



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

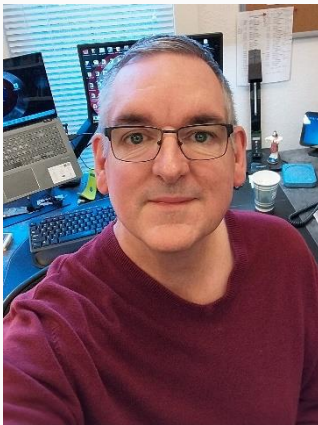
THE Weekly

Thursday, April 17, 2025

ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, April 20 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 & Luke 24:1-12. The title of the sermon is, "Resurrection Joy!" The Lay Leader is Garylee Stephenson. The Usher is Mary Kay Rose. The Teller is Heidi Munoz & Xuan Guerrero. AV tech is Scott Minor. Fellowship is Countree and Angel.

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,

The season of Easter is filled with a lot of theology. There, I said it. My big three responsibilities as your pastor is to teach, preach, and counsel. Teaching is right up at the top. Being seminary trained, you should expect well-thought-out sermons told in a way that allows folks to listen well. Theology is important to me—as it is the justification for why we believe

what we believe.

But there is more to Easter than getting everything theologically correct. There's another part of the story that should address how being a person of faith makes us feel and act. Understanding Easter is one thing but knowing how a relationship with God changes us is another. I found a delightful story that helps illustrate this point. It is called, "Harold the Hopless Bunny."

Once upon a time in the cheerful village of Carrotville, there lived a bunny named Harold. Now, Harold was not your typical Easter Bunny candidate. While others hopped gracefully and painted eggs like Van Gogh with whiskers, Harold was... well, different.

For one, Harold couldn't hop. He had what doctors called "Extreme Hop Directional Dysfunction," which basically meant every time he tried to jump forward, he went sideways, usually into a bush, a puddle, or someone's laundry.

Despite this, Harold dreamed of becoming the Easter Bunny. Every year, he signed up for the Annual Bunny Trials — a highly competitive, egg-fueled obstacle course. And every year, he lost. Badly.

One year, he flew so far sideways during a jump that he landed in a duck pond. The ducks still send him Christmas cards.

But this Easter, something changed. As the Bunny Trials approached, Harold had a secret weapon: positivity and a reinforced crash helmet.

The race began. Bunnies were dashing, flipping, egg-painting like pros. Harold, as expected, zigzagged into a wheelbarrow of turnips, then ricocheted into a chicken coop. A small hen applauded.

But as he stumbled and flailed across the course, Harold noticed something. Kids were laughing. Not mean laughter — *happy* laughter. They were cheering for him.

"Go Harold! You can sideways-hop better than anyone!"

He waved, promptly falling into a basket of jellybeans.

At the final event — the Great Egg Hide — Harold did something incredible. Instead of hiding eggs in predictable places, like under bushes or inside flowerpots, his uncoordinated hopping led him to *accidentally* hide eggs in the most delightfully bizarre spots: inside a mailbox, on a dog's head, even hanging from a tree branch (nobody's sure how).



When the kids began hunting for eggs, it became the best Easter hunt ever. Every find brought a new surprise and a giggle.

At the awards ceremony, the Head Bunny stood up. “And this year’s Easter Bunny is...”

Everyone held their breath.

“...HAROLD!”

There was silence. Then a little girl shouted, “THE FUNNY ONE? YAAAY!”

Cheers erupted.

And so, Harold became the first Easter Bunny whose route was entirely unpredictable but absolutely unforgettable. He brought laughter, joy, and more jellybeans in his ears than anyone in history. From then on, Easter in Carrotville was never quite the same — it was better. Because sometimes, the best bunnies don’t hop straight... they hop *heart first*.

Easter reminds us of the importance of our hearts and how God helps make them more joyful and our actions purposeful. I hope your Easter is filled with love, joy, and a full heart.

Happy Easter!

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Bo**Music Musings**, by Dr. Elliot Jones

Tomorrow night at 6:00, for Good Friday, the choir of First United Methodist Church will join our choir in music by John Carter and Antonio Lotti. Lotti's *Crucifixus* was composed in the 1600s but in an older style called "stile antico." In eight parts, not the usual four, there are tense dissonances on the word "Crucifixus," and then more harmonious duets and trios.

On Easter Sunday I'll play one of Bach's most joyous fugues, BWV 580, one that actually crosses into the realm of "ecstatic." The choir will sing C.V. Stanford's magnificent anthem, *Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem*. The postlude will be a contemporary setting of the hymn *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright* by Otmar Faulstich which ends with a jazzy major seventh chord.

Word Find Puzzle: Luke 24:1-12

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

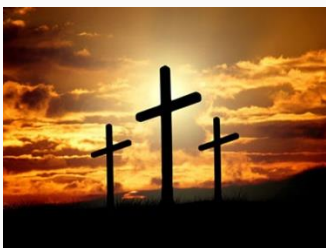
AWAY	BESIDE	BODY
BOWED	CLOTHS	DAWN
DAZZLING	EARLY	FACES
FIND	FIRST	FOUND
GROUND	HANDS	LOOK
MARY	PERPLEXED	PREPARED
REMEMBER	ROLLED	SPICES
STONE	STOOD	SUDDENLY
TAKING	TERRIFIED	THEN
TOLD	TOMB	WEEK
WENT	WHEN	WOMEN

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!



Good Friday Service

Mark your calendars for Friday, April 18 at 6:00 PM for a joint worship service with the First United Methodist Church and our church. Last year, the service was held at the Methodist Church, this year we will host the special service at Pioneer.

Both choirs from the churches will be singing and Rev. Mahsea Evans and I will be preaching. Afterwards, there will be coffee and cookies in Fellowship Hall to allow our congregations to be get better acquainted. It'll be a lovely service. I hope you can join us.



Food Pantry Dedication

We collect non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toiletries this coming Sunday, April 20. We will collect and dedicate them during the service and then take the donated food to the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership's Food Closet and the toiletries to Wind Youth Services during the week.

Council Meeting Date Changed

The Council will be meeting on Sunday, April 27 after church and NOT this coming Sunday, April 20 due to the holy day of Easter. Many folks have plans after church with their families so we moved the date to the end of the month.

3 WAYS TO GIVE



in person



by mail



online

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

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

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 church. Your help and contribution makes Pioneer shine!



Coworking Office Space @ Pioneer

We need your help in finding anyone who would like to work out of one of our offices or use our many common rooms. Our coworking space sharing is mainly geared for those who work from home. It is a great way to work in a peaceful atmosphere at an affordable price. 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 with lighting. A 100" screen is available for visual presentations, perfect 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 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.



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 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.

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