



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH CHICO
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

February 7th, 2021

Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE

Ph. 530-343-3727 • chicodisciples@gmail.com • fccchico.com

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Credits at end of bulletin*

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 (Joshua Hegg)

II. Welcome (Pastor Jesse)

- Zoom Check-In on Tuesday at 1:00
- Chico Area Interfaith Council meeting, 12:00 – 1:00
- Bible Study Thursday at 7:00
- Sacred Grounds, 9:00 next Sunday
- Worship, 10:00 next Sunday

III. Opening Hymn – CH #517 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine all love’s excelling, joy of heaven to earth
come down
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies
crown
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love
thou art
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling
heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every
troubled breast
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest.
Take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive
Suddenly return and never, never more thy temples
leave

Thee we would be always blessing, serve there as
thy hosts above
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy
perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let
us be
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in
thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we
take our place
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder,
love, and praise.

IV. Call to Worship – (Joe Rogers)

Hope is poured out upon us this day!
**God is with us, always offering God's healing
love.**
Now is the time for us to be people of action, not
just those who silently sit and hear the good news.
**Now is the time to seek the good; to heal those
who are broken; to offer peace and hope.**
Thanks be to God who has blessed us with God's
abundant gifts.
**We are called to use these gifts in service to
God's broken world. Let us rejoice in the
mission to which God has directed us. AMEN.**

V. Black History Month Quote (Joe Rogers)

We must tell the truth. The hardness of heart that we
still see rejecting some people is not just the words
of racism, but the works of racism. In fact, if you're
not careful, you'll get caught up in the words of
racism and miss the works of racism because some
people who engage in the works of racism never use
the words. But if we are honest about this past, we
can see these same patterns repeating themselves in
the present.

—*Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Disciples of Christ
Minister and Founder of "Moral Mondays."*

VI. 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 NRSV – (Mary Kearns)

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for
boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe
betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do
this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of
my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.
What then is my reward? Just this: that in my
proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge,
so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.
For though I am free with respect to all, I have
made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more
of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to
win Jews. To those under the law I became as one
under the law (though I myself am not under the
law) so that I might win those under the law. To

those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

VII. Sermon - "Just Because You Can..." (Pastor Jesse)

VIII. Song of Reflection CH 264 "Where the Spirit of the Lord Is"

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is peace
Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is love
There is comfort in life's darkest hour
There is light and life, there is help and power
In the Spirit, in the Spirit of the Lord.

IX. Moment for Mission – (Surprise)

X. Prayers of the People – (Mary Kearns)

XI. Communion Song CH #404 "A Hymn of Joy We Sing"

A hymn of joy we sing, around your table Lord
Again our grateful tribute bring, our solemn vows
record.

Here do we see your face, and feel your presence
here

So may the savor of your grace in word and life
appear

In self forgetting love be our communion shown,
Until we join the church above and know as we are
known.

XII. Institution of Communion (Peggy Davidson, Georgia Nelson Elders)

XIII. Blessing/Benediction

XIV. Postlude - (Joshua Hegg)

XV. Fellowship Time in breakout rooms.

Some FAQs for Visitors

- **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's a "Doxology"?** Some Sundays we will sing a "doxology" (literally "saying of glory") after we receive the offering. It is a prayer written in 1674 and is popular in Protestant Churches -- plus, we love the words.
- **Do we say the Lord's Prayer together?** We do pray the Lord's Prayer together occasionally on Sunday mornings during the prayer time.
- **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 donate online, subscribe to our mailing lists, and learn more about us!**
www.fccchico.com

CALENDAR

February 7th-14th, 2021

This Sunday

9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, on [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m.-Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and
[Facebook](#)

Tuesday

1:00 p.m.-Weekly Check-in on [Zoom](#)

Thursday

1:00 p.m.-Bible Study, the last day, [Zoom](#)

Next Sunday—Happy Valentine's Day!

9:00 a.m.-Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation
Christian Education, on [Zoom](#)
10:00 a.m.-Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and
[Facebook](#)

Looking Ahead

- February 12th, 1-3 pm and February 24th, 6-8 pm- CCNC-N Women's Ministry Conversations for 2021 via zoom [Click here to register ...](#)
- February 17th, 7 pm—Ash Wednesday Service, “Ashes to Ashes” via zoom and featuring music from Andra Moran!
- Ecumenical Lenten Wednesday Worship— Wednesdays, at 7 pm, starting February 24th (this will NOT be in our usual Zoom room)
- March-Chico Pride and Trans* month
- March 13th, Spring Renewal (will be online)
- April 24th, 10am-4pm, via zoom. The 167th Christian Church of Northern California region's Annual Gathering. \$25 per household. [Register here.](#)

In honor of Black History Month:



Phillis Wheatley

Phillis Wheatley, also spelled “Phyllis Wheatly” was born around 1753 in West Africa (probably somewhere between Ghana and Gambia), kidnapped at the age of 7 or 8, sold into slavery, and transported to North America where she was enslaved by the Wheatley family of Boston.

She was named “Phillis” after the slave ship that transported her to the colonies. Although black people were actively discouraged from learning how to read and write, within 16 months and without the benefit of school, learned to speak English and within 4 years was fluently reading and writing English. She additionally made great progress in Latin.

She wrote a book of poetry and, at the age of 20, went to London with her owner's son to get it published (it was not possible because of racial prejudice in America). Her *“Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral”* on September 1st, 1773 in London, was the first work of poetry published by an African-American woman. During her six-week stay in London, she was able to establish a network of many

of the most important people in military, political, religious, and social circles. England had passed a law a year before that enslaved people could not be legally compelled to return to the colonies by their slave owners. With the help of these friends, her owners were forced to promise to free her before she returned home to embrace what she hoped would be the free African-American identity that the American Revolution made available to her. These hopes were soon frustrated. She denounced slave owners as “Modern Egyptians” in a letter to the Indian Presbyterian minister Samson Occum that was reprinted in newspapers in March of 1774 throughout New England and Canada, and in her poem, “On the Death of General Wooster” which she sent to Wooster’s widow, Mary, Wheatley writes “But how, presumptuous shall we hope to find/Divine acceptance with th’Almighty mind—/While yet (O deed ungenerous!) they disgrace/And hold in bondage Afric’s blameless race?”

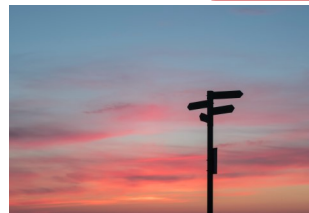
She married a free black man, John Peters, who was a lawyer, physician, and gentleman, on Thanksgiving Day in 1778 (around the age of 25). They were initially prosperous but they were soon victims of the general economic depression after the war, and John was repeatedly jailed for debt. Phillis was suffering from an “Asthmatic Complaint” for several winters before her death and this may have finally killed her. At the age of 31, Phillis had lost three children and died in poverty and obscurity on December 5th, 1784.

Her poetry was not published in this country until 1786, and while many recognized her talent, some were blinded by her race and sex. Thomas Jefferson, for example, claimed she was no poet. However, she was, as Ignatius Sancho, a renowned contemporary African-British author called her, a “Genius in Bondage.”

Sources:

- Image: [Portrait of Phillis Wheatley](#), attributed by some scholars to [Scipio Moorhead](#)
- <https://mom.com/momlife/205297-20-important-leaders-know-black-history-month/phillis-wheatley>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phillis_Wheatley
- <https://publicdomainreview.org/essay/phillis-wheatley-an-eighteenth-century-genius-in-bondage>

Credits



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- “A Hymn of Joy We Sing” Words: Aaron R. Wolfe, 1858, alt. Music: Lowell Mason, 1832.

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