



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

January 4th, 2026—Epiphany Sunday

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

II. Ringing of the Bell

III. Installation of New Church Leaders and Elders

IV. Welcome and Announcements (Kathy Moran)

- Today – Fellowship in Koinonia Hall following worship
- Tuesday – 10:45 a.m. Music Practice in Room 4; 7:00 p.m. Church Board Hybrid Meeting in the Chapel and on Zoom
- Wednesday – 10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- Thursday – 8:30 a.m. Worship Team Breakfast at the Cozy Diner
- Friday – All Day Boy Scouts preparing for “The Best Day of the Year” in Koinonia Hall, Fireside, and Kitchen
- Saturday – All Day Boy Scouts “The Best Day of the Year” Christmas Tree pick up staging in Koinonia Hall, Fireside and Kitchen; 10 a.m. Uplift Boutique in Room 10
- **Next Sunday, at 10:30 a.m. we will be celebrating Epiphany, with a potluck to follow, at Chico First Baptist located at 850 Palmetto Ave.**
- 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

V. Call to Worship (Kathy Moran)

In the dark of morning,
the stars still shine.

In the depth of winter,
the birds still climb.

At the start of the year,
tender and new,
God is here.

God is near.

Do not rest in your fear.

God is here.

So like the stars and the birds,
Let us worship holy God.

VI. Greeting One Another

VII. Opening Hymn – CH #150 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” (Joshua Hegg)

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!

Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

VIII. Call to Confession

Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a
new year, and there is nothing better about a new
year than the chance to begin again.

That is exactly what we do in our Prayer of Confession.
We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with
grace.

We are able to begin again.

So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week
with God’s grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

IX. Prayer of Confession

**Ever-loving God,
we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and
joy.**

**However, we know that is not how the world works.
Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to
face with fear once again.**

**So today we pray—
forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.
Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from
following your call.**

Forgive us when fear is louder than love.

Show us how to turn our fear into action.

**Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you
in a fearful world.**

With hope we pray, amen.

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

XI. Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18 (NRSVUE) (Kathy Moran)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

XII. Sermon – “Fear Doesn’t Stop Us” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XIII. Song of Invitation – CH #177 “What Was Your Vow and Vision” (Joshua Hegg)

What was your vow and vision,
Revealed and recognized,
Christ, when you came to Jordan
And asked to be baptized?
Was there a sudden splendor
Of prophets, priests and kings,
A wind that stirred the waters,
A blur of mighty wings?

Was this God’s call,
The crowning of all you had become:
“Go show and tell my coming,
My own, my chosen one”?
Did scripture join with scripture,
Revealing in surprise
The triumph of a servant
Rejected and despised?

We meet you at the water
And ponder why and how,
In hope that we may follow
Where God is going now,
Anointed by your Spirit,
Reborn and energized,
Through deed and word proclaiming:
“In Christ we are baptized!”

XIV. Moments for Mission: Congregational Life Review

XV. Prayers of the People

XVI. Communion Song-- CH #153 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (Joshua Hegg)

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And you beneath life’s crushing load
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way,
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
 By prophet seen of old,
 When with the ever-circling years
 Shall come the time foretold;
 When peace shall over all the earth
 Its ancient splendors fling,
 And the whole world send back the song
 Which now the angels sing.

XVII. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne Bennett, elder)

XVIII. Partaking Communion Together

XIX. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)

XX. Postlude (Joshua Hegg)

- **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.
- **Visit our website to subscribe to our mailing lists, see a map of our facility, donate online, and learn more about us!**
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- **Deadlines:** Sunday Bulletin-Wednesdays, 10 am; Callerito weekly email-Thursday 10 am; Caller, monthly newsletter-15th at noon.

Attendance for December 28th, 2025
 Attendance unavailable at time of printing

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January 4th-11th, 2026

This Sunday—Epiphany Sunday

- 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

Tuesday

- 10:45 a.m. Music Practice, Room 4
- 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, Fireside and Koinonia Hall

Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. BSA Pack 2, Fireside and Koinonia Hall

Friday

- All Day BSA Best Day of the Year prep, Koinonia Hall,
Fireside, Kitchen

Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Uplift Boutique (Free Family Resource)
- All Day BSA Best Day of the Year, Koinonia Hall,
Fireside, Kitchen

Next Sunday

- **10:30 a.m. Epiphany Celebration followed by a
Potluck at Chico First Baptist Church, 850
Palmetto Ave.**
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary