



# God Out of the Box



September 24th, 2023  
Rev. Jesse Kearns, Pastor

First Christian Church Chico

(Disciples of Christ)

**AGREE TO DIFFER • RESOLVE TO LOVE • UNITE TO SERVE**

Wi-Fi Network: FCCDOC Password: 5303433727

10 a.m. Sunday Worship • Ph. 530-343-3727 • [chicodisciples@gmail.com](mailto:chicodisciples@gmail.com)  
[fccchico.com](http://fccchico.com)  [fccchico](https://www.facebook.com/fccchico)  [fccchico](https://www.instagram.com/fccchico)  [ChicoFCC](https://twitter.com/ChicoFCC)  [FCCChico](https://www.youtube.com/FCCChico)

**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 – (Nancy Thompson)

## II. Ringing of the Bell

## III. Welcome and Announcements (Gary Cantwell)

- Today – Fellowship following service
- Monday – 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble Practice in the Chapel.
- Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside, 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, K-Hall and Fireside.
- Saturday – 9:00 a.m. Soul Shop, Fireside
- Sunday – World Communion Sunday. 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds; 10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary, Zoom, and FaceBook Live; Fellowship in K-Hall following the service
- Offerings may be put in the offering plate which is near the bulletins near the entrance of the Sanctuary

## IV. Opening Hymn – CH #66 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” (Nancy Thompson)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praises we render; O help us to see  
That only the splendor of light hideth thee.

#### **V. Call to Worship – (Gary Cantwell)**

Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

**Lord, come into our hearts this day.**

Having received God's mercy, bring that love to  
others.

**Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in  
compassion.**

Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

**Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which  
you pour into our lives. AMEN.**

#### **VI. Children Fourth Grade and Under Dismissed for Sunday School**

#### **VII. Psalm 105:1-11 (NRSV) (Gary Cantwell)**

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make  
known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing  
praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory  
in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the  
Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his  
presence continually. Remember the wonderful works  
he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he  
uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children  
of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth. He is mindful of his  
covenant forever, of the word that he commanded,  
for a thousand generations, the covenant that he  
made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,  
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as  
an everlasting covenant, saying, "To you I will give the  
land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."

#### **VIII. Ephesians 3:18-19 (NRSV) (Gary Cantwell)**

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend,  
with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and  
height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that  
surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with  
all the fullness of God.

**IX. Sermon – “God Out of the Box” (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

**X. Song of Reflection and Invitation – CH #453  
“Called As Partners In Christ’s  
Service” (Nancy Thompson)**

Called as partners in Christ’s service,  
Called to ministries of grace,  
We respond with deep commitment  
Fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
Side by side and friend with friend,  
Equal partners in our caring  
To fulfill God’s chosen end.

Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,  
Christ’s clear call to work and worth,  
Let us follow, never faltering,  
Reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
All God’s people young and old,  
Blending human skills together  
Gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,  
In a small or global sense,  
Help us bear each other’s burdens,  
Breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,

Words of challenge, said with care,  
Bring new power and strength for action,  
Make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow  
Ways to order human life  
That surround each person’s sorrow  
With a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
Our compassion to increase,  
Messengers of faith, thus giving  
Hope and confidence and peace.

**XI. Moments for Mission (Cynthia Cantwell)**

**XII. Prayers of the People**

**XIII. Communion Song CH #408 “Come, Share  
the Lord” (Nancy Thompson)**

We gather here, in Jesus’ name  
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;  
For through the loving Son the Father makes us one:  
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,  
Come, share the Lord

No one is a stranger here,  
Everyone belongs;  
Finding our forgiveness here,  
We in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,  
The Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;  
The one we love the most is now our gracious host:  
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,  
Come, share the Lord

We are now a family  
of which the Lord is head;  
Though unseen he meets us here  
In the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;  
We'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;  
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:  
Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine,  
Come, share the Lord.

**XIV. Institution of Communion (Georgeanne  
Bennett, Bobbi Robinson, elders)**

**XV. Partaking Communion Together**

**XVI. Blessing/Benediction (Rev. Jesse Kearns)**

**XVII. Postlude – (Nancy Thompson)**

### **Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering**

Sound the Trumpets: Unmuted Ministry: Uncommon  
Love; United Service. Numbers 10:4-7.

Our special offering will be taken on September  
24, 2023, and October 1, 2023. For more than 40  
years, Disciples have had a visible ministry to  
address racism in society. Gifts to Reconciliation  
Ministry, through its Offering or throughout the  
year, support programs and initiatives aimed at  
dismantling racism. Reconciliation Ministry is not  
supported by Disciples Mission Fund.

### **Recommendations to the Nominating Task**

**Force:** Recommendations to the Nominating Task  
Force hand outs are in the Sanctuary, next to the  
bulletins, and a PDF is [here](#). They can be returned  
in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or sent  
to the church office by email, or mail.

**Annual Holiday Bazaar is Saturday, November  
4th, 2023, 9 am to 1 pm.** Sign up for booths in  
the entrance of Koinonia Hall.

**November 12th is our Annual Congregational  
Meeting and Stewardship Sunday.** We will be  
voting on next year's church leaders during the  
Sunday morning service on November 12th. This  
is the same day pledge cards are due. Stewardship  
letters with pledge cards have been mailed out, and

electronic copies of the letter and the pledge card are on our website here: <https://www.fccchico.com/stewardship.html>. Pledge cards and envelopes are also in the pew racks in the Sanctuary. Please return the pledge card by mail, in the offering plates on Sunday mornings, or by dropping it through the church mail slot at any time before November 12th, 2023. Thank you!

## Attendance

### Attendance for September 10th, 2023:

Sanctuary: 32, Online: 9 Total: 41

### Attendance for September 17th, 2023

Sanctuary: 40, Online: 5 Total: 45

## Credits

- Bulletin graphic photo by [Deleece Cook](#) on [Unsplash](#)
- “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867, alt. Music: Welsh folk melody. Words: Public Domain. Music: Public Domain. CCLI#124466
- “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” Words: Jane Parker Huber, 1981. Music: John Zundel, 1870. Music: Public Domain. Words © 1981 Jane Parker Huber CCLI# 830042
- “Come, Share the Lord” Words and Music: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1984. © 1984 Fred Bock Music Company. CCLI# 106408
- Hymns Used by Permission. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com). CCLI Copyright License #37151

*"No one commits suicide because they want to die."*

*"Then why do they do it?"*

*"Because they want to stop the pain."*

~Tiffanie DeBartolo, [How to Kill a Rock Star](#)

# soul shop

## for Everyone

The goal of Soul Shop™ for congregations is to begin working within the church to create a network of support for those who are impacted by suicide. This faith-oriented program is designed to increase awareness of suicide and discuss the steps that can be taken to reduce risks. This workshop is for parents, police, nurses, teachers, and any other concerned citizens who might want to learn how to ask the question of suicide, learn about the prevalence of suicide in the church community, and get more engaged with how to be a part of the solution.

### September 30th, 2023

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

\$25 to Register



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

295 E. Washington Ave

Chico, CA 95926

Cost

\$25

Self-registration



<https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>

Or call 530-343-3727



Rev. Eileen Brownell, ordained by Centers for Spiritual Living is also a Chico Police Chaplain. For 16 years, she has assisted families and survivors of suicide. Alarmed by the increase, as well as seeing individuals 13-90 years take their own life, she became a certified Soul Shop trainer to work with faith communities to help prevent suicides and support survivors. Currently she is the only certified trainer in the 5 western states.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/5buua22z>



Sept. 24th-Oct. 1st, 2023

## CALENDAR

### **This Sunday—Pastor Jesse is back!**

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

### **Monday**

- 2:30 p.m. String Ensemble, Chapel

### **Wednesday**

- 9:00 a.m. PEO, Fireside
- 6:00 p.m. Scouts BSA, Koinonia Hall, Fireside

### **Saturday**

- 9:00 a.m. Soul Shop, Fireside

### **Next Sunday—World Communion Sunday**

- 8:30 a.m. Sacred Grounds Adult Faith Formation Christian Education, Room 6 and on [Zoom](#)
- 10:00 a.m. Indoor Worship in Sanctuary and Worship Streamed Live on [Zoom](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Fellowship, Koinonia Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Iglesia de Cristo Agua Viva, Sanctuary

## 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](http://www.fccchico.com)
- **Masks:** Masks are recommended but not required. Adult and child size masks are available in the Sanctuary as well as hand sanitizer.

**Sound the Trumpets:  
Unmuted Ministry:  
Uncommon Love;  
United Service  
Numbers 10:4-7**

**RECONCILIATION MINISTRY  
SPECIAL OFFERING  
SEPTEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> - OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>**



[www.reconciliationministry.org](http://www.reconciliationministry.org)



*Sound the Trumpets: Unmuted Witness;  
Uncommon Love; United Service*

Number 10:4-7

Reconciliation Ministry is an invaluable part of our church as we strive to faithfully follow Jesus Christ. When we encounter the perils of systemic racism, we sound the trumpet. In every expression of the Church, we sound the alarms so that we may be the hands and feet of Christ in the face of racial inequity and injustice. Just like the camps of the east and south in Israel, called together at the sound of the trumpets in the book of Numbers, Disciples are called together as an anti-racist and pro-reconciling faith movement.

For example, some of our congregations host “Be the Neighbor” programs that invite youth and young adults to witness to Christ’s love through anti-oppression education and community service in support of neighbors in need.

Your generous giving to our shared ministry of Reconciliation, allows us to join the cacophony of trumpets sounding the alarm to unmute our witness on behalf of the voiceless, to shine the light of Christ’ uncommon love, and to advocate for justice through our united service and ministry of reconciliation. Will you join Reconciliation Ministry as we seek to extend the reach of Christ’s invitation to abundant life for all of God’s children.

Thank you for your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry!

[www.reconciliationministry.org](http://www.reconciliationministry.org)





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support First Christian Church, Chico  
with your unique talents!

## 2024 NOMINATIONS OPEN

- ✓ Make your voice heard
- ✓ Support our church
- ✓ Get to know others

FULL LIST OF  
OPPORTUNITIES  
AVAILABLE ONLINE



## More Information



Call Maxwell 925-487-8668



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

### Recommendations to the Nominating Task Force Church Officers for 2024

We, the Nominating Committee, request that all members of First Christian Church, Chico seriously and prayerfully recommend those persons you believe should be asked to consider a leadership position. Indicate those names below. You may put it in the collection plate, drop it by the office or mail it to the church.

Your participation in this process is important and we appreciate your input. Please respond now while it is fresh in your mind. **Please consider the desired Leadership qualities and gifts for serving as listed below:**

**Board Moderator:** Be objective and able to listen to all sides; open to hearing all perspectives and ideas; able to keep a meeting on the subject at hand; be a calming influence.

**Vice-Moderator:** In the absence of the Board Moderator, presides at congregational and Church Board meetings and carries out all other duties of the Board Moderator. Appoints a chair of the Diaconate and assists with recruitment and training of the Diaconate. Oversees the Elders and Personnel Committee.

**Board Secretary:** Able to hear what is being said at the meeting, and record the meeting activities and actions.

**Church Treasurer:** Timely payment of bills; correct errors in a timely manner; work closely with leadership; be transparent and open; must maintain confidentiality.

**Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the Christian education, membership, worship arts, fellowship and program ministries.

**Outreach Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates evangelism, missional outreach, and Regional/General Church relations.

**Administrative Ministry Coordinator:** Coordinates the administrative ministries of the church including business and property.

**At Large Board Member:** Interested in the life of the church, and committed to its future thriving.

**Elders:** Willing to help care for the spiritual needs of the congregation, as a part of the shared ministry of the church; committed to being equipped and to equip others; have a desire to grow spiritually, and to help others grow in their faith.

**Financial Secretary:** A numbers person; confidential, organized and efficient.

**Ass't. Financial Secretary:** Same as Financial Secretary.

**Personnel Committee Member:** Able to look at staff as employees; have an understanding and experience in business practices; listen to congregational concerns; work closely and communicate with the Pastoral Relations Committee.

**Endowment Trustee:** An understanding of financial practices; has a passion for developing planned giving programs within the congregation.

—Nominating Committee



**I prayerfully recommend...**

Board Moderator \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vice Moderator \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Church Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Outreach Ministry Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Administrative Ministry Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At Large Board Member \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Elder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Financial Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Financial Secretary \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Committee \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Endowment Trustee \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From the FCC Bylaws, Article VII Section C: Additional nominees for any office may be made from the congregation in this manner: With the approval of the nominee, a petition signed by at least ten (10) active members shall be in the hands of the nominating committee at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the annual election. If such additional nominations are made, the committee shall announce to the congregation the revised slate, including all nominees for each vacancy.

**Please return the completed form either by the collection plate on Sunday morning, dropping it off at the church office, or mailing it to the church. Thank you!**