



The Caller

Published Monthly

Volume 108, Number 9 • September 2026

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve



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



"You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep... the night is far gone, the day is near."

—Romans 13:11-12

There's something about September that seems a bit like waking up. Summer has a way of slowing things down, and not just because of Chico's notoriously hot summers. It's like the church is taking a nap. Board meetings go on hiatus. Elders take a break from their regular meetings. Even the Chico Area Interfaith Council takes a summer break. People travel, head off to their vacation cabins, or simply enjoy a slower pace. College students leave Chico for the summer, and families adjust to a different rhythm. Then September arrives.

The kids go back to school. College students return to town. People come home from their summer travels. We start looking at our calendars again realizing that there are things coming up that we probably ought to start thinking about. Before long, someone will remind us that Advent and Christmas aren't really that far away! But this summer has been a little different for us at First Christian Church. We may have taken a break from some of our meetings, but the church itself hasn't exactly been asleep.

Because so many of you have been faithful in fulfilling your pledges to our *Imagine More* capital campaign, we have

been able to begin some of the work we talked about when the campaign began. The entire exterior of the church has been painted, including our courtyards and playground. We have replaced the furnaces and air conditioners in K-Hall and Rooms 5,6 and 7 with new heat pump systems. There is still work to be done on the HVAC systems in Bethany Hall and the offices, but we are well on our way toward completing that project. Those are more than just building improvements. They are signs that we are investing in the future of this congregation and in the ministry that happens here every week.

We've also continued worshipping together as a community. Our attendance has remained fairly consistent, and we've had the added joy of welcoming our friends from Chico First Baptist Church for several Sundays as they have been searching for interim pastoral leadership following Gail Hill's retirement in June. Our partnership with First Baptist isn't ending when the summer does, either. We'll continue our shared Bible Study and Faith and Films, and, if everything comes together, we'll once again host Trunk or Treat on Halloween for our neighbors.

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

Pastor Jesse's Schedule

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

The Church Office will be closed Monday,
September 7, in observance of Labor
Day.

Sunday from the Lectionary

September 6

Exodus 12:1-14;
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14

***Matthew 18:15-20**
"This Isn't Fair!"

September 13

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12

***Matthew 18:21-35**
"The Math of Forgiveness"

September 20

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30

***Matthew 20:1-16**
"I Want to Speak With the Manager!"

September 27

***Exodus 17:1-7**
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 12-16
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-3
Matthew 21:23-32

"Chasing the Impossible Standard"



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

Worship Teams for September				
	6	13	20	27
Elder	Jean McKay	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Bill Peterson	Barbara Poetker
Musician	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson
Worship Leader		Lori Terrell-Adrian	Kathy Moran	Georgeanne Bennett
Deacon	Georgeanne Bennett	Peggy Davidson	Georgeanne Bennett	Carolyn Driscoll

Congregational Life Ministries

From Pastor Jesse continued

So as September arrives and we begin to “wake up” from our summer rhythms, I don’t think we are starting over. We’re continuing something that has been happening all along. The church is always becoming. We make plans. We try new things. We repair what needs repairing. We paint walls and replace air conditioners. We gather around tables to study Scripture and watch movies together. We welcome neighbors. We worship. We serve. We make room for people who are looking for a place to belong.

And before we know it, we’ll be “decking our halls” for Advent and Christmas. That’s one of the things I love about the rhythm of the church year. There is always something ahead of us. Not because we have everything figured out, but because God is still at work among us. So welcome back to September. Let’s wake up, look around, give thanks for what has been accomplished, and get ready for what comes next. There’s more to imagine.

See you in church



Congregational Life Ministry

We had a very enjoyable backyard potluck picnic on August 8. It was a hot day, but, thankfully, the patio stayed shaded.

There were 16 of us and a lot of good food and lively conversation. A bit too hot for games, other than a bit of corn hole. The little kids had fun with the Connect Four game.

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 signups, etc. starting September 27.

—Peggy Davidson



September Birthdays

09/03	Lori Terrell-Adrian
09/07	Bobbi Robinson
09/14	Nancy Thompson
09/14	Bryce Jones
09/18	Connie Wakefield
09/18	Diane Brown
09/19	Lily McGill
09/22	Steve Crowson
09/22	Molly Meade
09/22	Cris Overacker
09/24	Jerry Hambleton
09/25	Brian English
09/25	Connor Kearns
09/26	Jerry Schacht
09/28	Mary Kearns

Congregational Life Ministry & Administrative Ministry

Blue Cloud Arts Faith Zine Update:

Thank you to everyone who has submitted and encouraged the publication of our Faith-Based Zine

We are looking forward to our next Release on Sunday, September 20th
With a Submission Deadline of September 11th

Please note that anonymous submissions will not be accepted because contact information is needed to send a draft.

We are taking a break this August to refuel, rejuvenate, and allow new ideas to formulate

I, myself, will be traveling in Mexico until the end of August and will be inspired by their bold use of color in their art and architecture, and hope to see what they are producing in print form.

Please hold off on sending any submissions until the end of August, as I will not be online much (if at all) and will be leaving the tech gadgets at home.

Once I get back and you see me at church, I welcome any submissions!

Have a wonderful remaining Summer and August.

I appreciate all of the encouragement that has been given.

Blessings to all,

--Leslie Moore
Creative Director- Zinester

Imagine More

A Vision for Everyday Ministry

Imagine More — Campaign Update

The generosity of this congregation continues to amaze us. As of August 2026, we have received **\$93,346** in collected funds, right on pace with what we would expect at the end of Year 1, and we are only a few months in. Because of your faithfulness, we have not needed to borrow a single dollar.

Here is what your pledges have made possible so far:

- **Painting** — The interior and exterior painting is complete. If you have not noticed the doors and trim in K Hall, take a look next Sunday. Several people have walked through and noticed a big improvement.
- **HVAC** — The unit in Room 6 has been replaced, and our HVAC technician has identified the K Hall units as the next priority, keeping our most-used spaces comfortable and moving us off gas ahead of winter.
- **Water heater** — The baptismal water heater (a genuine antique, according to the plumber) has been replaced.

Next up, the committee is attending a community security symposium to gather information before making final decisions on building security — a priority that many of you have asked about. Landscaping planning continues, with phase one expected to begin when the time is right.

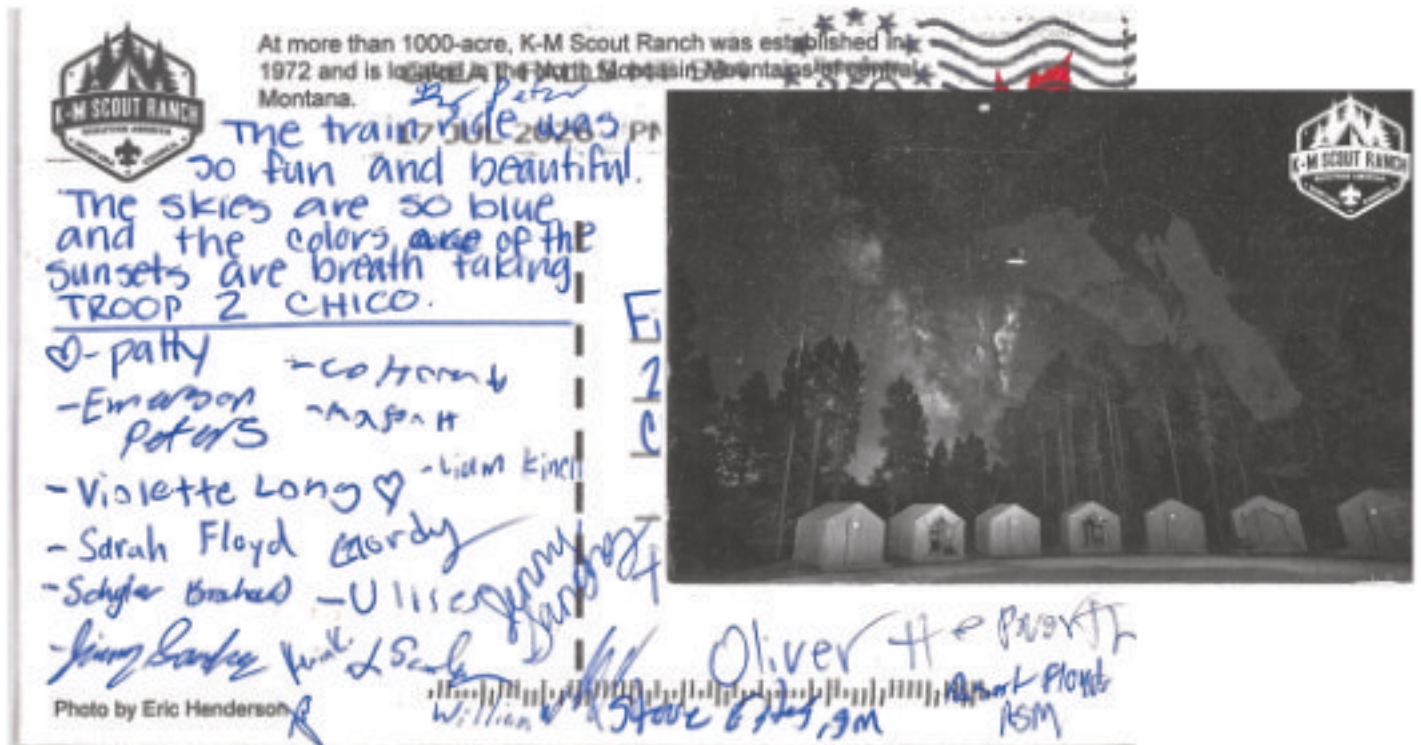
We are grateful for every pledge, every prayer, and every encouraging word.

— The Imagine More Campaign Committee

Outreach Ministry

Outreach Ministry

Postcard from Troop 1



Corning Cats! 🐱

Good news from our feral colony of cats at Corning First Christian: another female has been trapped and spayed. They are claiming the yard as their territory and soon we hope they will all be neutered. They are wonderful rodent hunters.

If you wish to help the Corning Cats, kitten and cat food is welcome. Dog food in small bags too. Gallon plastic zip lock bags are welcome to provide dog food to the unhoused for their dogs.



Blessings to you all for your generosity!

—Georgia Nelson

Outreach Ministries

Uplift Boutique

The month of August has been very busy in the boutique. We have had many new families that have discovered what the boutique has to offer.

We continue getting the bags ready to go to Sutter General Maternity in Sacramento. The bags contain some essential items for the newborn baby and will go home with a family fostering a newborn infant.

During the month we also gave out bags of new maternity clothes to expectant mothers who are involved in a county wide assistant program.

On August 8th, the boutique sponsored a Back to School Day. There were backpacks and school clothing available. We gave out 29 backpacks filled with supplies and lots of clothing for the beginning of school. Beforehand, 7 back packs were sent over to our sister church in Corning along with a set of clothing for a young girl who needed clothes to start school. The clothing racks in the boutique were a little empty after this event.

All this is only possible from our church members' generosity and hard work. We are very blessed!

In the next few weeks, as we do inventory, we will send out a request list of needed items to restock our shelves and racks.

—*The Uplift Boutique Team*

- **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.

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 designate your gift for 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!**



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

september

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, September 5

- 5 pm Chico Area Nondenominational Dance Group, Koinoina Hall

Monday, September 7--Labor Day; Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

- 9:30 am Koinonia Krafters, Fireside
- 7 pm Church Board Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Wednesday, September 9

- 11:30 am Chico Area Interfaith Council Meeting, Fireside

Sunday, September 13

- 2 pm Blue Cloud Art Productions meeting, Chapel

Tuesday, September 15--Deadline to submit articles to the next edition of *The Caller*

- 2 pm Disciple Women's Ministry, Bethany
- 7 pm Elders' Hybrid Meeting, Chapel and Zoom

Saturday, September 19

- 10 am PEO NS Chapter Bunco, Koinonia Hall

Sunday, September 20--Corning Sunday

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

Wednesday, September 23

- 9:30 am PEO NS Chapter meeting, Fireside

Friday, September 25

- 6 pm Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva family wedding, Sanctuay, Koinonia Hall

Sunday, September 27

- After Fellowship, Capital Campaign Meeting, Room 6

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

