



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

THE Weekly

Thursday, August 1, 2024

ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, August 4, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Ephesians 4:1-6 & John 6:24-35. The sermon's title is "Your Life as a Witness for Peace." The Lay Reader is Levi Fuentes. The Ushers are Mary Kay Rose and Katrina Copple. The Teller is Vi McNally. Fellowship Hour is Potluck.

+ 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,

This has been a great week with the beginning of the summer Olympics. This is my favorite time of all the Olympics as I enjoy watching gymnastics and swimming. I swam on my high school swim team, and many of my friends were divers on the swim team who were also involved with gymnastics. I've been a fan of both sports since I was a kid. I am glad our nation has won medals in both sports. I am proud of the hard work and dedication necessary to compete. Those young men and women who

competed will also have a lifetime of memories.

I had meant to watch the opening ceremony of the Olympics, but my TV wasn't working. I seldom watch TV, but when I went to turn it on, it wouldn't switch to local channels. Then, the TV needed a software update, which took forever. Once it was updated, it still didn't work. I gave up until the next day.

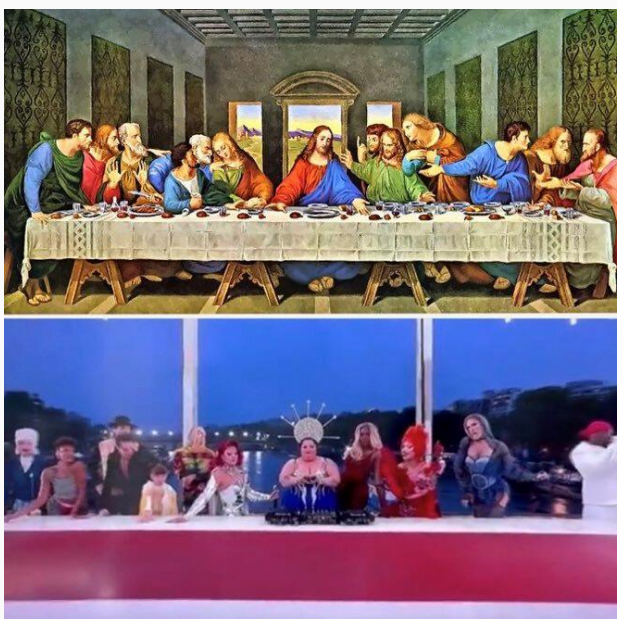
So, I missed the drama of the opening scene, which some say intentionally mocked Christianity with an apparent adaptation of Leonardo Di Vinci's Last Supper painting. Conservative Christians blew up the Internet at having been offended by liberal wokism tied to turning Jesus and his disciples into a fashion drag show. Liberals responded that it was not an adaptation of the Last Supper but rather an adaptation of the Greek Olympus and Dionysus in particular.

The drama continued on Facebook, with my friends either claiming to be offended by the show or angry that Christians are finding yet another opportunity to judge and condemn the LGBTQ+ community. Memes were created, opinions were shared, judgment was thrown around, and everyone was angry at something or someone.

I get it. The event looked a lot like the Last Supper painting, and the creators of the event should have recognized the correlation with Jesus and his disciples. I am not entirely convinced it was meant to be intentionally cruel, just a lack of common sense or caring. They then threw in a blue Dionysus, which muddied up the performance. Unfortunately, the actor's costume malfunction showed the viewers more of his private region than was supposedly intended.

In any event, I sat back and scrolled on, refusing to get involved in the drama. I had gone online to see the videos, read the commentary and many apologies from the event's creators, and then shrugged my shoulders and looked for the Olympic medal standings.

Later, I found myself frustrated, not at the event itself but for the way my liberal, conservative, and moderate Christian friends showcased to non-religious people how judgmental and hateful they are when it comes to their values and what they think is important. Historically Christians have been mocked and judged by many people—and I would think we would learn



from history that we should expect that our values and beliefs will be mocked.

Coincidentally, the Apostle Paul has much to say about how Christians ought to behave. In our Sunday's Epistle lesson in Ephesians 6, Paul encourages the Christians in Ephesus that when we allow Christ to "make a home in our hearts, we will understand, as God's people should, how wide, how long, and how deep God's love is." And as we follow Christ, we learn to love others as God loves them. We don't love people by judging or condemning or being so offended at everything they do that we miss an opportunity to show the love of God to them.

Instead of condemnation, we should see this as an opportunity to support and understand the LGBTQ+ community and let them see and experience genuine love from us. We may not always like what we see or hear, but what comes from our mouths, lips, and hearts should not reveal hatred or judgment. It does break my heart that many Christians have been ugly and unkind and spew yet more vitriol explicitly directed at the LGBTQ+ community, but instead of hating on them, I pray for them. When possible, I ask questions to challenge hatred, but I do it with a disarming approach.

And to be clear, liberals have been ugly and judgmental toward those who have condemned them. It's a vicious cycle, where one side offends the other, the other side responds and offends, and then it spins in a circle, over and over again, each side offending the other. No one listens or hears. Enemies are made. Anger ensues. What are we to do?

This is a good time to talk with our friends on the other side if we have any of them left. Maybe we can remind those who disagree that we still love them. We could find shared interests and find ways to agree to disagree but still show what love looks like. After all, flies are drawn more to honey than to vinegar. May our words be like honey.

I'll be preaching more about this on Sunday. We'll be celebrating communion too. If you're in the Sacramento area, I invite you to join us at 10:00 AM. Afterward, let us enjoy coffee and treats in Fellowship Hall as we catch up with each other's lives.

See you on Sunday!

Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones

Louis Vierne (1870-1937) wrote several organ pieces to be played during the offertory or communion. Like many turn-of-the-century organ works, *Communion* (opus 8) is orchestral in nature, with muted strings and later a flute solo. It quotes Wagner's "Tristan Chord," a curious

harmony that has fascinated many composers over the years. This chord does not function or resolve in the traditional ways:



Organists, like singers, strive for the perfection of *legato* (smooth, flowing movement from note to note) but sometimes an alternative articulation is called for. In the postlude, a short fugue by Pachelbel, I'll play a few of the notes of the subject *staccato* each time it occurs. This helps to call the listeners' attention to the subject, which is more important than the counterpoint that surrounds it. Katie will be singing Gounod's famous *O Divine Redeemer* in the original French.

Word Find Puzzle: Ephesians 4:1-6

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

ALLOWANCE	ALWAYS	BECAUSE
BEEN	BINDING	BODY
CALLED	EACH	EFFORT
EVERY	FAITH	FAULTS
FUTURE	GENTLE	GLORIOUS
HOPE	HUMBLE	JUST
KEEP	LEAD	LIFE
LORD	LOVE	MAKE
OTHER	PATIENT	PEACE
PRISONER	SERVING	SPIRIT
THERE	THEREFORE	TOGETHER

Birthdays

08/08 Don King

08/08 Amanda Shipman

08/27 Jim Jordan



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH



+ **All-Church Anniversary Picnic.** Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, September 29 after church for a picnic party. We'll be joined by the First United Methodist Church as we both celebrate our 175th Anniversary. There will be games, food, and a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!

+ **Join us for Bible Study.** Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM as we offer a Bible study that looks at current events and what's happening in the world. Then, a Bible study is created around it. We will also have our Zoom account open during both of these studies. If this is something that you are interested in, please get in touch with Pastor Bo at pastorbo@pioneerucc.org and let him know of your interest and which time of day you can participate. Thanks!

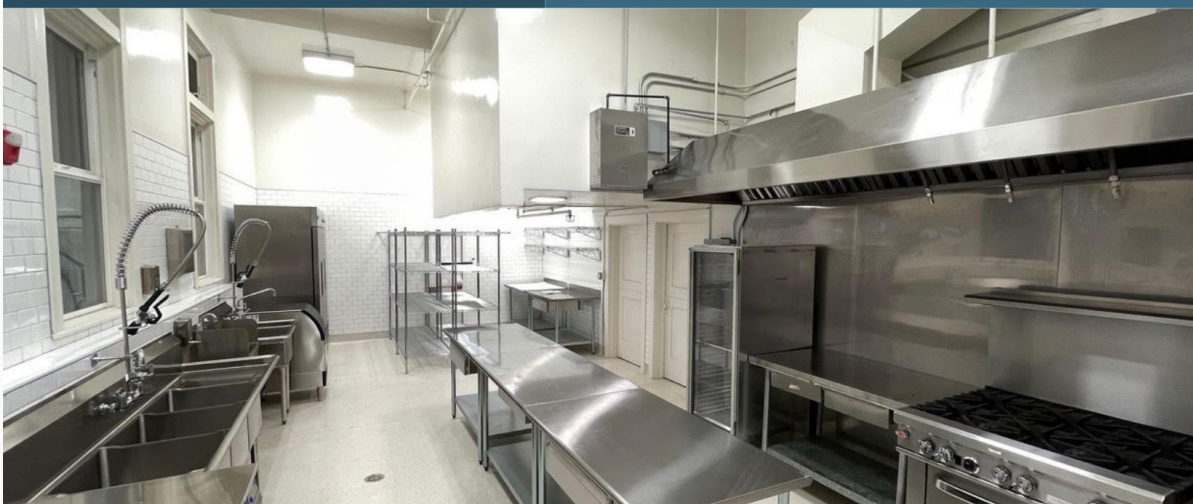
+ **Ghost Kitchen at Pioneer.** We are now looking for start-ups and businesses interested in renting out our kitchen as a "ghost kitchen." This new way of renting out space means that a business will cook their food here but be delivered to different destinations rather than serving it in our space. If you know anyone interested in our ghost kitchen, please contact Vi or Pastor Bo.

GHOST KITCHEN

Pioneer Congregational Church
2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA
916-443-3727
connect@pioneerucc.org
www.pioneerucc.org

Kitchen for Delivery or Takeout only

- Southbend 6 Burner Gas Stove
- Valpro Refrigerator and Freezer
- 2 Lamber Dishwashers
- Winholt Heater/Proofer
- Rubber Floor Mats + Ice Maker
- Sinks: Handwash/Prep/Triple Unit
- All Stainless Steel Tables + Storage Racks



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



+ Our **signup sheets** are in the Fellowship Hall. We need volunteers to be Lay Readers, Ushers, and Tellers and to bring treats and food for Fellowship Hour. See where you'd like to help out and sign up. Thanks!

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

+ **Where to Park.** Beginning July 1, 2024, there is no longer free metered parking around the church. 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 at 9:00 AM on Sundays. You may park in any space, even if it says reserved.

Pioneer Congregational Church

WHERE TO PARK



- * Metered Street Parking around Church
- * 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.



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.