

Chico, California

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CHURCH

CHRISTIAN

FIRST

Published Monthly

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

Visit fccchico.com for details

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Jesse Kearns, Pastor Briony Gniechwitz, Administrative Assistant hone: 530-343-3727

RISEN JESUS, as spring blossoms around me, MAY YOUR LOVE BLOSSOM IN ME, that I might share its tragrance and brilliance WITH OTHERS.

Inside this issue: Congregational Life Ministry 1-6 Administrative Ministry 6 6-9 **Outreach Ministry** Calendar/Puzzle 10-11

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve



"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of greed and selfindulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean."

—Matthew 23:25 -26 Recently my newsfeeds have been giving me articles related to the disconnect between the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of a growing number of today's churches. Jim Palmer, John Pavlovitch, Emily Elizabeth Anderson, Brian McLaren, Peter Rollins, Jim Wallis, and many other self-identified evangelicals have been distressed about how what they learned in Sunday School during their formative years of faith has evolved into something entirely different. They sang songs about Jesus loving all the children of the world - "red and yellow, black and white." They were taught that Jesus preached a message of love and compassion and that the greatest commandment was to "love the Lord your God" and "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-40). They learned that Jesus loved the outcasts, sinners, and non-believers. He dined with tax collectors and healed lepers. He taught his followers to love beyond societal norms and prejudices. He taught them to reject Caesar's kingdom and embrace God's reign instead. They were told that Jesus opposed hypocrisy and emphasized authenticity and sincerity in one's faith. He criticized religious leaders for their outward displays of piety while lacking true compassion and understanding (Matthew 23:27-28). They were told not to "judge others lest ye be judged yourself." They were taught that moral character matters, and that our lives should reflect the life and ministry of

Jesus. As adults, however, they've seen how their churches have failed to fully embody the message of Jesus. In recent years, certain factions of the church have become closely aligned with political ideologies, sometimes prioritizing partisan interests over Jesus' teachings of love, mercy, and justice. This alignment has often resulted in the exclusion or marginalization of groups that Jesus would have shown compassion toward. The church has prioritized doctrinal purity and legalism over justice, mercy, and faith (Matthew 23:23). Then when these adult Sunday School graduates speak up and point out the church's failure, they are labeled "heretics" and "apostates." As one author wrote, "What did you expect? If you're going to teach kids about Jesus in Sunday School don't be surprised when we grow up and start challenging the church to return to Jesus!"

I was one of those kids who went to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School and learned about Jesus. It wasn't until 1983 that I finally decided to become one of Jesus' followers. As the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" says, "No turning back, no turning back." Like many folks who decide to follow Jesus, I've had my share of failure when it comes to living up to Jesus' example. I'm guilty of straying from Jesus' path when I get caught up in the ways of the world and forget that following Jesus is a

(Continued on page 4)

Sacred Grounds, Adult Faith Formation

Class If you haven't been in a breakout room on zoom, it's easy. The leader organizes it and everyone just needs to agree to join on their devices.

Day: Sundays, Time: 8:30 a.m.

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

Meeting ID: 3976292568.Password: 5303433727

Livestreaming 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/

Non-Cell Phone Directions!

You can also use your landline phone to listen to the service. Directions:

- 1. Dial 1-669-900-6833 (this is a long-distance call to San Jose, and is NOT toll-free so the cost will depend on your calling plan)
- 2. When asked, dial Meeting ID: 397-629-2568
- 3. When asked for the Participant Number: press #
- 4. When asked for a Password, dial: 530-343-3727

Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 2nd

7:00 p.m.—Church Board Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, April 16th

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting, via Zoom

Sunday from the Lectionary

April 7th

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31 * John 21:1-19 "Here's My Heart"

April 14th

Acts 3:12-19

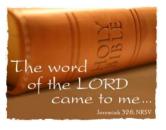
Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 *Luke 24:36b-48 "Eating With Ghosts"

April 21st

Acts 4:5-12 ***Psalm 23**

1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

"When You Say Nothing"



April 28th ***Acts 8:26-40** Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

"Follow the Verbs"

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

Sermons available
website: fccchico.com

You Tube FCCChico
And by email by request
(contact the church office,
chicodisciples@gmail.com)
Like us /fccchico

Pastor Jesse's Schedule

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

Church Office Closed Friday,

March 29th for Good Friday, and Monday, April 1st for Easter Monday. Administrative Assistant Briony will be on vacation Friday April 12th, 19th, and 26th. (Pastor Jesse's Article Continued from page 2)

narrower path than the wide one that the world takes. I'm also guilty of believing that the moral arc of the universe always bends towards good and that the light of Christ will always overcome darkness. This is true and scripture affirms it, but it doesn't mean that I should just sit back, say nothing, and wait for the arc to bend. Jesus certainly didn't wait. He routinely called out injustice and challenged the religious leaders of his day to repent and realign themselves with God. I think our failure to do so has contributed to the church's decline. The world recognizes our hypocrisy, and it is hurting us. So the question is, "Are we willing to realign ourselves with Jesus?" Are we willing to stand firm and say, "no" when the church fails to affirm the lessons we learned in Sunday School? Because until we are willing, we may find it increasingly difficult to recover from the damage we've done by not following Jesus.

See you in church!

April Birthdays

04/01	Michaela Campos
04/01	Corky LeTellier
04/01	Dave Hoppe
04/05	Merrianne Rawlins
04/09	Angela Rawlins
04/11	Norma Dietz
04/12	Sally Scott
04/15	Carolyn Hicks
04/16	Glenn Story
04/19	Jill Monson
04/21	Lucy Erwin
04/24	Diane Steffy
04/25	Barbara Kemper

Dolores Reid

We had a Celebration of Life for Dolores Reid on Saturday, March 23rd at 2 p.m. with a reception following in Koinonia Hall. If you missed the service, keep an eye out for the recorded video link that will be shared in a Callerito email. Dolores will be greatly missed.



		April 2024		
	7	14	21	28
Elder	Gary Cantwell	Dave Hoppe	Bill Peterson	Joe Rogers
Musicians	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson	Josh Hegg	Nancy Thompson
Worship Leader	Dave Hoppe	Maxwell Erwin	Lori Terrell-Adrian	Tom Shifflet
Deacons	(Carolyn Driscoll and C	Georgeanne Bennett	

All Church Work Day Saturday, April 13th

We will have an all-Church Work day on Saturday, April 13th, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Save the Date:

Pentecost in the Park, May 19th Wildwood Park, a joint musical service with FCC Paradise.



Thank you!

Don and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and support during his surgery. The surgery went well. Now the healing. He has to wear a neck collar for six

weeks which is awkward and uncomfortable. PT starts tomorrow and then OT. We felt your prayers and support and we are thankful.

—Kathy Moran



Family Directories

Printed copies of the Church Family Directory are in the Sanctuary, on the tables near directory the bulletins. They can be mailed by requesting them through the church office (530-

343-3727 or <u>chicodisciples@gamil.com</u>). 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 About Us tab.

Faith in Films

In April we will have our regularly scheduled Faith and Films sessions on April 15th and 17th where we'll watch and discuss Dead Man Walking.





Summer Church Camp at CGC (Community of the Great Commission)

Registration deadline:

May 29th. All registrations must be done online. Please turn in your completed registration form to the FCC Church Office.

- June 6-9: Adult Camp High School Graduates and Up
- June 23-27: Junior Completed 3rd-5th grades
- June 23-29: Chi Rho Completed 6th-8th grades
- June 23-29 CYF Completed 9th-12th
- June 28-30 JOY Completed K-2nd grades accompanied by an adult

Come to camp next summer and rejuvenate your spirit. Scholarships are available from an endowment fund created by saints who held CGC in their hearts.

Online registration is now open for CYF, Chi Rho, Junior, and JOY

summer camps. This link will take you there:

https://ccncn.regfox.com/2024-summercamps

Register before May 29th, turn in your completed registration form to FCC Chico's church office, and let's have a fun and spirit-filled time at CGC. We will be looking for YOU as we are LINKED BY LOVE!

Adult Camp Registration is coming soon.

Administrative Ministries

New Blinds in Room 4



At the end of February, Budget Blinds came and successfully installed the blinds In room four (the music room). The blinds are a double honeycomb style that helps with both insulation and privacy and cover all the windows, including the ones above and in the doors leading from Room 4 to the playground, which are kept locked. The blinds look great and are easy to use. I think we'll notice a great benefit from them, ranging from reducing sun damage on furniture and musical equipment, reducing glare, keeping the room cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter, and blocking the view of all the musical equipment.

Outreach Ministries

FCC Corning Update Good News From Corning!

The roof is holding and the church is dry. And that's a blessing in this weather, right?!?

Our Corning Sister Church has a few items on its food wish list for our March visit.



Kev and I will be heading to Corning on March 17th. Yes, that's right, St. Patrick's Day! Can't wait to hear Kevin's message. He is always inspiring to us all.

- Cup of Noodles
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Chef Boyardee Ravioli (and other brands)
- Small Cans of Chicken
- Drink Mixes for Water Bottles
- Foil Packets of Flavored Tuna and Chicken

Bring any items for Corning to our church on Sunday this week and next week. Please place them in the Corning Box, which is to the left outside of the Sanctuary Doors.

We are a loving and generous congregation and I am so thankful to be a part of our Corning outreach efforts.

> —Georgia Nelson Outreach Ministry

TROOP 2 CHICO STEAK & PRAWN

DINNER & AUCTION











EAGLE LEVEL - \$1000 INLCUDES PREMIUM TABLE, 8 DINNER TICKETS, 8 DRINK TICKETS, SPECIAL SURPRISE GIFT, DISPLAY OF NAME OR LOGO AT EVENT

LIFE LEVEL - \$420 INCLUDES TABLE, 8 DINNER TICKETS, DISPLAY OF NAME OR LOGO AT EVENT

STAR LEVEL - \$40 INCLUDES ONE DINNER TICKET
SCOUT DONATION ONLY - \$100 DISPLAY OF NAME OR LOGO AT
EVENT. NO TICKET INCLUDED

DONATION ONLY OPTION

https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/58adf592-6243-4570-80e8-1d0a548b8cb1



APRIL 20, 2024



TIME: 05:00PM - 10:00PM

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Masonic Lodge 1110 W East Ave, Chico, CA 95926

ONLINE PAYMENT AVAILABLE, CHECKS ACCEPTED IN PERSON

CHICO MASONIC YOUTH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

APRIL 27TH, 2024



WIN RAFFLE PRIZES

TICKETS \$12 PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
GLEN AT 530-518-3943 FOR TICKETS

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT AVAILABLE
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM - 8PM
CHICO MASONIC LODGE, 1110 W. EAST AVE

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) \$1035.00

Giving



For online giving, it is easy to set up. Go to <u>fccchico.com</u> and click the "Donate Now" button (a red button close to the top), and then select either a one-time gift OR set up a recurring donation

(monthly, quarterly, etc.). The website will guide you through the rest. If you want to designate the funds for anything specific or Pastor's Discretionary Fund you can do that on the checkout page. Simple! (PS, you can opt to cover the fees incurred by the church for using a credit card. The website will show you how).

You can also mail in your offerings. 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 your support of the church in your time, talents, and tithes!

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.

- **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.



Acts, Chapter 4, Puzzle 1

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