



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!



Thursday, August 28, 2025

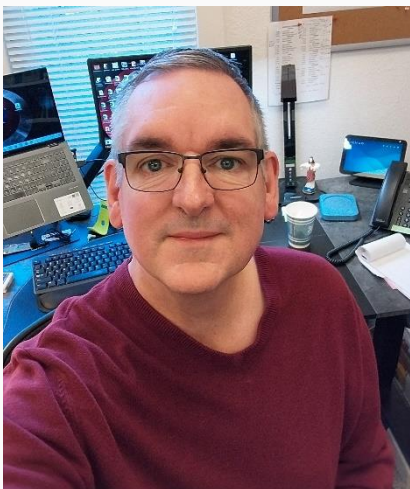


ON SUNDAY

Join us for worship on Sunday, August 31 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 & Luke 14:1, 7-14. The title of the sermon is, "The Faith of the Humble." The Lay Leader is Kathleen O'Rourke. The Usher is Christine Rubio. The Tellers are TBA. AV tech is Scott Minor. Fellowship is Yvette Cuny. Flowers are TBA.

If you prefer to meet online, you can watch our live-stream service on the church's [YouTube channel](#). The service begins promptly at 10:00 AM. The service will be posted later in the afternoon and evening if you cannot watch it live.

Pastor's Page



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, I am a veteran of the USAF. Ages ago, when I was in the US Air Force, I was afforded a tremendous benefit. I could fly from military base to military base for free by hopping on a cargo flight. When I was stationed at Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina, there was a direct flight from Charleston AFB to Tinker AFB, outside of Oklahoma City. The flight would depart from Charleston every Monday, and another flight would depart from Tinker and return to South Carolina every Thursday. It wasn't a great way to travel, but it was free. I had to be in uniform, and I would sit either in uncomfortable, backward-facing seats or on a sling mesh. It was always bitterly cold, and there weren't any amenities. But it was free. When you're young, you can endure almost any uncomfortable situation as long as it's free.

Each time I flew, I would be flying with other military personnel — both Air Force members and active-duty personnel from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. If you have ever traveled with other military personnel, you very nearly always had to endure the “one-up” stories. Someone would brag about a mission they were on, and another person would say, “Oh yeah? Well, I have a story to top yours!” And then another person would chime in with yet another “one-up” story. Each person wanted to brag and out-do the other person with tales of bravery and bravado.



What is it with us feeling the need to out-do each other? There is sometimes a lack of humility in such conversations that can make me feel uncomfortable — but only if one person thinks they are better than the other person with their story. Lest you think I am

above such bravado, I have participated in “one-up” stories with other clergy. You get a room full of clergy, and we can join in that game as well as anyone else.

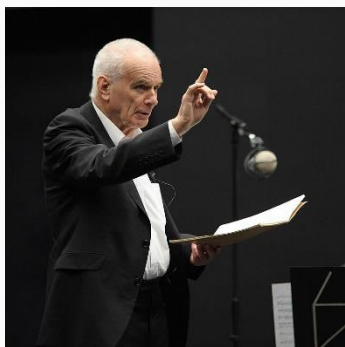
On Sunday, I will be preaching about Christian humility that seeks to lift up others, rather than making them feel less because we think we’re more important than they are. I’ll be preaching from Luke 14, where Jesus discusses the importance of serving others over those who sit in places of honor. Honestly, we know how we should act in those situations, but when we’re at a work party or gathered with friends after work over a beer, sometimes we can forget to treat others with more respect.

I hope you have found ways to catch yourself when you’re in a similar situation. It has been my experience that people feel better when we include them in our stories or uplift them in our own. Rather than feeling superior to others, we’re here to help them feel better about themselves. One way we do that is by being less cocky and full of ourselves. Join me on Sunday as I discuss this further.

I hope you have a lovely holiday weekend. Summer is ending soon, and life at Pioneer is about to explode again with things we do. Please join us for all that we have planned. See you on Sunday, in person or online.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016), pictured left, became known as a musical “bad boy” in 1969 when his *Eight Songs for a Mad King* premiered. It parodied Handel’s *Messiah* to illustrate the stages of mental illness experienced by King George III. Openly gay, and an activist for LGBTQ rights, he also supported environmental causes. *The Yellow Cake Revue* was a set of cabaret-style pieces written in protest of a proposed uranium mine in the Orkney region in 1980. The most famous movement from it, *Farewell to Stromness*, has a walking bass line that represents the people of the second largest town in Orkney having to leave their homes due to pollution. The plans for the mine were ultimately not approved.

Katie will sing a piece by Paolo Tosti, *Alla mente confusa di dubbio e di dolore* (“In the doubting mind full of uncertainty come to my aid, Lord, with the light of my faith”). Tosti’s story is the classic “rags to riches” one. He grew up poor and sickly, but when he was in his twenties Princess Margherita of Savoy, who would later become Queen of Italy, heard him in a concert and engaged him to be her voice teacher and appointed him as curator of the Italian music archives. Later he served the British Royal Family as “singing master,” and in 1894 he was appointed as a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1906 he became a British citizen and was knighted two years later – Sir Paolo Tosti!

Word Find Puzzle: Luke 14:7-14

C	B	C	H	O	S	E	G	M	O	V	E	B
Q	H	H	O	N	O	R	E	P	A	I	D	E
T	O	L	D	C	G	P	L	A	C	E	G	E
L	O	W	E	S	T	F	M	R	T	H	E	N
P	E	R	S	O	N	R	C	A	S	E	D	Q
N	V	P	B	M	P	F	T	B	H	W	I	L
X	T	G	A	E	S	R	E	L	H	O	S	T
G	W	U	N	O	T	I	C	E	D	S	G	C
I	I	E	Q	N	A	E	B	O	T	H	R	O
V	N	S	U	E	R	N	R	N	B	I	A	M
E	V	T	E	R	T	D	R	S	A	G	C	E
D	I	S	T	I	N	G	U	I	S	H	E	D
D	T	A	K	E	H	U	M	B	L	E	P	M
P	E	X	A	L	T	C	Q	M	O	R	E	V

BANQUET	BEEN	BOTH
CASE	CHOSE	COME
DISGRACE	DISTINGUISHED	EXALT
FRIEND	GIVE	GUESTS
HIGHER	HONOR	HOST
HUMBLE	INVITE	LOWEST
MORE	MOVE	NOTICED
PARABLE	PERSON	PLACE
REPAID	SOMEONE	START
TAKE	THEN	TOLD

Birthdays

09/01 Tracy Mosbarger
09/03 Wren Valentino
09/05 Claire Shields
09/13 Cristina Rubio
09/11 Leonard Woolams
09/19 Pastor Bo & Cindy Cherry
09/26 Randy Triezenberg
09/27 Sequoia Cockrell



If you know of other birthdays of Pioneer Church members and friends not listed here, please let us know. Thanks!

Welcome Back September

Church life is about to return to normal after a restful summer break. Our Choir returns on Sunday, September 7, with rehearsals restarting on Thursday, September 4. The Women's Breakfast returns on Saturday, September 13 at 9 AM, and the Tours of the Sanctuary also on Saturday, September 13 at 12:00 Noon. Bible Study returns on Wednesday, September 17. Our All-church Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 28, after church. We are also planning new affinity groups and a Newcomers Retreat in October. To stay informed about our current activities, please visit our website at <http://www.pioneerucc.org/happenings/> for an ongoing and updated list of upcoming events.



Celebrating 176 years!

Welcome Back to CHURCH!

Your Place to Belong

Sunday, September 14

We'll have cake and ice cream after the service in Fellowship Hall



**In person and Online Worship Services,
Every Sunday at 10:00 AM**

**Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street,
Midtown Sacramento, CA 95816**

www.pioneerucc.org




**PIONEER
Compassion
Fund**

Compassion Fund Offering

We will be receiving our special Compassion Fund offering this coming Sunday, August 31, during the service. This offering supports our church members in need, replenishes our lunch sack program, and provides basic necessities for the unhoused in our community.



All Church Anniversary Picnic

Planning is underway for the annual church picnic and potluck, scheduled for Sunday, September 28, 2025, immediately following service, both inside the Fellowship Hall and outside in the Labyrinth. Our theme this year is *Bring Your Best Church Recipe*.

Please email your sign-up to Ellen at ellen.ardenogle@gmail.com so we have a backup list of who is signed up for what. Sign-up sheets will also be available in Fellowship, but we need to have a backup plan in case of any issues.

We will also need volunteers to help with setup and breakdown (especially those who are not in the choir or otherwise involved in the service).

New Bible Study Planned

Beginning Wednesday, September 17, at 6:30 PM, our Bible Study will take on a new approach. You are invited to join us in the church parlor as we discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, including the biblical texts used, and explore some of the finer points of the sermon. Overall, this will allow you to interact with the pastor and one another on a deeper level. As always, we'll include a discussion guide that's emailed to you before the study. Also, participants will be given new sermon notepads, specifically for taking notes. If you are interested in the Bible Study or would like more information, please contact Pastor Bo.



BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a Bible study led by our pastor in the church parlor. We'll discuss the previous Sunday's sermon, and learn about the Bible and our faith journeys in a judgment-free zone.



WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



www.pioneerucc.org



2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA

Christian Coloring Pages

You are invited to print this page out, color it, and connect with God in prayer. This is one way to attend to one's spiritual care. Besides, coloring is something people of all ages enjoy doing.



Clothing Donations

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, located at 2620 Capitol Avenue, is accepting clothing donations for its HART Respite program, which provides clothing, essentials, and food to individuals experiencing homelessness. **New Information: They also accept dog and cat food, as well as a few books and magazines at a time, please.** Donations are received Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. All donations must be designated for HART Respite. Please call the church custodian; their number is posted on the door. They know where to put donations. Everyday clothes are asked for, nothing dressy. As an aside, Leslie Robinson can bring your donations with her when she volunteers on Fridays.

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

+ **Where to Park.** There is no free metered parking outside the church. However, there is free parking underground next door/behind the church in the underground car park at the Teichert/Sutter underground parking garage. Enter Capitol Street between the garage and the hospital. The parking gate is open 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM on Sundays. You may park in any space, even if it is marked as reserved.

Pioneer Congregational Church

WHERE TO PARK



- * Metered Street Parking around Church, download Park Mobile App for easier pay-to-park experience
- * Teichert/Sutter Underground Garage

Free parking on Sundays for Pioneer Church members and visitors! Enter on Capitol Ave btw 27th and 28th Streets, drive down the ramp and park anywhere. The gate remains open until 1 PM. Exit and re-enter through the hospital.
- * Free Street Parking without meters, 2-hour time limit
- * Pay-to-park Sutter Garage, 27th St, 1 block north of N St.








During weekdays, the entire basement level (B2) is available for parking. However, you will need to obtain a parking card to access the closed gate, unless we have prearranged an event for the gates to be open. On-street parking is available where meters are present. If you are willing to walk a couple of blocks, on-street parking with no meters allows for 2 hours of free parking.



+ **Do you have a prayer request?** Heidi Munoz collects prayer requests and emails them to our prayer champions, who pray over all requests received each Sunday. If you have a prayer request, please email Heidi at prayingpioneers@gmail.com.

We provide **large-print bulletins and hearing devices** for individuals who are hearing or visually impaired.

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