



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



November 30th, 2025—Hanging of the Greens
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 – “A Soul Cake” (Upbeats)

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Welcome and Announcements (Georgia Nelson)

- Today – The Elders will host a special fellowship with a candy cane hunt and cookie decorating for the children.
- Tuesday – 7 p.m. Church Board Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom
- Wednesday – 10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at the Cozy Diner
- Saturday—10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10; 5 p.m. Chico Area Nondenominational Dance Org in Koinonia Hall
- 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 (Georgia Nelson)

On Sundays and Mondays,
on good days and bad days,
early in the morning and very late at night,
here in this room, and out in the world,
God, we long for you to break in.
Meet us in this space.
Surprise us with your presence.
Fill this room with your good news.
With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

V. Greeting One Another

VI. Candle Lighting Liturgy

In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?
**We see hope when we look to the next
generation.**
We feel hopeful when we gather together.
**We know hope, deep in our bones, when we
dream of a better world.**
You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all
around us.
Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of
this good news. May this flicker of light help us
remember that we have reason to hope.

[Light candle]

Thanks be to God! Amen.

VII. Opening Hymn – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Upbeats)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's deep shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

VIII. Call to Confession

Friends, if you long to feel closer to God, then the Prayer of Confession is a step in the right direction. For in the Prayer of Confession, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer.

IX. Prayer of Confession

**Ever-present God,
we long to feel you close.
We long to feel your presence in our lives.
We long for you to break through the chaos and
suffering of this world.
However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still
long enough to feel you in our midst.
Forgive our rushing and distractions.
Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in
this space.
Remind us that even in the time of Herod,
even on the longest nights, you are always there.
Amen.**

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

XI. Lamentations 3:55-57 (NRSVUE) (Georgia Nelson)

I called on your name, O Lord,
from the depths of the pit;
you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear
to my cry for help, but give me relief!"
You came near when I called on you;
you said, "Do not fear!"

XII. Luke 1:5-13 (NRSVUE) (Georgia Nelson)

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to

him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

XIII. Sermon – “God Breaks In” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIV. Song Invitation – “Love Is Surrender” (Upbeats)

Talk about love
How it makes life complete
You can talk all you want
Make it sound good and sweet

But the words have an empty ring
And they don't really mean a thing
Without love, you are not to be found
You are not to be found

For love is surrender
You must surrender if you care
You must surrender if you dare

Shout about love
and the wars will all end
You can shout, “We’re all brothers”
And even pretend

But you can’t cover up the past
Just pretending will never last
Without love you are nothing at all
You are nothing at all

For love is surrender
You must surrender if you care
You must surrender if you dare
For love is surrender
You must surrender if you care
You must surrender if you dare, dare!

XV. Moments for Mission

XVI. Prayers of the People

XV. Communion Song-- CP#161 “Here is Bread Here is Wine” (Upbeats)

Here is bread, here is wine. Christ is with us; he is
with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine; Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace. Christ is with us; he is
with us.
Know his grace, find his peace; feast on Jesus here.
In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life
forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

Here we are, joined in one. Christ is with us; he is
with us.
We’ll proclaim till he comes, Jesus crucified.
In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life
forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

XVI. Institution of Communion (Gary Cantwell, elder)

XVII. Partaking Communion Together

XVIII. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIX. Postlude “The Christians and the Pagans”– (Upbeats)

- **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 November 23rd, 2025

Online: 13 Sanctuary: 65 **Total: 78**

- Bulletin Graphic: “Zechariah and the Angel” by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
- “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Words: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloan Coffin, 1916. Music: French melody (15th century); arr. And harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854. CCLI Song #31982. Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain
- “Love is Surrender” by Ralph Carlmichael, 1969.
- “Here is Bread” Words and Music: Graham Kendrick. © 1991 Make Way Music (admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere). All Rights Reserved. ASCAP. CCLI# 983717
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Calendar for November 30th-December 1st, 2025

This Sunday--Hanging of the Greens; 1st 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
- **Special Fellowship hosted by Elders with a candy cane hunt and cookie decorating for children**, in Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Tuesday

- No Music Practice
- 7:00 p.m. Church Board Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Wednesday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- 6:00 p.m. BSA Troop 2, Koinonia Hall & Fireside

Thursday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at Cozy Diner
- 5:30 p.m. BSA Pack 2, Koinonia Hall & Fireside

Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- 5:00 p.m. Chico Dance Group, Koinonia Hall and Fireside

Next Sunday—2nd 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

December Caller is available on our website fccchico.com/newsletter and in the sanctuary on the tables near the bulletins.