



The Caller

Published Monthly

Volume 108, Number 10 • October 2026

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve



YET I WILL REJOICE IN THE LORD.
I will be joyful
IN GOD MY SAVIOR.

HABAKKUK 3:18, NIV



Website QR Code



fccchico



fccchico

You Tube

FCCChico



Donation QR Code

10 am Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary and Online

First Christian Church • 295 E. Washington Ave. Chico CA 95926 • 530-343-3727 • fccchico.com • chicodisciples@gmail.com

Mission Statement: Chico First Christian Church is an inclusive, loving community of believers in Jesus Christ who wish to explore and follow his teachings. We strive to provide opportunities to freely develop our faith through worship, Christian education, fellowship, and pastoral care. The Holy Spirit guides us in our personal and congregational outreach and mission, where we proclaim the good news and serve in Christ's name. We work for peace as embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. We help ourselves and others fulfill God's calling by discovering wholeness in our daily lives and by putting faith into action.

Staff:

- Pastor Jesse Kearns, pastorkearns@gmail.com
- Administrative Assistant: Briony Gniechwitz, chicodisciples@gmail.com
- Custodian: Connor Kearns
- Custodian: Sherrie Wells
- Custodian: Scott Hall
- Bookkeeper: Marie Grandeen

2026 Elected Church Leadership:

- **Moderator**-Maxwell Erwin
- **Vice-Moderator**-Cynthia Cantwell
- **Secretary**-Carolyn Driscoll
- **Treasurer**-Nancy Thompson
- **Congregational Life Ministry Leader**-Peggy Davidson
- **Outreach Ministry Leader**-Georgia Nelson
- **Administrative Ministry Leader**-Georgeanne Bennett
- **Member At Large**-Leslie Moore
- **Financial Secretary**-Georgeanne Bennett
- **Assistant Financial Secretary**-Carolyn Driscoll
- **Personnel Committee**-Kathy Moran, Amber McGill, Lori Terrell-Adrian

- **Elders:** Mary Kearns (chair), Georgia Nelson, Kevin Zeitler, Dave Hoppe, Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Barbara Poetker, Jean McKay, Georgeanne Bennett, Bill Peterson
- **Endowment Trustees:** Nancy Thompson, Marie Grandeen, Blaine Roberts, Carolyn Hicks
- **Deacons (not elected):** Georgeanne Bennett, Peggy Davidson, Carolyn Driscoll, Marie Grandeen, Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Barbara Poetker

Email Lists--Sign up on our website fccchico.com

- **Prayer Chain:** Be sure to have permission to share names and any specifics with the prayer chain.
- **Sermons:** Have last Sunday's sermon and YouTube video emailed to you.
- **The Caller:** Monthly newsletter, available by email and/or mail by request
- **The Callerito:** Weekly (mostly) email. This is also the list we use for the bulletin and meeting reminders.

Small Group Opportunities

- **Blue Cloud Arts Production** Blue Cloud Art Productions is our in-house devotional creation group. We invite contributions from across our church—art, poetry, prose, and reflections that speak to your faith journey. All forms of creativity are welcome: quilts, knitting, embroidery, paintings, photography, writing—whatever is beautiful and meaningful to you.
- **Upbeats Music Jam** meets at 10 a.m. on Thursdays. It is open to musicians of all levels, and all are welcome.
- **DWM (Disciple Women's Ministry)** is a service group open to all women of the church and meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 2-4 p.m., September through

May. This circle serves the church and its congregation by reaching out to homebound members at Christmas and Easter and wherever needed. The primary fundraiser is the annual bazaar (1st Saturday in November). Funds from the bazaar cover church kitchen supply expenses, and a part of the proceeds go to various outreach ministries.

- **Koinonia Krafters** meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Participants work on a crafting project of their choice and spend time in fellowship.
- **Healing Circle** meets each month on the fourth Friday from 1-3 p.m. in the Bethany Room. This circle is open to all members of the church. Participants may be journeying through a chronic illness, be a caregiver, or may simply be going through a stressful period in their lives. Experiences and feelings shared in the meetings are confidential and not shared outside the group.
- **Women's Bunco Group** meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Friday of each month.
- **Weekly Evening Bible Study** is offered at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person in Room 6. Several 6 to 10-week sessions are offered throughout the year.
- **Sacred Grounds** is a faith-forming discussion group that meets on Sundays at 8:30 a.m.
- We offer **Sunday School** for children in 4th grade and younger. The class meets during the weekly 10 a.m. service.
- For more information and contact information, please contact the church office at **530-343-3727** or chicodisciples@gmail.com

From Pastor Jesse



"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

**— 2 Corinthians 9:7,
NRSVUE**

One of the biggest joys in my 34 years of ministry has been watching our congregation respond so generously to our *Imagine More* Capital Campaign. Talk about a congregation that steps up to the plate! Our church was featured in an article published in the latest issue of *Disciples New Service*.

You can see the article on their website: <https://disciples.org/dns/>

Or, for those of you who receive the *Caller* electronically, you can click directly on this link to read the article: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Disciples-News-Service-September-9--2026.html?soid=1100462525592&aid=XTT9HX_uU5c Or use this QR code:



When we started the campaign, we set an ambitious goal of \$250,000 over three years to help care for and improve the building and grounds that make so much of our ministry possible. Already, we have raised **\$97,776** as of this writing. With that money, we've been able to see the results of our good stewardship. Painting has been

completed, HVAC units have been replaced, and other improvements are underway. More importantly, people have responded faithfully and generously to the *vision* behind the campaign, and for that I give you my heartfelt thanks!

From the beginning, we've emphasized that gifts to the Capital Campaign are intended to be *above and beyond* our regular giving to the church. That's important because the Capital Campaign takes care of extraordinary needs, while our regular giving makes the everyday ministry of First Christian Church possible. Our regular offerings support worship and music, Christian education, pastoral ministry, outreach, utilities, staffing, building operations, and all those ordinary expenses that aren't particularly exciting—but make extraordinary ministry possible.

As we move into the Fall, you'll soon receive your regular pledge card for 2027. This year, we're not planning a major stewardship campaign or a big "push" like we normally do. After the generosity you have already shown, that didn't seem necessary or appropriate. We simply don't want this ordinary but important part of our

Congregational Life Ministries

Sacred Grounds, Adult Faith Formation Class

- Day: Sundays, Time: 8:30 a.m.
- Where: Room 6 and on Zoom

Live Streaming Sunday Worship

Zoom (Open the Zoom app. If you need to download it, go to zoom.us.)

- Meeting ID: 3976292568.
- Password: 5303433727
- Facebook Live:
<https://www.facebook.com/fccchico/>

Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.—
Church Board Hybrid Meeting,
Chapel, and on Zoom
- Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.—
Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and
on Zoom

PASTORS Pastor Jesse's Schedule

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administrative Assistant Briony will be on
vacation Friday, October 23-Friday,
October 30

Sunday from the Lectionary

October 4

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9,
12-20

Psalms 19

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

***Philippians 3:4-14**

Matthew 21:33-46

"One Table"

October 11

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-6, 19-23

Psalms 23

***Philippians 4:1-9**

Matthew 22:1-14

"What, Me Worry?"

October 18

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-13

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

***Matthew 22:15-22**

"Whose Head Is This?"

October 25

***Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalms 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

"Wait, What?"



Sermons available on our website fccchico.com and on our YouTube Channel @FCCChico

Worship Teams for October				
	4	11	18	25
Elder	Kevin Zeitler	Georgeanne Bennett	Mary Kearns	Jean McKay
Musician	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson
Worship Leader	Lori Terrell-Adrian	Carolyn Driscoll	Kathy Moran	Georgia Nelson
Deacon	Marie Grandeen	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Barbara Poetker	Georgeanne Bennett

Congregational Life Ministries

church life to get lost in the excitement of *Imagine More*.

So, as you consider your pledge for 2027, please continue supporting the regular ministry of First Christian Church as faithfully as you are able. Pledge cards are due **November 15**, and your pledge helps our Board plan responsibly for the year ahead.

Most of all, thank you for your generosity, your trust, and the many ways you support the ministry we share. Whether through the Capital Campaign, regular giving, volunteering, praying, showing up, or caring for one another, you continue to demonstrate something we've said throughout *Imagine More*: **The church isn't just a building. The church is the people.**

See you in church!



Congregational Life Ministry

Plans for October are:

- October 4 is World Communion Sunday
- October 11 is Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- Saturday, October 24 will be a Guess Who's Coming to Brunch.

Mark your calendars. Peggy will be taking sign-ups, etc., starting September 27.

—Peggy Davidson



Faith in Films

October's Faith and Films movie will be *Project Hail Mary*. Based on the bestselling novel by *The*

Martian author Andy Weir, *Project Hail Mary* is much more than a science-fiction adventure. It's suspenseful, funny, surprisingly moving, and ultimately a story about courage, sacrifice, friendship, and what we owe to one another when everything is at stake. We'll show the movie at a location to be determined on Monday, October 26, with discussion on Wednesday, October 28 in Room 6 at First Christian Church.

Bible Study

Starting Thursday, October 15, we'll be offering a six-week Bible Study on the Book of Philippians called "Living Toward Hope." We'll meet every Thursday evening at 6:30 in Room 6 at First Christian Church as well as our Zoom Room.



- October 15 - Philippians 1:1-11 "The Church That Paul Loved"
- October 22 - 1:12-30 "Joy in an Uncertain World"
- October 29 - 2:1-18 "The Mind of Christ"
- November 5 - 3:1-11 "Watch Them Dogs"
- November 12 - 3:12-4:1 "Still Becoming"
- November 19 - 4:2-23 "Whatever is True"

October Birthdays

10/05	James Maxwell
10/05	Ann Nelson
10/07	Jesse Kearns
10/09	Kathleen Hillman
10/10	Debbie Stolp
10/17	Bill Peterson
10/18	Nick Stevens
10/23	Kerri Campbell
10/23	Edy Roberts
10/26	Gracie O'Neil



Congregational Life Ministry & Administrative Ministry

10/27

Barbara Kloth

Looking Ahead:
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November
1, 2026



Annual Congregational Business Meeting and Stewardship Sunday

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting and Stewardship Sunday will take place on November 15 this year. The Stewardship letter--which is Pastor Jesse's article in this newsletter--and pledge card were mailed out in September. Pledge cards are in the Sanctuary pew racks, and a pledge card is also on **page 11** of this newsletter. You can access these electronically in our weekly Callerito email and on our website <https://www.fccchico.com/stewardship>

Trunk Or Treat

🎃 Trunk or Treat is Coming! 🧛

Join us on Saturday, October 31, 5 – 7 pm for a festive evening of fun in the First Christian Church parking lot.

🚗 Bring your little goblins and ghouls to explore creatively decorated trunks, truck



beds, and hatchbacks—each one filled with treats and surprises.

🎯 Enjoy kid-friendly games, activities, and plenty of Halloween cheer in a safe, welcoming space.

Costumes encouraged. Candy guaranteed. Community celebrated. See you there!

See flyer on page 8

Blue Cloud Arts Faith Zine Update:

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Blue Cloud Arts Production Faith Zine.

Look for our zine in the church sanctuary in the basket by the church bulletins.

I love all of the art and contributions!

Many in our faith community have enjoyed contributing, and we have art and literary submissions from all ages.

Zine Hands-on Workshop: Sunday, November 8 after fellowship in the Chapel Room. Bring yourself. We have lots of art supplies. Invite family and friends. This is an extended time for fellowship and creativity. Help with our Thanksgiving layout.

Our next edition will be for Thanksgiving and released on Sunday, November 15.

Deadline for Submissions: Monday, November 9 at 6 pm

Theme: Gratefulness, Joy, Thanks:

Psalm 9:1: *"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."*

Send submissions with how you would like your name presented and a title to:

Outreach Ministry

Leslie Moore

LMooreLeslie@gmail.com

Text: 1-707-529-3195

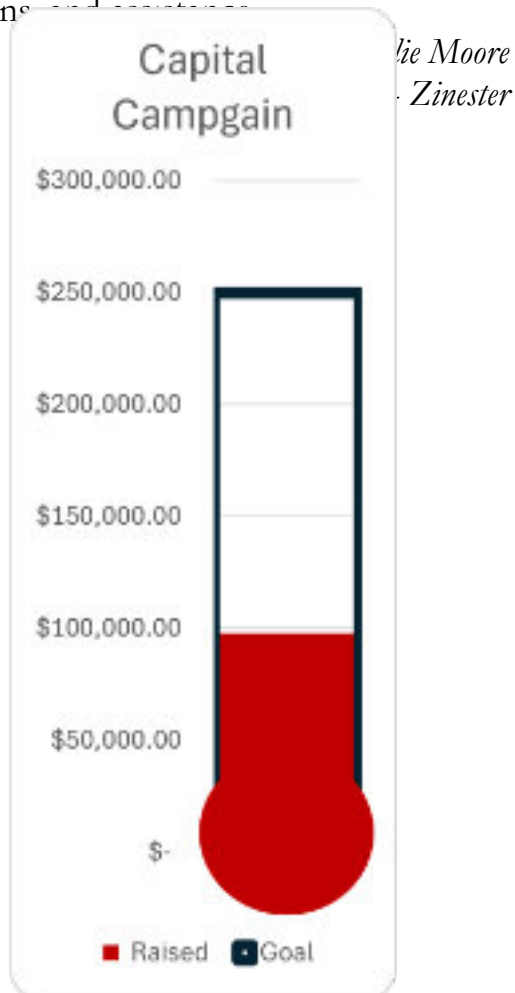
- No anonymous submissions will be accepted.
- Literary Submissions maximum word count: 150 words

Blessings and thanks to all of you who have given me words of encouragement, ideas,

Imagine More

A Vision for Everyday Ministry

submissions and assistance



- Monthly *The Caller* deadline: 15th of the month
- Sunday Bulletin deadline: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
- Weekly *The Caller*ito deadline: Thursdays, 10 a.m.

To be included in any mailing, contact the church office at 530-343-3727, or chicodisciples@gmail.com. Donations of \$13/yr. appreciated but not necessary.



Outreach Thank you

To the Members of
First Christian
Church of Chico,

Thank you for your continued support of the Corning Church. We appreciate what you so generously donate to help the homeless program. God Bless You.

--Corning FCC

Special Offering Totals

- **Week of Compassion** (supports the alleviation of the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development, and the promotion of mission opportunities) \$2,230.00
- **Easter Special Offering** (supports general ministries) \$1,025.00
- **Pentecost Special Offering** (supports new church ministries) \$455.00

Giving

Your generous giving helps sustain the ministry and outreach of First Christian Church. Thank you for your faithful support. Gifts may be made online at fccchico.com or mailed to the church—no special envelopes are needed. If you wish to direct your gift to a Special Offering, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, or another purpose, simply note it on the memo line of your check. **Thank you for supporting our church with your time, talents, and tithes!**



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT



OCT
31
5-7PM

First Christian Church Parking Lot
295 E. Washington Ave Chico

Costumes encouraged. Candy guaranteed.
Community celebrated. See you there!

2026 Disciples Women's Ministries Bazaar

Sat. November 7, 2026, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Questions: Call Carolyn Driscoll 588-3869, Barbara Poetker 487-3732,
Judy Brillhart 345-4663

I would like to be involved in the Bazaar. I can work:

- ☐ Before— getting set up
- ☐ During the Bazaar
- ☐ Helping clean up

I am interested in the following booth, either work or providing items to sell:

☐ **Country Kitchen (Marie Grandeen)**

Baked goods, jams/jellies, gift kits (soup, cookies, etc.)

☐ **Farmer's Market (Carolyn Driscoll)**

Plants, produce, nuts, and related items

☐ **Sewing Fantasy (Diane Terrell & Lori Terrell-Adrian)**

Sewn, quilted, and knit items, handmade items (cards, scrubbies, baby items, bibs, etc.)

☐ **Vintage Collectibles (Barbara Poetker)**

Gently used dishes, vases, kitchen items, Christmas items, new items (with tags). NO furniture, books, clothing, or nonworking items

☐ **Opportunity Drawing (Carolyn Driscoll)**

Dining Room (Dave Hoppe)

- ☐ Decorating
- ☐ Serving and clean up
- ☐ Making pies (pumpkin or apple)

Cashiers (Nancy Thompson & Carolyn Hicks)

- ☐ Dining Room
- ☐ Main Room

☐ **Children's Corner (TBD)**

Crafts and projects to entertain the children

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Return by placing in offering plate, or mailing to the church office



Annual Holiday Bazaar First Christian Church

November 7, 2026
9 am to 1 pm



Sewing Fantasy
Farmer's Market



Vintage Collectables

Country Kitchen



Opportunity Drawing



Children's Corner



Proceeds Support Community Outreach

Cash * Checks * Credit Cards Accepted
295 E. Washington Avenue Chico

The church isn't a building; **it's the people**



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Pledge cards are due on Stewardship Sunday, November 15th, 2026
I/we covenant my/our intent to give for God's work in the year 2027
through First Christian Church, Chico.

\$_____ ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ annually, and will support in prayer the
leadership, ongoing ministry and outreach of First Christian Church, Chico.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

Zip code _____ Email address _____

Please return this portion to the church in the envelope provided.



The church isn't a building;

★ **it's the people** ★

For Your Records
Estimate of Giving 2027
I/we covenant my/our intent to give
for God's work in 2027 through
First Christian Church.
\$_____

☐ weekly ☐ monthly
☐ annually

Matthew, Chapter 18

WORD LIST

agree	hung	welcome
angels	king	witnesses
beg	kingdom	woe
believe	like	
cancel	look	
cut	lost	
debt	maimed	
demand	me	
disciple	millstones	
distressed	neck	
down	one	
enter	pay	
eternal	pity	
eye	prison	
face	repay	
fault	settlement	
find	sin	
fire	stand	
foot	tax	
greatest	tell	
hand	testimony	
happy	torture	
hell	truth	
humble	wander	

p y j x x w c s n u d l o s t
 x a t d d e b t i r a e e k f
 g p m i l l s t o n e s s m h
 p e r s p c o w r v s r t t u
 m r e t f o n e e e r g a r m
 c u t r f m t i n k c e n o b
 a t n e m e l t t e s b d c l
 k r e s r e i l s l e g n a e
 e o p s b w u r b p n h a n d
 t t s e t a e r g i r u m c v
 b e y d f i n d k c f n e e r
 e e l m a i m e d s i g d l i
 e k i l c r n o s i r p s o r
 l c t r e o w a n d e r p o u
 u t r u t h a p p y f o z k o



OCTOBER 2026

Weekly Recurring Events

Sundays

- 8:30 am Sacred Grounds, Room 6, Zoom
- 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB
- After Worship, Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 1 pm Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

Wednesdays

- 10 am Uplift Boutique, Room 10
- 6 pm Scouting America Troop 2, Koinoina Hall and Fireside

Thursdays

- 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner
- 10 am Music Practice, Room 4
- 5:30 pm Scouting America Pack 2, Koinonia Hall and Fireside

Saturdays

- 10 am Uplift Boutique, Room 10

Other Events and Meetings

Saturday, October 3

- 10 am Memorial Service for Wanda Story in Sanctuary, with reception to follow in Koinoina Hall

Sunday, October 4--Joint Worship with Chico First Baptist here at FCC

Sunday, October 11

- After Fellowship, Blue Cloud Arts Production Hands-on Zine Workshop, Chapel

Tuesday, October 13

- 9:30 am Koinonia Krafters, Fireside

- 7 pm Church Board Hybrid meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Thursday, October 15--Deadline for *The Caller* newsletter

Sunday, October 18--Corning Sunday

- 11 am Corning FCC Worship begins, 1421 Marin St. Corning

Tuesday, October 20

- 2 pm Disciple Women's Ministry, **Fireside (new location)**
- 7 pm Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Friday, October 23

- 1 pm Healing Circle, Bethany

Friday, October 23-30 Admin. Assistant Briony on vacation

Monday, October 26

- 7 pm Faith in Films, *Project Hail Mary*, TBD

Wednesday, October 28

- 9:30 am PEO NS Chapter meeting, Fireside
- 5:30 pm Shalom Free Clinic Board meeting, Chapel

Saturday, October 31

- 5 pm Trunk Or Treat, FCC Parking Lot

Map of facility and Room 5 Community Group schedule available on our website, fccchico.com/news-calendar. QR code:

