



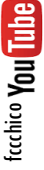
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service in Sanctuary and Online  
Visit [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com) for details

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Chico, California

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ChicoFCC

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Published Monthly

# THE CALLER

Agree to Differ • Resolve to Love • Unite to Serve



# Pentecost IN THE PARK

WEAR RED FOR

# Pentecost

## Pentecost Picnic in the Park!

We will be celebrating Pentecost at Wildwood Park on May 19th, at 10:00 a.m.! Sing-along led by Good Country and the Upbeats, as well as worship and a barbeque potluck.

Please see page 10 for information about the Pentecost Special Offering taken on May 12th and 26th.

### Inside this issue:

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“Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted”

— Matthew 5:4

I wanted to take some time this month to give you a sneak peek of some upcoming groups that our own Chaplain Mary Kearns will be offering. As you know, Mary has been providing support for people who are grieving through her Journeys of the Heart outreach ministry.

Throughout the year, Mary provides 10-week support groups for members of this faith community, hospice family members, and community referrals. This ministry began shortly after Mary’s parents died 4 months apart in 2010. Mary found this loss devastating and struggled to make meaning of it. Because

Mary is clergy, many people thought that grief would be easy for her to handle. Mary discovered it was not. She shared, “It felt like a dark night of the soul.” What she found most helpful was talking to people who had been in similar circumstances and who were not focused on fixing her feelings but listening to the outpouring of her heart. Mary decided to obtain training in how to companion people going through bereavement loss. This church, at the suggestion of Rev. Dr. Katy Valentine, invested in Mary’s training by sending her to The Center for Loss and Life Transition in Fort Collins Colorado. There, she received extensive training from Dr. Wolfelt on how to run bereavement support groups and identify complications common to

the grief journey. In 2018, she graduated and received her certification as a Death and Grief Specialist.

Recently, Mary heard back from a graduate of her Journeys of the Heart support group who stated that after she graduated, she had absolutely no one to talk to. The strength and resilience gained in the group setting were quickly lost to the isolation of no family or community support around her. One of the practices of Feather River Hospice was a bi-weekly luncheon, where graduates of their bereavement support group would meet for lunch and have an opportunity to continue working through their loss with other people. This group ended after the Camp Fire and the closing of Feather River Hospice. Taking a cue from this long-term approach, Mary has decided to start providing ongoing bereavement support in the form of a potluck dinner, where people can break bread together and mingle and share their continued journey. Starting Saturday, May 11th at 5:00 p.m., Journeys of the Heart, will host the first potluck called **#Be Nice – Still Grieving#** in the Fireside Room. Folks from our congregation who have attended the group will receive an email invitation as a reminder. But wait, there’s more!

Having taught this group for a decade now has amply demonstrated to Mary and this congregation that the more people in this community who understand the journey of grief, the better our overall mental health and congregational health can be. Graduates have learned how to companion others through dark nights of the soul. Decades ago, grief was stigmatized and rarely spoken about openly. People often dealt with their grief in isolation. But soon, communities began to recognize the need to provide support to

*(Continued on page 5)*

## 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, May 7th**

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

**Tuesday, May 21st**

7:00 p.m.—Elders' Meeting, via Zoom

## Sunday from the Lectionary

**May 5th**

**\*Acts 10:44-48**

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

**“When Jesus Interrupts”**

**May 12th**

**\*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

**“Leadership by Lottery”**

**Mother's Day**

**Pentecost Special Offering**

**May 19th**

**\*Acts 2:1-21** or

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-35

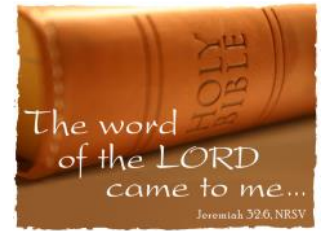
Romans 8:22-27 or

Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4-15

**Pentecost**

**Pentecost in the Park**



**May 26th**

**\*Isaiah 6:1-8**

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

**“Becoming a Prophet”**

**Pentecost Special Offering**

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



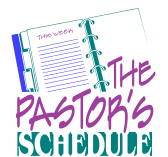
## Pastor Jesse's Schedule

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

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

Church Office Closed Monday,

May 27th in observance of Memorial Day




Sermons available

website: [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com)

**You Tube** [FCCChico](https://www.youtube.com/fccchico)

And by email by request  
(contact the church office,  
[chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com))

 Like us /fccchico

## Small Group Opportunities

- **Upbeats Music Jam** meets at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays. It is open to musicians of all levels and all are welcome.
- **WICS (Women in Christian Service)** 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 portion 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 Fireside 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 8 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)



<b>May 2024</b>				
	5	12 Mother's Day	19 Pentecost in the Park	26
Elder	Max Erwin	Nancy Morgans-Ferguson	Barbara Poetker	Kevin Zeitler
Musician	Josh Hegg	Josh Hegg	Pentecost in the Park	Nancy Thompson
Worship Leader	Barbara Poetker	Gary Cantwell	Pentecost in the Park!	Georgeanne Bennett
Deacons	Peggy Davidson and Bryce Jones			

families and individuals. In a world that often insists that grieving people should isolate themselves and suppress their feelings of sadness, churches like ours have laid claim to a model of emotional and spiritual support. Beginning Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, Mary will provide a 10-week study to take participants through Dr. Alan Wolfelt's book, *Understanding your Grief: 10 Touchstones to Hope and Healing*. If you have ever wondered what you could do or say to a friend or family member who is in a period of bereavement, this class is for you. In it you will learn what to do, and most importantly, **WHAT NOT TO SAY** to someone who is grieving. One of the foundational beatitudes that Jesus preached at The Sermon on the Mount was, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Mourning needs expression, space and the loving heart of another soul to bear witness. Our church, which values mental health, has a wonderful opportunity to be of service in this manner. Let's make this Journey of the Heart together!

See you in church!



## Pentecost in the Park

**Pentecost in the Park, May 19th Wildwood Park**, a joint musical service with FCC Paradise, and a potluck!

## Save the Date! ALL WOMEN LUNCH Coming Soon!

- Tuesday, May 21st, 11:30 am at the Olive

Garden.

- Feel free to bring a friend!
- Cost will vary on what you order.
- RSVP to Judy Brillhart, 521-3262 OR Barbara Poetker, 342-5777.

More information to come.

## May Birthdays

05/01	Debi Campos
05/01	Audi Van Ornum
05/02	Felicity Erwin
05/05	Judy Cobb
05/11	Resham Kajley
05/11	Fred Stolp
05/14	Max Erwin
05/19	Glenn Graves
05/20	Ken Chandler
05/25	Esther Massey
05/26	Matt Henry



## Congregational Life Ministry

On April 21st we had a dedication for baby Liliana McGill. Her parents are Amber and Brendon McGill. She was wearing a gown that has been passed down in Brendon's family for over 90 years. A very special event.

Be watching the Callerito for any upcoming special events and activities. Remember, Mother's Day is coming May 12th, and Pentecost in the Park will be the following Sunday on May 19th. That will be at Wildwood Park. It's a potluck, but burgers and hot dogs are provided (even veggie ones). Come one, come all. Bring your friends - dog friends are welcome, too. It's always a lot of fun. Paradise church will be worshipping with us again this year.

—Peggy Davidson  
Congregational Life Ministry Leader

## Bible Study

One of the difficulties of scheduling mid-week programs at smaller single-pastor churches is being mindful of the need for variety. For Bible studies, some people prefer topical subjects like our current series on parables while others prefer to consider a particular book like last year's survey of First and Second Kings. Others prefer exploring matters of faith and practice like our six-month Living the Questions series. Weekly attendance is usually the best way to gauge people's preferences which makes it hard to come up with programs that reach the most people. The reality is that it's impossible to find a program that fits everyone's schedule and piques everyone's interest. When I came to Chico sixteen years ago our church had a variety of topics for mid-week services that usually lasted for six to ten weeks. Then we would take a break for a month and move on to something else. Sometimes we would have a book study such as Brian D. McLaren's *A Generous Orthodoxy*. Other times we would offer something that related to spiritual growth like Mary's Enneagram class. When Katy Valentine served as our associate minister, she would offer a class like her "Strange Tales from the Bible" series. It became clear that people preferred a more traditional Bible study with fewer breaks in between series. Lately, however, people have been expressing interest in other types of studies, and some have even been stepping up to help lead. This summer, I'd like to offer two new Thursday night study opportunities. Starting Thursday, May 9th, we will begin a study on Michele Norris' book *Our Hidden Conversations: What Americans Think About Race and Identity*. The book has 11 chapters, so except for June 27th when I'm away at camp, and July 4th which is a national holiday, we



can cover one chapter a week until August 1st. Then on August 8th, Mary will be leading a 10-week book study on Alan Wolfelt's book *Understanding Your Grief* (see my article on page 2) that will take us to October 10th. If you have other ideas for topics, or if you are interested in leading a class, please let me know. I'm open to all sorts of ideas.

—Pastor Jesse

## A Prayer for Mother's Day

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to be called "Mom." Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a Mom. Thank you for the numerous spiritual children you have given to so many "spiritual moms" and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favor and grace as we honor Moms all around the world.

We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be Moms, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mom who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you would remind many of those who, though they do not have "physical" children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they've been blessed to nurture through these years.

God, thank you, for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us and that you are with us,

in all our unique journeys and pathways. Thank you that you are Sovereign over every part of our lives. Thank you that your ways are perfect and you make our footsteps secure.

Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace...for all moms, for moms to be, for women who nurture and lead, and for all who have lost their mothers.

In Jesus' Name,  
Amen.

## Outreach Ministries

### Crafting Companions Update!

First Christian Church Outreach Ministries is supporting The **Crafting Companions** group by opening our **Room 6 to the group every Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.** Cynthia Cantwell hosts the group and guides us as we engage in carefree and light conversation while we make crafts. We all could use some friendly conversation and warm friendships in our lives, and this group provides just that!

Cynthia helps us with crafting projects (all supplies are provided) such as making greeting cards, birdhouses, refrigerator magnets, and just simple coloring projects for a bit of stress reduction.

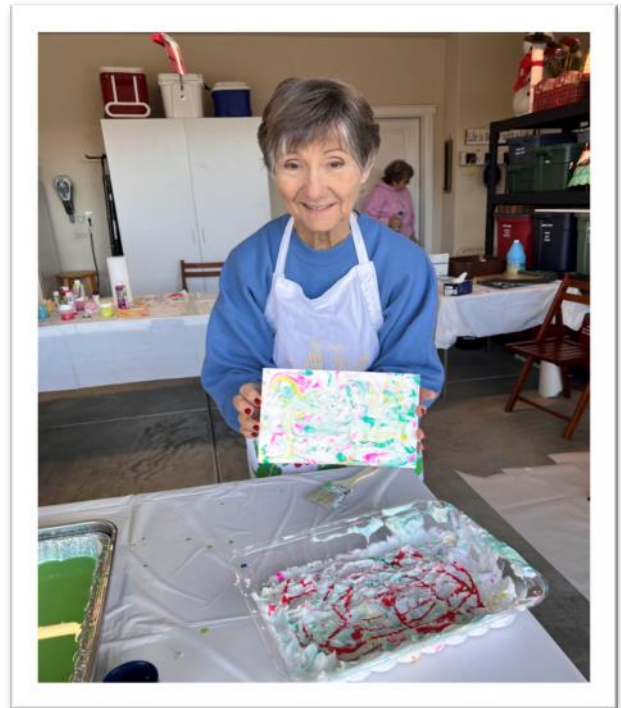
Cynthia has a rich history and love for crafting! We recently took a field trip to Carolyn Driscoll's house where she showed us the 'paper marbling' technique she learned during her trip to Italy!

**What a way to end your week! Please drop by and visit with us. We have snacks too.** We are not set up for children's crafting, however, but everyone 18 years of age and

older is welcome.

So bring your friends, neighbors, and family along. We look forward to seeing you soon.

—Georgia Nelson,  
Outreach Ministry Leader



Georgia Nelson learning paper

### The Corning FCC News!

Kevin Zeitler is heading out for Corning FCC (with his sister Georgia) on a different Sunday this month. We are going to Corning on the 4th Sunday in April. ***That is Sunday, April 28th.*** We are changing things around in April because Kevin has a very important activity the week before. Kevin's youngest daughter, Alyson, is getting MARRIED on April 20th! We wish Alyson and Steve all the best blessings for their special day. And the Father Of The Bride will be very busy that weekend!

SO...we are going to Corning FCC on **April 28th.**

Here are some items that Corning has requested:

- Laundry soap pods
- Cup of Soup
- Cans of soup (pop tops best)
- Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly

We love helping them stock their food pantry and supporting their laundry-for-the-unhoused ministry.

Please bring all items **before April 28th** and leave them in the Corning Box to the left just before you come into the Sanctuary. (There's a sign...you can't miss it)

Blessings to All from Your Outreach Ministry Leader.

—Georgia Nelson  
Outreach Ministry Leader

## Thank You

Dear First Christian Church,  
Thank you for providing yummy meals to people living at Everhart Village! CHAT appreciates your support so much! We look forward to continuing to partner with you to serve the villagers in the future!

Kind regards,  
*CHAT (Chico Housing Action Team)*

## Thank you for the Prayer Shawls!

To those who made the prayer shawls, The First Christian Church of Corning so appreciates all of the support your church has given to us over the years. **Thank you.**

We are also thankful for the beautiful prayer shawls that were made for us. Amy, Karen

and I are so grateful for the time you spent making the beautiful shawls.

We will use them with prayerful thanks.

—Nancy Burnett  
First Christian Church Corning

## Pentecost Special Offering



We will have Special Offering envelopes in the Sunday bulletins on May 12 & 26, 2024. We're skipping May 19th because we're celebrating Pentecost in the Park! **RESTORE AND REWIND**

When it comes to church, we have a lot of negative tapes playing in our heads:

“Church is judgmental.”

“Church is hypocritical.”

“They think they're better than everyone else.”

It's time for restoration. Time to rewind the tape.

New Church Ministry is dedicated to fostering faithful communities marked by deep Christian spirituality and a passion for God's love and justice.

Like our ancestors, we're going back to the beginning, when new Christian communities gathered together and shared all they had, organizing everything around the Spirit's dreams for their lives and their communities. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, God is singing a new song: not a song of judgment, but of welcome and forgiveness; not a song of



superiority, but of humility and grace; not a song of hoarding, but of sharing everything we have!

God's movement for wholeness is already underway. Our job is to listen, and learn, and follow – supporting leaders and communities as the Spirit calls them into being, laying down a new song for a new generation. Church as a place of generosity and justice. Church as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2024 Pentecost Offering, received in most congregations on Sunday, May 12, and Sunday, May 26th, are divided equally between your regional ministry, which supports local new churches, and New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, and assists emerging leaders to be “movement initiators.”

Please give generously to the Pentecost Offering. You can donate online by going to our website [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com) or the Disciples Mission Fund directly here: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/> or use the below QR code.



## 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
- **Easter Special Offering** (supports general ministries) \$ 483.00

## Giving

For online giving, it is easy to set up. Go to [fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com) 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:**  
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.

- ♦ **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.





# MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm-Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall (Khall), Fireside (FS)	2 6:30pm-Bible Study, 6, Zoom	3 3pm-Crafting Companions, 6	4
5 10am-Worship, Sanctuary/ Zoom/FB 1pm-Agua Viva, Sanctuary	6	7 11:30am-Music Practice, 4 1pm-String Ensemble, Chapel 7pm-Church Board meeting, Zoom	8 11:30am-CAIC, FS 6pm-Scouts BSA, Khall, FS	9 6:30pm-Bible Study, 6,	10 3pm-Crafting Companions, 6	11 
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 10am-Worship, Sanctuary/ Zoom/FB 1pm-Agua Viva, Sanctuary	13 	14-9:30am-Koinonia Krafters, FS 11:30am-Music Practice, 4 1pm-String Ensemble, Chapel 5pm-Inspire School of Arts and Sciences, Khall	15 6pm-Scouts BSA, Khall, FS	16 6:30pm-Bible Study, 6, Zoom	17 3pm-Crafting Companions, 6	18 
19 10am-Pentecost in the Park! Wildwood Park 1pm-Agua Viva, Sanctuary	20	211:30am-Music Practice, 4 1pm-String Ensemble, Chapel 2pm-WICS, Bethany 7pm-Elders, Zoom	22 8:30am-PEO, FS 6pm-Scouts BSA, Khall, FS	23 6:30pm-Bible Study, 6, Zoom	24 1pm-Healing Circle, Bethany 3pm-Crafting Companions, 6	25
26 10am-Worship, Sanctuary/ Zoom/FB 1pm-Agua Viva, Sanctuary	27  <b>Memorial DAY</b> Church Office Closed	28 11:30am-Music Practice, 4 1pm-String Ensemble, Chapel	29 6pm-Scouts BSA, Khall, FS Deadline to register for CGC Summer Camps	30 6:30pm-Bible Study, 6, Zoom	31 3pm-Crafting Companions, 6	