



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

March 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 – (Carolyn Driscoll)

- Today – Fellowship in Koinonia Hall following our worship service
- Monday – 7:00 p.m. Blue Cloud Arts Production will meet in the Chapel
- 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; 5:30 p.m. Chico Ballet Kitchen use
- Friday – 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany; All Day Chico Ballet rehearsals in Koinonia Hall and Fireside
- Saturday—All Day Chico Ballet use of Koinonia Hall, Fireside, Kitchen, Bethany, Room 6, Chapel, and Room 10 use only from 2-10 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. Bunco, please contact Peggy Davidson for information

- Next Sunday – Palm Sunday
- We will be decorating the Sanctuary with flowers for Easter. Envelopes to order flowers are in the pew racks. The deadline to order flowers is Palm Sunday, March 29th.
- 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 #2 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (Nancy Thompson)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love;
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
 Op'ning to the sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 Drive our fear and doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
 Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around Thee,
 Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain
 Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
 Ever blessing, ever blest,
 Wellspring of the joy of living,
 Ocean depth of happy rest!
 Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
 All who live in love are Thine;
 Teach us how to love each other,
 Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
 Stars of morning take your part;
 Love divine is reigning o'er us,
 Binding those of tender heart
 Ever singing, move we onward,
 Victors in the midst of strife,
 Joyful music leads us Sunward
 In the triumph song of life.

VI. Call to Worship – (Carolyn Driscoll)

Welcome to the weary and the worn.
Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.
 Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

VII. Call to Confession

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone."

Friends, none of us are without sin.

None of us get it right *all* the time.

None of us can get by without God's grace.

In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth.

We put down our stones

and we turn to God for forgiveness.

Join me in this act of transformation.

Let us pray:

VIII. Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones,

but you show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

IX. Words of Forgiveness

Church family,

Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.

Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion,

and the same can be said for us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy.

Our God is a God of compassion.

Our God is a God of grace.

We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.

Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

Amen.

X. Children are Dismissed for Sunday School

XI. Scripture Reading Psalm 103:8-10 (NRSVUE) (Carolyn Driscoll)

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

XII. Scripture Reading John 8:2-11 (NRSVUE) (Carolyn Driscoll)

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

XIII. Sermon -- “Mercy Isn’t Easy” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Song of Invitation – CH #339 “Just As I Am Without One Plea” (Nancy Thompson)

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bid’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown,
Hast broken ev’ry barrier down;
Now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

**XV. Moments for Mission: Shalom Free Clinic
(Nancy Morgans-Ferguson)**

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.

Communion Song --CH #477 "Pass It On"
(Nancy Thompson)

It only takes a spark
To get a fire going,
And soon all those around
will warm up to its glowing;
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it:
You spread God's love to everyone,
You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding,
The birds begin to sing,
The flowers start their blooming;
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it:
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend,
This happiness that I've found--
On God you can depend,
It matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top (Praise God!)
I want my world to know:
The Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

**XVIII. Institution of Communion (Mary
Kearns, elder)**

XIX. Partaking Communion Together

XX. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XXI. 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.

Credits

- Bulletin Graphic: “Epilogue” by T. Denise Anderson and Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Words: Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864; desc. Susan Adams, 1995 Desc. © 1995 Chalice Press CCLI# 7179112
- “Just as I Am, Without One Plea” Words: Charlotte Elliott, 1835. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1849. CCLI # 23206
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Attendance: March 15th, 2026

Unavailable at time of printing

March 22nd-29th, 2026

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, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center (SCC)

Monday

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

Tuesday

- No Music Practice until after Easter

Wednesday

- 9:00 a.m. Glenn Graves' Bethany use
- 9:30 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- 6:00 p.m. BSA Troop 2, Fireside, Koinonia Hall
- 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;
- 5:30 p.m. Chico Ballet Kitchen Use

- 6:00 p.m. BSA Pack 2, Fireside, Koinonia Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study, Room 6 and Zoom

Friday

- 1:00 p.m. Healing Circle, Bethany
- All Day Chico Ballet rehearsals, Koinonia Hall and Fireside

Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- All Day Chico Ballet, Koinonia Hall, Fireside, Chapel, Bethany, 6 and Room 10 (Room 10 only from 2-10 pm)

Next Sunday—Palm 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, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center (SCC)