



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!



Thursday, July 24, 2025

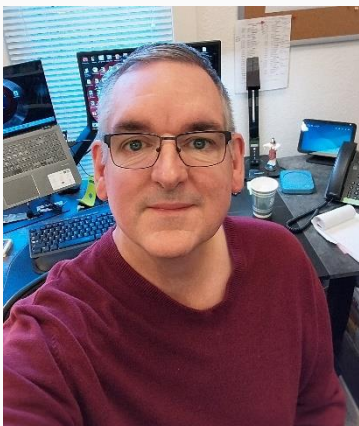


ON SUNDAY

Join us for worship on Sunday, July 27 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Colossians 2:6-15 & Luke 11:1-13. The title of the sermon is "Shaped by Prayer." The Lay Leader is Katie O'Rourke. The Usher is Leslie Robinson. The Tellers are TBA. AV tech is Scott Minor. Fellowship is 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 I am sure you are aware, prayer is one of the most vital parts of the Christian life. It is more than a ritual or a routine—it is a living conversation with God, a sacred space where hearts are aligned with God's will and grace flows freely. Whether whispered in solitude or lifted up in the company of others, prayer anchors our faith, sustains our hope, and draws us closer to the heart of our God.

Scripture is clear: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This call is not a burden but a beautiful invitation. Through prayer, we express our praise, confession, needs, and gratitude to God. It reminds us that we are not alone in the struggles and celebrations of life. In every moment, God is near—listening, loving, and leading.

In times of joy, prayer becomes a form of praise. In seasons of sorrow, it is our source of comfort. When we are uncertain, prayer brings clarity and peace. Jesus himself modeled this for us. Before major decisions, during times of temptation, and even in his final hours, Jesus turned to prayer. If he—God in the flesh—valued that connection, how much more should we?

Beyond personal devotion, prayer strengthens the Church, the body of Christ. When we pray together, unity grows. We carry one another's burdens and celebrate one another's blessings. The early church in Acts was characterized by its devotion to prayer, resulting in a vibrant, Spirit-filled community.

In a busy world, it's easy to overlook the importance of prayer. But the more chaotic life becomes, the more we need it. Set aside time each day to be still before God. Keep a journal, pray through Scripture, or find a quiet walk where your heart can listen. Remember, it's not about the length or eloquence of your words, but the sincerity of your heart.

Prayer is a gift—not a duty. It opens us up to the transforming presence of God. So wherever you are in your spiritual journey, know this: God longs to hear from you and is never far off. God is always near, attentive, and ready to meet you in prayer.

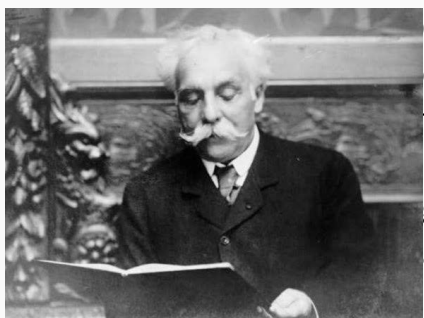
“The Lord is near to all who call, to all who call on the Lord in truth.” – Psalm 145:18

Let us be a praying people—rooted in grace, grounded in faith, and growing in love. I’ll be preaching more about this on Sunday. I hope you can join me in person or online.

See you Sunday!
Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924), pictured left, was a church musician and composer whose music foreshadowed the Impressionistic style of Claude Debussy. His *Requiem*, composed in 1888, is more gentle and comforting in tone than other settings, and even omits the “Day of Judgment” section. I will play part of the opening movement, and Emily will sing the *Pie Jesu*. Staying with French composers, the postlude will be a very jolly *Sortie* (meaning “Recessional”) by César Franck.

Word Find Puzzle: Luke 11:1-13

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

ANYTHING	BREAD	CERTAIN
CHILD	CHILDREN	COME
DISCIPLES	DOOR	EVERYONE
FATHER	FIND	FINISHED
FISH	FORGIVE	FRIEND
GIVE	HOLY	JOHN
KINGDOM	KNOCK	LORD
NAME	OPENED	PLACE
PRAY	REVERED	SAID
SEARCH	TAUGHT	TEACH

Birthdays

07/04 Sue Byant-Still
 07/09 Bill Witcher
 07/13 Cynthia Holt
 07/15 Jake Hodge
 07/19 Garylee Stephenson
 07/22 Caryl Butcher
 07/29 Vi McNally
 07/30 Balt Von Huen
 07/30 Scott Minor



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



Remembering Your Pledges

As the summer months are upon us, we invite you to remember to contribute to your pledges and offerings. It's easy to forget to contribute, especially if you're traveling or participating in weekend summer activities.

Hymn Sing: Sunday, August 10

Join us on Sunday, August 10, for an all-church HYMN SING. You are invited to select your favorite hymns in the red hymnal in the pews.

During the service, you'll shout out your hymn and the two stanzas you want us to sing of that hymn, and we'll sing it. The entire service will be devoted to this unique and special hymnody, so we need everyone to participate. Thank you!





All Church Anniversary Picnic

Planning is underway for the annual church picnic and potluck, which will be Sunday, September 28, 2025, right after 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 for planning.

We will also need folks to help with set up and break down (especially folks who are not in the choir or otherwise involved in the service).

New Bible Study Planned

Beginning after Welcome Back Sunday in September, 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. If you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch with 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.



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 out and sign up. Look for the signup sheets in Fellowship Hall on Sundays after the church service. Your help and contribution make Pioneer shine!

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 the unhoused. Clothes can be donated Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The bundled clothes need to be marked for HART Respite. Please call the custodian at the church; 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.

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

Music Review at First United Methodist Church

On Saturday, July 26, you are invited to the First United Methodist Church's

musical review featuring music from The Supremes, The Jersey Boys, The Righteous Brothers, and shows such as Sister Act, among others. The review is a fundraiser for their Community Meals program. They will have dinner and a show. Tickets for both are \$30 each and \$15 for the show. Dinner is at 5:00 PM and the show starts at 7:00 PM. Tickets are available in the Pioneer Church office or by calling First United Methodist Church.



First Aid Kit

A first aid kit is located in the kitchen, next to the doors entering from Fellowship Hall, above the kitchen's electrical panel. Often, a yellow trash can rests in front of the electrical panel. If you ever have a minor cut or abrasion, locate our first aid kit. It has a plethora of bandages for you.

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.



+ **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.

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) available for parking, but 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.

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