New Year!

- No Worship Team Breakfast

Friday

- 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany

Saturday

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

Next Sunday—Epiphany Sunday

- 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

The Church Office will be closed from

**Wednesday, December 24th, through Friday, January 2nd,
and will reopen on Monday, January 5th, 2026.**