



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

THE Weekly

Thursday, April 24, 2025



ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, April 27 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Acts 5:27-32 & Revelation 1:4-8.

The title of the sermon is, "Resurrection Witness." The Lay Leader is Kathleen O'Rourke. The Usher is Leslie Robinson. The Tellers are TBD. AV tech is Scott Minor.

Fellowship is TBA. Flowers are given by Betsy Freye Ruygt

in memory of her mother, Charlotte Freye.

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. If you cannot watch it live, it will be posted later in the afternoon and evening.

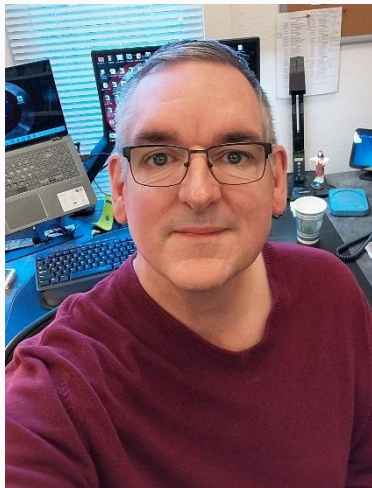
Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

This week, many of us were saddened by Pope Francis's death. Throughout his public

life, Francis was noted for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility as pope, concern for the poor, and commitment to interreligious dialogue.

Francis believed that the Catholic Church should be more sympathetic



towards LGBTQ people. He was a critic of trickle-down economics, consumerism, and overdevelopment and made action on climate change a leading focus of his papacy.

There are many other accomplishments throughout his papacy that you can find online with a simple Google search. What strikes me about his ministry is how much change he brought to Catholicism in such a brief period. In many ways, he brought systemic change that will be felt for generations of believers worldwide.

Some of his changes were started by his predecessors, including his championing against the death penalty in all cases. Popes before him laid the groundwork, and he continued to make its eradication central to his responsibilities.

I remember a childhood faith meme that said something like, “One person plants a seed, another one waters it, and God gives the increase.” In other words, sometimes we’re given the opportunity to make direct changes ourselves, and at other times, we continue someone else’s efforts, but it’s God who causes a thing to bloom.

Lately, I have become more of a plant-dad. As I understand the term, my apartment and office have many plants. I am careful to prune, water, and trim as necessary. I move certain plants into sunlight for a time and then move other plants around the apartment. I wipe the leaves of my bigger plants with a moist microfiber towel to help rid them of dust and pests. As a result of these efforts, most of my plants are thriving.

As I think about the Easter season, I like the planting and watering analogy related to my faith and doing good deeds. As I think about that metaphor, I wonder when to plant seeds of faith and when to water the seeds that others have planted. I trust that God will ultimately cause those seeds to bloom, so I don't have to spend as much energy trying to force that to happen. My responsibilities are to plant, water, trim, prune, wipe down, and rotate in the sunlight.



How are you planting seeds of faith? How and when are you watering them? I hope you, too, will be a spiritual plant dad or mom and help others, as Pope Francis did, to bring faith back to your life and those you love. In so doing, you'll participate in the Garden of Life that God calls each of us to tend.

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



The Pioneer Bells will ring on Sunday in *Hilariter* (Latin for “Cheerfulness”), and an arrangement of the Welsh folk song *The Ash Grove* by John Buckner. The choir will sing Stanford’s setting of Psalm 150 in which the organ contributes different colors for each verse, including the zimbelstern at the words “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!”

Even though no words are sung or spoken, Antonio Vivaldi included a sonnet for each movement of *The Four Seasons*. I’ll play the first movement of the Spring Concerto, in which Vivaldi describes singing birds,

murmuring brooks, and a thunderstorm!

Word Find Puzzle: Acts 5:27-32

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

ANNOUNCED	ARRIVED	BROUGHT
CAPTAIN	CHIEF	DOORS
FIND	FOUND	GOING
GUARDS	HEARD	LOCKED
LOOK	OBEY	OPENED
PEOPLE	PERPLEXED	POLICE
PRIEST	PRISON	REPORTED
RETURNED	SECURELY	SOMEONE
STAND	TEACH	TEMPLE
THEN	THERE	WENT
WHEN	WONDERING	WORDS

Great Pictures

This last week, we had wonderful worship services on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On Good Friday, the First United Methodist Church joined us for a holy observance. Our combined choirs led our meditative service. Both pastors, Rev. Drs Mahsea Evans and our pastor David Bocock both brought a timely message.



On Easter Sunday, our choir flanked by beautiful lilies sang in Jesus' resurrection.



In case you missed either or both services, they are available to watch on our YouTube Live page here: <https://www.youtube.com/@pioneerucc467/streams>

The Good Place



BIBLE STUDY

Beginning again on Wednesday, May 7.

Join us as we watch an episode from the hit Netflix series, The Good Place, Season 2, and then have a Bible study led by our pastor in the Pastor's office.

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

Birthdays

04/02 Barbara Renzi
 04/10 Cynthia Fitzgerald
 04/13 Simon Cherry
 04/13 Stephen Shullman
 04/17 Angel Thomas
 04/23 Connie Streiker
 04/30 Jinxi Allen



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

Council Meeting This Sunday

The Council will meet on Sunday, April 27, after church. All church officers, board and committee members, and members-at-large need to attend. All church meetings are open to anyone.



3 Ways to Give to Pioneer

1. [Follow this link to Paypal](#) and make your donation there.
2. Worship services on Sunday at 10:00 AM or stop by the church office.
3. Mail in your donation: Pioneer Congregational

Church, 2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816



Signup Sheets Available

Have you been interested in volunteering at the church? One way to do that is to volunteer to be a Sunday reader, an usher, a teller, or to bring treats and food for Fellowship Hour. You are invited to see where you'd like to help and sign up. Look for the signup sheets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays after church. Your help and contribution make Pioneer shine!



Coworking Office Space @ Pioneer

We need your help finding anyone who wants to work out of one of our offices or use our many common rooms. Our coworking space sharing is mainly geared toward those who work from home. It is a great way to work in a peaceful atmosphere at an affordable price. Please spread the news, tell your friends, and let us use these office spaces that have sat empty throughout the week. We have office space, co-working space, and a stainless-steel commercial kitchen for rent. Our beautiful stained-glass sanctuary is perfect for weddings. The large fellowship hall has a full theatrical stage and lighting. A 100" screen is available for visual presentations, ideal for business meetings. Underground parking is available for rent.

For more information, please call the church office or visit <http://www.pioneerCoworking.com>.

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

+ **Where to Park.** There is no free metered parking outside around the church. However, there is free parking underground next door/behind the church in 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 says 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 the weekdays, we have the entire basement level (B2) for our parking needs, but you will need to get 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.



+ The **Pioneer Choir** presents music in a wide variety of styles—Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, traditional spirituals, brand-new choral anthems, and more. Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 6:30 in our choir room. New singers are welcome anytime. Music-reading skills are helpful but not required.



+ **Bell Choir Rehearsals.** Pioneer Bells rehearses on Tuesdays at 6:30 in our choir room, and presents some of the rich repertoire of music for bell choir in worship services – and occasionally in front of the church, serenading Sutter's Fort Park.

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

+ We provide **large print bulletins and hearing devices** for the hearing and visually impaired.