



Published monthly

The Caller

Volume 108, Number 2 • February 2026

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve



Tell me something good
Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary and Online

Visit fccchico.com for details

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



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ChicoFCC

First Christian Church

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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

Small Group Opportunities

- **Upbeats Music Jam** meets at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesdays. 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 2:00-4:00 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 1:00 pm.-3:00 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 10:00 a.m. service.
- For more information and contact information, please contact the church office at **530-343-3727** or chicodisciples@gmail.com



“The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.”
—Proverbs 18:15
(NIV)

It's time once again for my annual “Best of the Year” picks. Narrowing these down is never easy—I read and watch a lot, and most of what I choose exceeds my expectations. Still, a few things stood out this year in ways that lingered, challenged me, or simply brought joy.

BEST MOVIE

This was a strong year for films, but the one that rose to the top for me was James Gunn's *Superman*. I saw Richard Donner's *Superman: The Movie* in theaters back in 1978—“You'll believe a man can fly,” a promise carried largely by groundbreaking special effects. The second Donner film was both great and terrible, and after that, the franchise steadily declined. *Superman Returns* (2006) bored me to tears, while Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel* (2013) revived the character in a darker, more mythic way—one we even explored together in *Faith and Films*. Gunn's *Superman* takes a

different approach, and it works. This film asks what happens when a superhuman alien is raised by deeply human parents who instill values of fairness, compassion, faith, love, and responsibility. The result is a Superman who feels grounded, hopeful, and refreshingly sincere. The movie isn't afraid to be both serious and funny—and yes, Krypto the super-naughty dog steals the show. What's not to like?

BEST TV SERIES

As someone who came of age in the 1980s, *Stranger Things* has always held a special place in my heart. The Duffer brothers recreated my teenage years with astonishing attention to detail—right down to the packaging on bags of 1980s Doritos. This year brought the fifth and final season, and I'll admit I was nervous. The previous season didn't resonate with me as much, and finales often disappoint. But season five surprised me. A bold, mind-bending twist set up a conclusion that felt earned, heartfelt, and deeply satisfying—a beautiful send-off for a remarkably talented cast.

BEST PHONE APP

Since 2018, I've subscribed to Audible. While I enjoy it, audiobooks are expensive, and even with a monthly credit, costs add up. I knew Spotify occasionally offered audiobooks, but access there is limited. Then someone introduced me to Libby. Libby lets you borrow eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines for free from your local library using your library card. Titles automatically return—no late fees—and you can read or listen on your phone, tablet, or computer, even offline. You can even send books to your Kindle. I dusted off my Butte County Library card and haven't looked

Congregational Life Ministry

Sacred Grounds, Adult Faith Formation Class

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

Live Streaming Sunday Worship Service

- 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, February 3rd

7:00 p.m.—Church Board Hybrid Meeting, Chapel, and on Zoom

Tuesday, February 17th

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and on Zoom

Pastor Jesse's Schedule

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



The Church Office will be closed

Monday, February 16th, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Sermons are available on the website: fccchico.com, [FCCChico](#), and by email by request (contact the church office, chicodisciples@gmail.com)

February

	1	8	15	22
Elder	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Georgia Nelson	Bill Peterson	Barbara Poetker
Musician	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson
Worship Leader	Dave Hoppe	Leslie Moore	Kathy Moran	Jean McKay
Deacon	Marie Grandeen	Carolyn Driscoll	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Carolyn Driscoll

Sunday from the Lectionary

February 1st

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1Corinthians 1:18-31

***Matthew 5:1-12**

"A Promise of Blessing"

February 8th

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

***Matthew 5:13-20**

"A Promise of Guidance"

February 15th

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

***Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

"A Promise of Freedom"

Week of Compassion

Special Offering

February 18th

Ash Wednesday Service at Noon in our FCC Sanctuary

February 22nd

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

***Luke 7:36-50 & Matthew 25:35-40**

"The Good News Catches Us by Surprise"

Week of Compassion

Special Offering



All texts and sermons are subject to change as the Spirit leads.

Congregational Life Ministry

(Pastor Jesse's article continued from page 3)

back. Suddenly, the entire library system is at my fingertips—and it costs nothing. If you haven't tried Libby yet, I can't recommend it enough.

BEST BOOK

I was impressed this year by John Fugelsang's *Separation of Church and Hate* and Dan McClellan's *The Bible Says So*. But my top recommendation goes to Brian McLaren's *Faith After Doubt*, which also happens to be the first book I checked out on Libby. I've read nearly everything McLaren has written, and with each book I find myself thinking, "That's exactly what I've been trying to say!" In *Faith After Doubt*, McLaren argues that doubt isn't the opposite of faith, but a normal—and necessary—part of spiritual growth. When old beliefs stop working, questioning doesn't have to lead to the loss of faith. Instead, it can open the door to a deeper, more mature faith marked by humility, compassion, and a more honest engagement with God and the world.

I hope you'll check some of these out—and I'd love to hear what you think.

See you in church,



Congregational Life Ministries

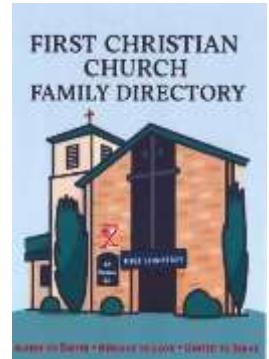
February Birthdays

02/01	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson
02/04	Jay Nelson
02/04	Ginger Hambleton
02/13	Georgeanne Bennett
02/13	Joe Wise
02/15	Gary Cantwell
02/22	Brandon Nelson
02/25	Barbara Mann



New Church Family Directories

New directories for the new year! Printed copies of the Church Family Directory are in the Sanctuary, on the tables near the bulletins. They can be mailed by requesting them through the church office (530-343-3727 or chicodisciples@gmail.com). You may also request a PDF of the directory, or you can access the directory online at <https://servantkeeper.com/directory/FCCChico/login>. Just contact the church office for the password. This link is on our website, under the Members tab.



Congregational Life Ministry

Blue Cloud Art Production

Blue Cloud Art Productions will be our in-house Devotional; the first edition will be a Lenten Devotional. We would love and appreciate anyone in our church to provide Art, Poetry, Prose, and Reflections for our Lenten Devotional. Art can be in any form, from Quilts, Knitting, Crocheting, Embroidery, Fine Art, Paintings, Written Works, whatever is beautiful.

FIRST MEETING: Monday, January 26th at First Christian Church Chapel Room 7 pm

Bring your art, ideas, rough drafts, brainstorming, and creative ideas!

LOOKING FOR:

- Someone to run an interactive Zoom meeting (anyone?) for our first meeting? Need tech
- equipment and knowledge to work with equipment
- Someone to take photos of submitted art
- People to help with the printed compilation of the first edition
- People to help with publication outreach
- Someone to help with digital formatting

GOOD NEWS! We have funding for printing. A kind and encouraging fellow church member has offered to cover the printing costs. I am so thankful.

OUTREACH: I am planning on reaching out with our publication to the community and draw people into our First Christian Church community with art and God's gift of creativity.

PERFECT PLACE: This is the perfect time and perfect place to bring your ideas and feedback. Collaboration and Creativity are the focus. Let's have fun! Get inspired and support each other in creating.

Blessings,
Leslie C. Moore
Member At Large FCC

CONTACT ME:
Text: 1-707-529-3195
Email: LMooreLeslie@gmail.com

Administrative Ministries

Annual Reports

FCC Chico's Annual Report for 2025 will be available in the back of the Sanctuary, and available by request as a PDF (email chicodisciples@gmail.com) in early February.



Outreach Ministry

Outreach Ministries

**Week of
Compassion
Special Offering
February 15th &
22nd, 2026**



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

Whether rebuilding after a flood, finding safety after conflict, or recovering from economic hardship, Week of Compassion is finding A NEW WAY – a way rooted in relationship, equity, and hope. Together, we are strengthening the church's long-term capacity to respond and accompany, wherever people are displaced or in need. In our 2026 Special Offering Resources, we are sharing stories and glimpses of hope. The gifts you give make an impact around the world, ensuring that vulnerable communities are held at the center of the work, and strengthening congregations and partners to respond.

In moments when we're most uncertain, when the usual path is blocked or can't even be seen, we rely on each other. Like the friends who join together and make a way where there was no way, determined that their friend would see Jesus (Mark 2:1-5), in this work we share, God is opening new ways. Our task is to walk them faithfully –

together, with imagination, courage, and trust in the One who makes all things new.

In this moment, the Spirit is calling us to walk paths we have not yet walked, to imagine futures we have not yet seen, and to trust that the God who has carried us this far will not abandon us now.

Thank you for your generosity, your faithfulness, and your commitment to walking alongside those whose paths have been disrupted. Together, we are the church – rooted in compassion, moving in hope.

Special Offering envelopes will be in the Sunday worship bulletins on February 15th and 22nd.

Corning Outreach 2025

God has truly blessed us.

Our ministry to Corning began many years ago when Bill Bergman accepted the pastor's position. I was Father Bill's replacement when he was out or on vacation. I truly loved the congregation there, as it was more rural than my background. When Bill retired, Ben Bohren, our regional director, asked if I would provide sermons two Sundays a month, with the other two covered by other congregations and divinity students. When Ben retired, we still had some sermon assistance, but in the last five or so years, we have had limited support from the region ministry-wise.

Outreach Ministry

In 2025, I started going back twice monthly during the summer to give Karen a break from the kitchen and to lead the service. To save money, we try to minimize PG&E usage.



Kevin Zeitler preaching at FCC Corning

We are still looking for a music person to replace Patty Smith, who faithfully went each Sunday with me for years.

We can say Ben never envisioned the support the Chico congregation could supply.

The best news of 2025 was that the congregation is growing. Several people, new to the church but part of the community, have joined our weekly services. We now have around 15 to 25 attending the service (especially when the Chico contingent comes). The food service after church feeds 30 to 50 or more. Meals are

also delivered to those in need or those who are unable to attend the service.

The pantry remains available for those who need canned foods. FCC Chico has donated monthly, including my favorite Spam. Mary Kearns has even sent a can or two. God bless you, sister.

Racks of clothing donated by the local and Chico churches are available for those in need. Sometimes we receive families. Last year, a dad came with his three children. It was early winter, and the two girls had no jackets. We were able to give them sweatshirts, as they had only t-shirts. We continue to bring coats and warm clothing items.

Our grant and food service, which we previously used to help the Corning community seven days a week, has been discontinued. We have depended on others to continue the food ministry.

We have been blessed by the local community and our Chico congregation with donations of food, clothes, laundry supplies, towels, and other necessities.

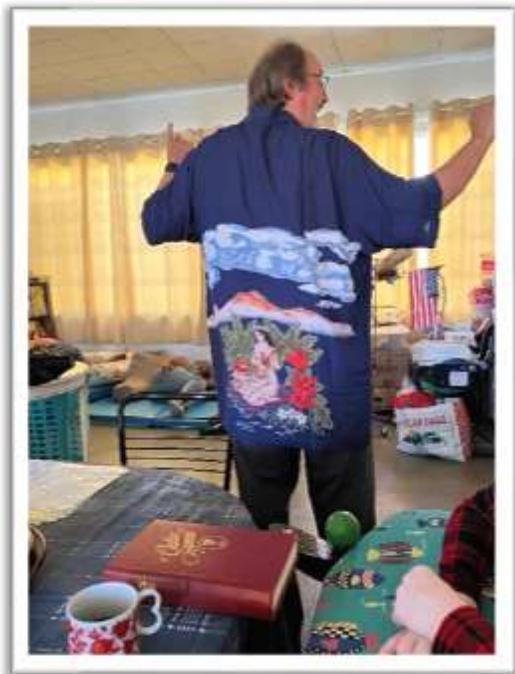
We couldn't manage without Karen, Nancy, Candice, and others at FCC Corning. They have done so much to keep the doors and services going with so little. The drought from several years ago is still impacting the area. The church provides laundry and showers as needed by the congregation and those in need. Just last month, a woman met me out front as we arrived from Chico and asked if this was where she could get a free

Outreach Ministry

shower. This year, a full shower, toilet, and faucet were added to the men's restroom to provide a third shower.

Last year, the generous gifts of freezers, stoves, and donations of food and supplies allowed FCC Corning to serve the community each day. The church continues its outreach program of providing washers and dryers for both the congregation and the wider community.

Clothes, necessities, meats, and packaged foods were also distributed throughout the community. To give an idea of the quantities, we delivered from Chico 18 truckloads of beef, squash, packaged foods, and bags of clothes, which were distributed in Corning.



Kevin Zeitler is showing off one of his many Hawaiian shirts at FCC Corning

In addition, others have helped by taking and donating items directly to the church.

This would not have been possible without the full support of the Chico congregation—Georgia Nelson, Carolyn Driscoll, Jim & Margaret Maxwell, Karen Lobach, Barbara Mann, Cynthia Cantwell, Fred Stolp, Molly Meade, and so many others.

Every congregation has needs—our own included.

--*Kevin Zeitler*

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) \$1,661
- **Easter Special Offering** (supports general ministries) \$875
- **Pentecost Special Offering** (supports new church ministries) \$400
- **Reconciliation Special Offering** (supports the Church's effort to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church advancing the Church's identity as "a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world": \$150
- **Thanksgiving Special Offering** (supports Higher Education and Theological Education ministries): \$691
- **Christmas Special Offering** (supports Regional ministries) \$1742

Giving

Your Support Matters: Your support through giving is crucial for sustaining the ministry and outreach efforts of our church. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment to First Christian Church. You can donate either online at fccchico.com or by mail. You don't need any special envelopes. If you want to designate your funds for a Special Offering, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, or anything else, just put that on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for supporting the church in time, talents, and tithes!

- ◆ **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 and 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.

Monthly *The Caller* deadline:

15th of the month

Sunday Bulletin deadline:

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Weekly *The Callerito* 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.

FCC Chico
Donation QR
Code:



FEbruary 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary 2 pm Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, Spiritual Care Center (SCC)	2 	3 10:45 am Music Practice, 4 7 pm Church Board Meeting, Chapel, Zoom	4 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Koinonia Hall (Khall), Fireside (FS)	5 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, Chico First Baptist Church (CFBC)	6 	7 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 5 pm Chico Dance Group, Khall, FS
8 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary 2 pm Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, SCC	9 	10 9:30 am Koinonia Krafters, FS 10:45 am Music Practice, 4	11 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 11:30 am Chico Area Interfaith Council, FS	12 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 6:30 pm Bible Study, CFBC	13	14 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10
15 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary 2 pm Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, SCC The Caller Deadline Week of Compassion Special Offering Safe Space, Khall	16 	17 10:45 am Music Practice, 4 2 pm Disciple Women's Ministry, Bethany 7 pm Elders, Zoom, Chapel	18 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 Noon-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary 	19 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 6:30 pm Bible Study, CFBC Safe Space, Khall	20 Safe Space, Khall 	21 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 Safe Space, Khall
22 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB After Church Capital Campaign meeting, 6 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary 2 pm Journeys of the Heart Bereavement Group, SCC Week of Compassion Special Offering Safe Space, Khall	23 7 pm Blue Cloud Art Productions, Chapel Safe Space, Khall	24 10:45 am Music Practice, 4 Safe Space Khall	25 9:30 pm PEO, FS 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS Safe Space, Kahll	26 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS 6:30 pm Bible Study, CFBC Safe Space, Khall	27 1 pm Healing Circle, Bethany Safe Space, Khall 	28 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 Safe Space, Khall