



Published monthly

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# The Caller

## First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

**Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve**



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

Visit [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com) for details

First Christian Church Chico • 295 E. Washington Ave Chico CA 95926 • 530-343-3727 • [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)



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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](mailto:pastorkearns@gmail.com)
- Administrative Assistant: Briony Gniechwitz, [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)
- Custodian: Connor Kearns
- Custodian: Sherrie Wells
- Custodian: Scott Hall
- Bookkeeper: Marie Grandeen

#### 2025 Elected Church Leadership:

- **Moderator:** Maxwell Erwin
- **Vice-Moderator:** Gary Cantwell
- **Board Secretary:** Carolyn Driscoll
- **Church Treasurer:** Nancy Thompson
- **Congregational Life Ministry Leader:** Peggy Davidson
- **Outreach Ministry Leader:** Georgia Nelson
- **Administrative Ministry Leader:** Georgeanne Bennett
- **At Large Board Member:** Bill Peterson

- **Financial Secretary:** Carolyn Driscoll
- **Assistant Financial Secretary:** Georgeanne Bennett
- **Elders:** Gary Cantwell, Dave Hoppe, Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Barbara Poetker, Joe Rogers, Mary Kearns, Georgia Nelson, Kevin Zeitler
- **Personnel:** Rich Campbell, Kathy Moran, Amber McGill
- **Endowment Trustees:** Kathy Moran, Rich Campbell, Carolyn Hicks, Nancy Thompson, Marie Grandeen, Blaine Roberts
- **Deacons (not elected):** Peggy Davidson, Carolyn Driscoll, Barbara Poetker, Georgeanne Bennett

#### 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)

## Congregational Life Ministry



**“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...”**

—Ephesians 3:20  
(NRSV)

This year, our church will be launching a three-year capital campaign called *Imagine More*. I'd like to share what that means and why it matters for the future of our ministry. Each fall, when we collect estimate-of-giving cards, those commitments help us plan our operational budget for the coming year. Your regular offerings support the daily work of our church—staff, utilities, programs, and ministries that touch lives week after week.

In addition to our regular giving, we also receive several special denominational offerings throughout the year—Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Week of Compassion, and Reconciliation. These offerings support new congregations, higher education ministries, disaster relief, regional ministries, and important justice work in our wider church.

A capital campaign is something different. Churches launch these

campaigns to address needs that go beyond what our regular offerings can support—projects that improve our facilities and expand our ability to do ministry. Capital campaigns help a congregation imagine what's possible when we invest in the space God has entrusted to us.

Last spring, we partnered with Disciples Church Extension Fund to begin this process. We worked

closely with Rev. Rosario Ibarra, Building and Capital Service Advisor for the west coast. Rosario visited our church, toured our facilities, helped us form a campaign committee, and guided us through identifying the most urgent needs as well as a realistic financial goal. With her support, the committee developed our theme: *Imagine More: A Vision for Everyday Ministry*. Together, we believe that over the next three years, we can raise \$250,000 to meet several important needs:

### Security

Our current alarm system covers only four rooms, and we have no video monitoring beyond our doorbell camera. Improved security—expanded alarms, additional cameras, and better exterior lighting—will help protect everyone who uses our building.

### Comfort

Our aging heating and air-conditioning systems are costly to operate. Upgrading them will make our building more efficient and provide consistent comfort, especially during hot Chico summers.

# 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](https://zoom.us))
  - Meeting ID: 3976292568.
  - Password: 5303433727
- Facebook Live:  
<https://www.facebook.com/fccchico/>

## Meeting Dates

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

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 from

**Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, to January 2<sup>nd</sup>;**

**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Sermons are available on the website: [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com), [FCCChico](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXWzXWzXWzXWzXWzXWzX), and by email by request (contact the church office, [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com))

## January

	4	11	18	25
<b>Elder</b>	Georgianne Bennett		Mary Kearns	Jean McKay
<b>Musician</b>	Josh Hegg		Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Kathy Moran	Epiphany Celebration and Potluck at Chico First Baptist	Georgianne Bennett	Georgia Nelson
<b>Deacon</b>	Marie Grandeen		Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Carolyn Driscoll



# Congregational Life Ministry

(Pastor Jesse's article continued from page 3)

## Welcome & Aesthetics

Much of our exterior paint is decades old, and many entryways and hallways have dim lighting. Freshening these spaces will help our building reflect the warmth and hospitality of our congregation.

## Stewardship

Our grass lawn requires a significant amount of water. Transitioning to drought-resistant landscaping would reduce water use and help us care for creation more faithfully.

A campaign like this requires faith, consistency, and a shared vision for the future. Capital giving is meant to be over and above regular offerings. Many congregations find that a healthy goal is for households to consider giving approximately one-third more each year for the three years of the campaign—something that requires prayer, commitment, and trust in what God can do through us.

This effort is about more than improvements to a building. It's about strengthening our ministry for every day, for everyone, and for what's next. In the weeks ahead, you'll receive more details about the campaign, opportunities to give, and special events that will help us mark our progress.

I invite you to begin praying now for our church, for this campaign, and for the future God is imagining for us.

See you in church,



## Congregational Life Ministries

### Faith in Films

**January 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**



This month's film, *Nuremberg*, directed by James Vanderbilt, is set in the aftermath of World War II. In the devastated city of Nuremberg, a psychiatrist is assigned to evaluate captured Nazi leaders ahead of the Nuremberg Trials. As he seeks to understand the roots of evil, he becomes dangerously drawn into a disturbing bond with Hermann Göring. The movie will be shown on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, at a location to be determined, and the discussion will take place on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, in Room 6.

### January Birthdays

01/01	Marie Grandeen
01/05	Brit Hubbard
01/09	Joe Rogers
01/16	Scott Kearns
01/17	Lisa Joslyn
01/17	Gwen Joslyn
01/26	Graham Kearns
01/30	Kav Brown



### Directory Update

Robert & Karen Read  
2050 SPRINGFIELD  
DR APT 314  
CHICO CA 95928-6367  
530-630-3004

## Congregational Life Ministry

### CROWNED IN GEMS OF GLORY

By Leslie C. Moore

May swathes of sapphire  
Envelope your soul  
Dripping ruby red  
Emerald dew cleansing  
Golden rings of light shine  
Stars of citrine guide you  
Leading you to heavenly  
realms  
Of holy deliverance  
Of joy, peace and glory

An Ode to this Advent Season  
and Christmas Blessing

**Beginning in 2026, a Quarterly  
devotional inspired by the  
Advent Sacred Arts Devotional  
will be published**

Our first Devotional 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. A photo of the art form is all we  
will need, which represents the three focuses  
of Lent:

1. Prayer / deepening our connection  
with God through spiritual reflection  
and looking upward to God and  
heaven
2. Fasting/giving up those things that  
lead our hearts away from our focus  
on God and his will for us
3. Almsgiving / Charitable giving of  
ourselves in acts of service, talents,  
and compassion towards others

Please get in touch with Leslie Moore for  
more information.

mobile: 707-529-3195

[LMooreLeslie@gmail.com](mailto:LMooreLeslie@gmail.com)

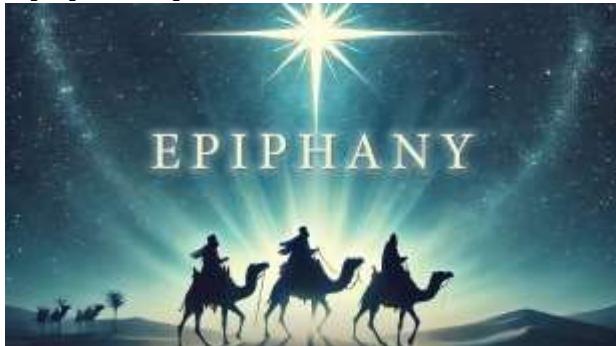
The above poem is an example of what we  
would love to feature in our Devotional,  
which will be printed and available to church  
members in February as we celebrate the  
season of Lent.

Leslie will also have a sign-up sheet at church  
for those who are interested in being  
involved in the production and submitting  
works of art and prose for the publication.

A meeting time and date will be set in  
January, in which members who would like  
to be involved can attend and help with the  
publishing and editing of our Lenten  
Devotional.

## Congregational Life Ministries & Administrative Ministry

### Epiphany



We will be celebrating Epiphany on January 11th at Chico First Baptist, 850 Palmetto Ave, Chico. Worship starts at 10:30 a.m., followed by a potluck.

### Administrative Ministries

#### Annual Reports



It's getting to be that time of year again. All Annual Reports are due January 15th. Who needs to turn in a report? The Ministry Circle Coordinators, Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Treasurer. Please turn in your one-page summary report on paper or by email ([chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)) to the church office. Call Briony at 343-3727 if you have any questions. Don't forget to turn in your keys if appropriate (if you are no longer a church leader, for example)!

### Outreach Minis



Where are we going in 2026?

It is the end of another year. Our church has been involved in some really important work in our community. It is the time for reflection and for making New Year's Resolutions. Mission and Outreach is doing the same. And I would like to hear from YOU!

Is there a special mission in our community that you would like our church to be a part of? Do you have a special mission project on your heart, and would like some help or encouragement to get it started? Drop me an email or talk to me during Fellowship hour. Let's make 2026 the best year yet!

Blessings,  
Georgia Nelson  
<mailto:nutmegnelson2@gmail.com>  
Mission and Outreach Coordinator

### 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)

## Administrative Ministry & Outreach Ministry

### 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](http://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!

FCC Chico  
Donation QR  
Code:



- ◆ **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:

15<sup>th</sup> of the month

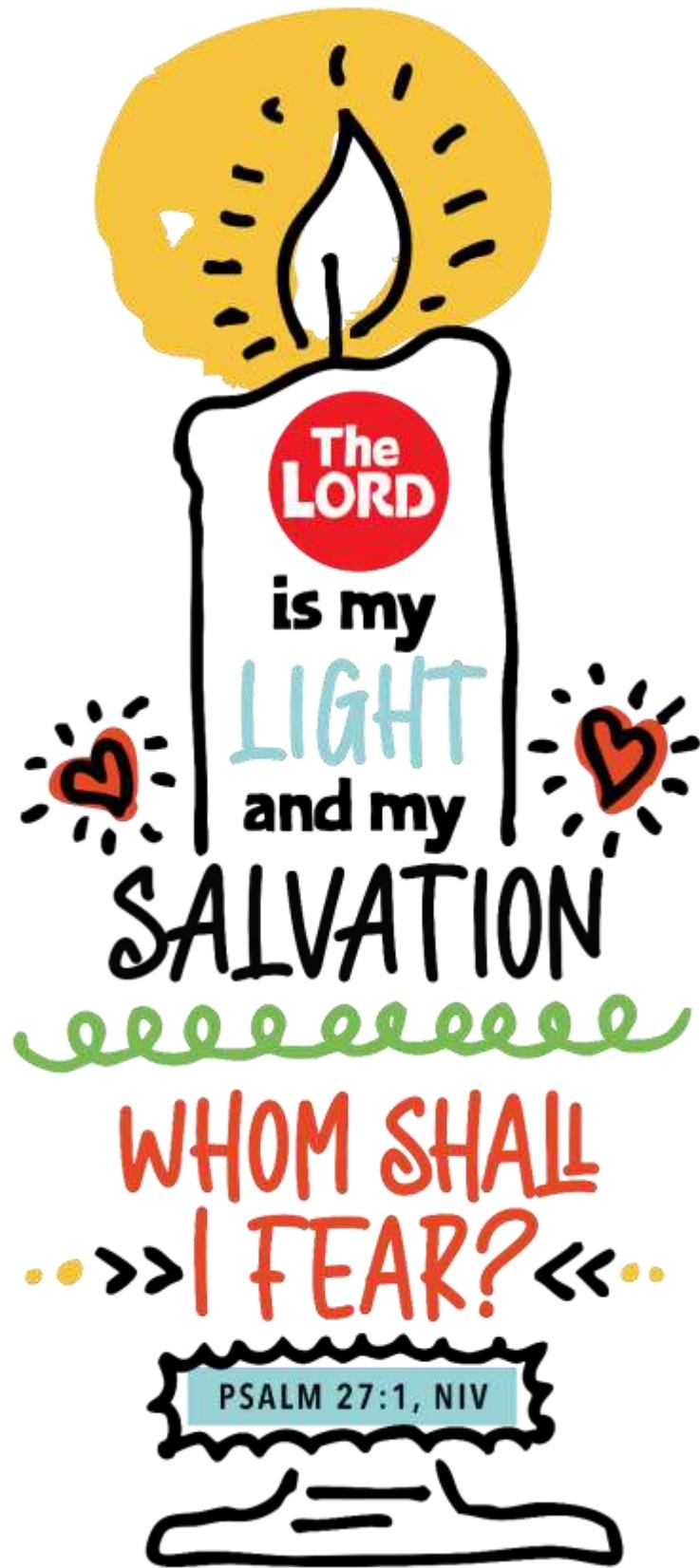
Sunday Bulletin deadline:

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

Weekly *The Callerito* deadline:

Thursdays, 10 a.m.

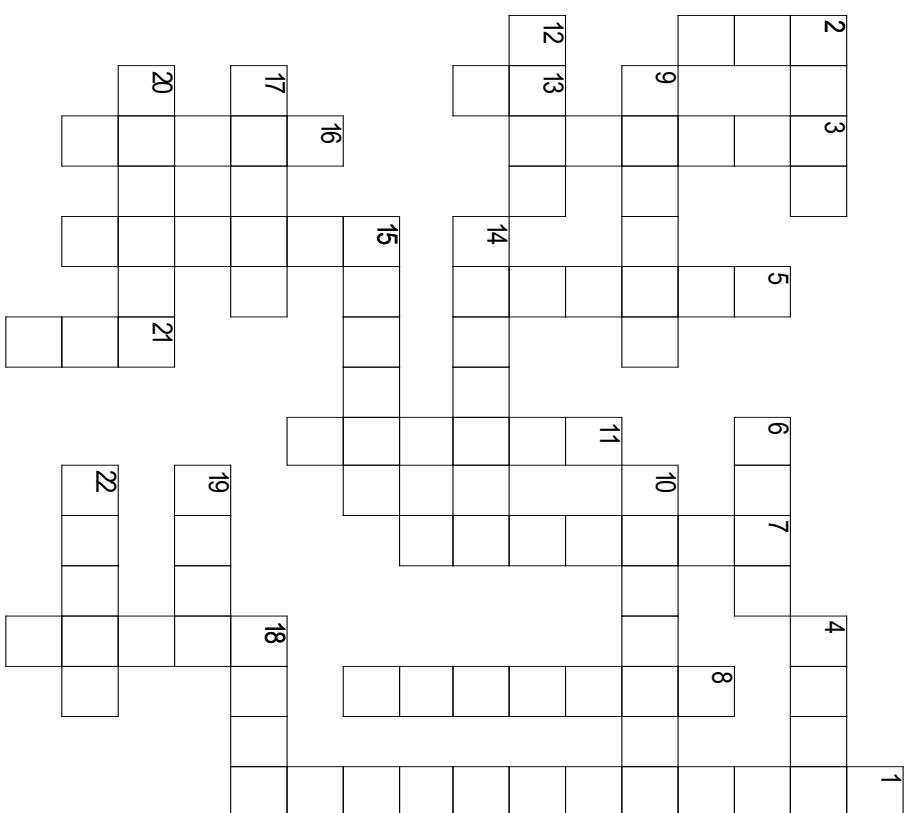
To be included in any mailing, contact the church office at 530-343-3727, or [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com). Donations of \$13/yr. appreciated but not necessary.



# Matthew, Chapter 3, Puzzle 1

## Across

2. conflagration  
 4. foreteller of Christ  
 6. thin garment worn  
 around the waist  
 9. area  
 10. dunk or sprinkle with  
 water  
 12. passageway  
 14. make ready  
 15. worn on the foot  
 17. litter  
 18. bird  
 19. run away  
 20. snakes  
 22. fluid made by bees



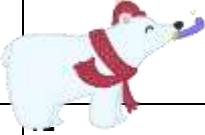
## Down

1. impossible to satisfy  
 2. worthy  
 3. be penitent  
 5. appropriate  
 7. animal skin  
 8. realm  
 11. Old Testament  
 prophet  
 13. hatchet  
 15. rocks  
 16. evidence  
 18. dissuade  
 21. deliberate  
 disobedience

## WORD LIST

ax	deter	prepare	sandal	vipers
baptize	dove	proper	sin	
belt	fire	region	stones	
brood	fit	repent	unquenchable	

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Church Office Closed	2 1 pm Healing Circle, Bethany Church Office Closed	3 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10
4 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	5 	6 10:45 am Music Practice, 4 7 pm Church Board Meeting, Chapel, Zoom	7 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Koinonia Hall (Khall), Fireside (FS)	8 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS	9 All Day Best Day of the Year Prep BSA, Khall, FS, Kitchen	10 All Day Best Day of the Year BSA Christmas Tree Pick Up, Khall, FS, Kitchen
11 10:30 am Epiphany Celebration and Potluck at Chico First Baptist Church 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary		13 9:30 am Koinonia Krafters, FS 10:45 am Music Practice, 4	14 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 11:30 am Chico Area Interfaith Council, FS 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS	15 <i>The Caller</i> Deadline 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS	16 3:30 IPL/The Forgotten Initiative Event, FS	17 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm NVIG Quarterly Speaker Meeting, Khall
18 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	19 	20 10:45 am Music Practice, 4 2 pm Disciple Women's Ministry, Bethany 7 pm Elders, Zoom, Chapel	21 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS 7 pm Faith in Films Discussion, 6	22 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS	23 	24 10 am Uplift Boutique, 10 1 pm Elder Workshop, FS, Sanctuary 5 pm Chico Dance Org, Khall, FS
25 10 am Worship, Sanctuary, Zoom/FB After Church Capital Campaign meeting, 6 1 pm Agua Viva, Sanctuary	26 	27 10:45 am Music Practice, 4	28 9:30 am PEO, FS 10 am-Uplift Boutique, 10 6 pm BSA Troop 2, Khall, FS	29 8:30 am Worship Team Breakfast, Cozy Diner 5:30 am BSA Pack 2, Khall, FS	30 Possible Chico Ballet spaghetti dinner, Khall, FS, Kitchen, Bethany, 6, 10, Chapel	31 Possible Chico Ballet Spaghetti Dinner, Khall, FS, Kitchen, Bethany, 6, 10, Chapel