



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!



Thursday, July 10, 2025

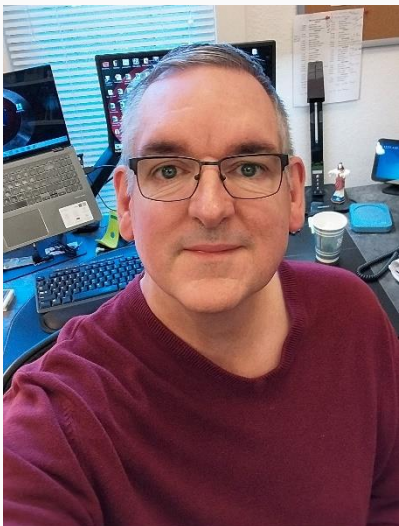


ON SUNDAY

Join us for worship on Sunday, July 13 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Colossians 1:1-10 & Luke 10:25-37. The title of the sermon is, "Caring Neighbors." The Lay Leader is Scott Minor. The Usher is Andy Balog. The Tellers are Mary Kay Rose & John Busschaert. AV tech is William Ruygt. Fellowship is Sue Bryant-Still.

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 for those who cannot watch it live.

Pastor's Page



Dear Friends,

On Sunday, I will be preaching a familiar parable known as the Parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10 in the Bible. It's a story about someone who, despite some people hating him, shows kindness to his enemy. Other people are given an opportunity to do so but refuse. In each case, the person refusing was a religious person. Jesus is saying something both direct and indirect. We should love everyone, but how strange, those who don't show love are often super-duper religious people who think they're better than you.

This week I went looking for a story, with a moral, to explain this point. I am not sure I'll use it in Sunday's sermon, so I thought I'd post it here instead. It says what Jesus is saying, but more pointedly. Here is that story.

Every Friday at Everlight Marketing, Karen brought donuts and emailed a devotional to the whole floor. She quoted Scripture in meetings, gently corrected people who swore, and told the intern, "I'm praying for your tattoos."

Then came Maya, a sharp new hire who happened to mention she had a wife during small talk. Karen didn't say much—just tightened her smile and stopped making eye contact.

Soon, Maya noticed little things: no invitations to brainstorming sessions, cold silences in meetings. One day, Karen "accidentally" left a Chick-fil-A receipt and a purity conference flyer on Maya's desk.

That afternoon, Maya walked into Karen's office.

"Hey Karen. I noticed you quote Jesus a lot. You know he ate with prostitutes, right? But you can't even sit next to someone who loves differently than you?"

Karen blinked. “It’s not personal. I’m just standing on truth.”

Maya smiled. “No. You’re standing on fear. And using Jesus as cover.”

Then she left.

Karen reached for her devotional, but for the first time, the verses felt... quiet.

Moral of the story: If your faith makes you cruel, cold, or cowardly, it’s not Christ you’re following. It’s your comfort.

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I found that moral to this story very striking and very much in tune with how Jesus saw some people practicing their faith. I’ll also be preaching from the book of Colossians on Sunday, where the Apostle Paul writes about how Christians should behave. It’s very different from how Karen behaved in the story above.

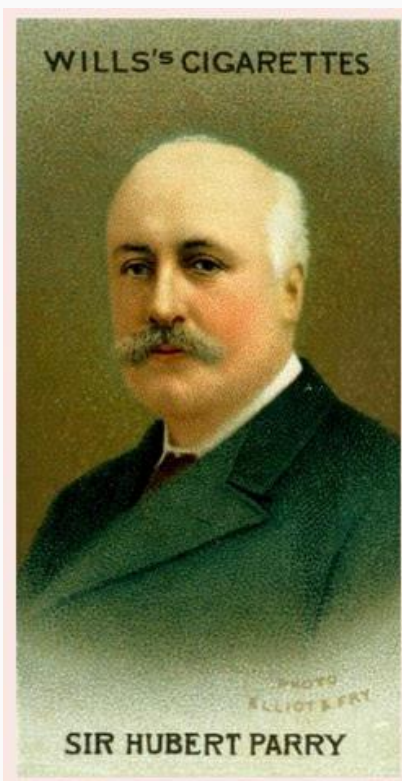
My point is the moral of the story: Faith isn’t about being cruel and cold, but about something joyful and life-giving. If we’re not living joyfully and if others cannot see love in us, we’re doing it wrong.

I’ll be preaching more about this on Sunday. Until then, I hope you have a lovely week now that summer is upon us.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



This Sunday's music will feature three compositions by Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918), pictured left. *Elegy* was composed for the occasion of the funeral of Sidney, 14th Earl of Pembroke on April 7, 1913. *Tranquilly*, which I will play during the offertory, features the string stops of the organ. He wrote *Jerusalem* in 1916 for the "Fight for Right" campaign, a nationalistic movement intended to boost morale for England's participation in the Great War. A year later it was taken up by the suffragist movement. It has become so popular that it is always sung on the last night of the Proms and has on more than one occasion been proposed as an alternative to *God Save the King* as the English national anthem. The text, by William Blake, speculates that Jesus walked upon "England's green and pleasant land." It has been adapted in hymnals in the U.S. to a different poem, by Carl P. Daw Jr.:

*O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.
May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

Word Find Puzzle: Luke 10:25-37

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

ANSWER	CAME	CARE
ETERNAL	EXPERT	FELL
GIVEN	HANDS	HEART
INHERIT	JESUS	LIFE
LIKEWISE	LORD	LOVE
MIND	NEIGHBOR	OTHER
PASSED	READ	ROBBERS
SAID	SIDE	SOUL
STOOD	STRENGTH	TEACHER
TEST	THERE	TOOK

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!



Imitating the Pastor

There are emails and text messages going around asking you to contact the Pastor for a special request. Please do not click on any email or texting link or contact the person who sent them. It is a scam! Be sure to let your friends know. Thanks!

TIP: If you ever receive an unusual request from the pastor, contact the church office or the pastor for verification.

www.pioneerucc.org + 916-443-3727 +
connect@pioneerucc.org + pastorbo@pioneerucc.org



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.

The Good Place



BIBLE STUDY

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

Christian Coloring Pages

Beginning this month, we are inserting in *The Weekly* a coloring page featuring a Bible verse. Coloring is something people of all ages enjoy doing. Print this page out, color it, and put it somewhere where you'll see it. It's a great way to learn the promises of God too.



Clothing Donations



Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Avenue, is accepting clothing donations for its HART Respite program there that provides clothing, essentials, and food for the unhoused. Clothes can be donated Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The

bundled clothes need to be marked for HART Respite. Just call the custodian at the church; their number is on the door. They know where to put donations. Everyday clothes are asked for, nothing dressy. Just to let you know, 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. Proceeds from the show will benefit their Community Meals for Those in Need program. Last year, they served 13,000 meals.

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!

CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

+ **Where to Park.** There is no free metered parking outside around the church. However, on Sundays, 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 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.










+ **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 assistive listening devices** for individuals who are hearing or visually impaired.

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