



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

THE Weekly

Thursday, November 14, 2024



ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, November 17, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are 1 Samuel 1:4-20 & Mark 13:1-10. The title of the sermon is, "Tragedy's Silver Lining." The Lay Reader is Scott Minor. The Ushers are Linda Mendiola and Katrina Copple. The Teller is Katrina Copple. Fellowship Hour is provided by Yvette Cuny.

+ 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,

I hope you are finding your peace this week. A lot has happened over the past several weeks, and for some of us, our nerves are frazzled. Watching the television news doesn't help nor does scrolling through our social media threads. Everyone is either losing their minds or so gleeful that we might think they, too, have lost their minds. It's hard to grapple with the post-emotional hurt we feel.

Several of my friends and I have taken a break from the television news. I'll read my news online, being selective of what I read and for how long. I'll skim and keep my news gathering to a minimum, at least for a couple of weeks. This election anxiety will pass, even as I learn of Trump's new appointments.

I take heart with our Sunday's upcoming Lectionary readings. There, we read about Jesus explaining to the early disciples that life will bring about great calamity, and while it'll feel like the end of the world, it won't be. He explains there will be wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes, and famines, but it's not the end of the world. There will be a time when that does happen, but it's in the future that we cannot know or even predict. In the meantime, we trust our God to see us through our difficult times.

In our Old Testament reading of Samuel, we will read about Hannah, the future mother of Samuel, who'll be like Gandalf, from Lord of the Rings to the Israelites. Hannah was barren for a long time, but she continually poured out her heart in prayer to have a son. She also endured taunts and humiliation from extended family members because of her barrenness, which was considered a grave disability to a young woman. Yet, through her persistent prayers and the word of Eli the Prophet, God responded by giving her a son. A son she would dedicate back to God and who would be raised in the Temple and eventually replace Eli as the chosen prophet of Israel.

As I think of Hannah, I think about the people with disabilities who shine a light when called upon. There is this great story about a power outage in New York City. In the summer of 1959, on one of the hottest days in August, a power failure shut off air conditioners, fans, and other electrical equipment in hundreds of apartments and offices. Particularly hard-hit were workers on the upper floors of many buildings, who found themselves in the pitch without elevators running.

But in one of these buildings, the problem was easily solved. When darkness hit the Jewish Guild for the Blind, the two hundred blind workers, who knew every inch of the building by touch, led the seventy helpless sighted workers down the steps and onto Broadway, saving their lives. God often uses people and responds to them when they are humble and express their dependence upon God to help save others. God has our back and raises people in our time of need to help us overcome our difficult times. God will do that for America, and God will do that for each of us, when we "humble ourselves and pray, seek God's face, and turn from our sinful ways, then God will hear from heaven, will forgive our sins, and will restore our land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

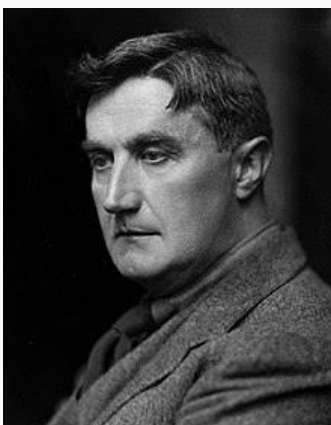
God has our future secured, but it's up to us to partner with God to see ourselves through our difficulties. I pray that you, my friends, will find ways to de-stress and minimize your anxieties. I also pray that you'll find your faith in God and humbly ask where God needs you to help others in their time of need. I'll be preaching about this and more on Sunday. I hope you can

be in church.

Also, while you're in church, I invite you to pick up a name from the Giving Tree in the hallway and purchase a toy for an unhoused child. We're working with the Mustard Seed Program out of Loaves and Fishes. Then, bring your unwrapped gift to the church as soon as possible. We're giving our gifts to the organization on Thursday, December 5th. For more information on this, please speak with Pat Hogue.

Praying God's Peace to you,
Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), pictured left, was the proverbial “silver spoon” type of person. As a descendent of both the Wedgewood and the Darwin families, he lived a *Downton Abbey* lifestyle at Leith Hill Place in Surrey. When he was six years old he asked his mother about Darwin's controversial book *The Origin of Species*. She told him “The Bible says that God made the world in six days. Great Uncle Charles thinks it took longer. But we needn't worry about, for it is equally wonderful either way.” As the editor of the *English Hymnal* in 1906, he included several of his own hymns, like *For All the Saints* (SINE NOMINE), and Sunday's opening hymn, *Come Down, O Love Divine* (DOWN AMPNEY – named after his hometown!). I'll be playing his prelude based on *Rhosymedre*, the tune of our closing hymn, *O God, Whose Steadfast Love*. The choir will sing the spiritual *My Lord Delivered Daniel*.

Word Find Puzzle: Mark 13:1-10

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

ANDREW	ANYONE	ASKED
BECAUSE	BETRAY	BROTHER
CAME	COME	FIRST
FOLLOW	FULFILLED	HAPPEN
JAMES	JESUS	JOHN
KINGDOM	LATER	MANY
MOUNT	NATION	OLIVES
PETER	PRIVATELY	REPLIED
SHOW	SIGN	STAND
TELL	TEMPLE	THINGS
TRIAL	VALLEY	WHEN

Food Pantry Donations

We will receive your non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toiletries on Sunday, November 17. 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.



Stewardship Campaign Continues

Our Stewardship Campaign will continue this Sunday, November 17 and will run through most of November. Wren Valentino will be offering the Stewardship Moment as he explains the importance of pledging and financially supporting our church. To help streamline the process of pledging, we've included a way to pledge online. You can find that on the [Happenings page of our church website](#). Stay tuned for more information about the benefits and blessings of supporting the Pioneer Congregational Church.

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



Giving Tree

Help the Pioneer Church purchase gifts for needy children this Christmas. All presents are being donated through the Mustard Seed Program of Loaves and Fishes, which provides gifts to homeless children ages 5-15. Please pick up your tag on the tree located in the church hallway and return your unwrapped gifts before Thursday, December 5. Thank you!

*Celebrating
175 years!*

Welcome to CHURCH!

Your Place to Belong

Sunday worship; An Amazing Choir; Inspiring Sermons; Bible Studies; Friendship-making Groups; Choral Concerts; Community Chorus; Tours of the Church, Movie Nights, Pioneer Players Theater Company, Support Groups for Religious Trauma and Alcoholics Anonymous



**In person and Online Worship Services,
Every Sunday at 10:00 AM**

**Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street,
Midtown Sacramento, CA 95816**

www.pioneerucc.org




Decorating the Sanctuary

Please join us on Saturday, November 30 at 1:00 PM and help us decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas holiday season. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Transgender Day of Remembrance Service

Join Pastor Bo for the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Service from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave, Sacramento. On this day, we will remember in a special worship service the challenges of transgender persons and the many who have lost their lives over the past year. We will also hear from the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus singing at the service.

Birthdays

11/06 Gary Ogle
 11/09 Latoya Holmes-Green
 11/10 Angel Thomas
 11/23 Robyn Taylor
 11/26 Liam Murdock
 11/28 Fay Grundel

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

Frozen Turkeys to the Marshallese Community Church

We have been asked again this year to help provide frozen turkeys for a sister congregation in Sacramento. We are \$175 away from our \$500 goal. If you would like to donate a frozen turkey or money to buy one, please contact Pastor Bo. We aim to give the turkeys NLT on Monday, November 25. Thanks!



Questions to Ponder

This is a new section in *The Weekly*. Each week, for at least a little while, I'll ask some questions for you to ponder if you're up to the challenge. Those questions will come from a book titled *The Book of Questions* by Gregory Stock. I have printed a series of questions below. Feel free to consider them.

As an introduction to today's questions, I remember when I was young, my

mother would impress upon me the importance of surrounding oneself with the “right kind” of friends. What my mother valued was a bit different from what I valued as a young teenager but as I grew older, I discovered that surrounding myself with friends who understood me and my values made a difference in my life.

Do you consider your friendships? What could someone figure out about you by the friends you’ve chosen? Digging deeper: Do your close friends tend to be older or younger than you? Less or more talented and successful than you? Do they share your values, ambitions, and interests?

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. Please spread the news, tell your friends, and let us use these office spaces that have sat empty throughout the week. For more information, please call the church office.

Pioneer
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

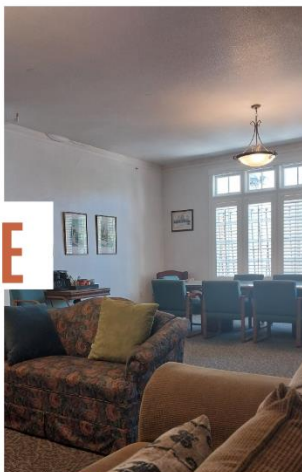


COWORKING

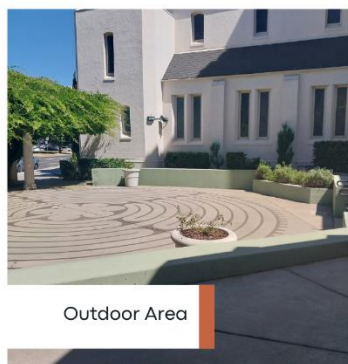
OFFICE SPACE

Work in peaceful, quiet spaces in midtown Sacramento, the perfect setting for your professional growth. Join us and experience a workspace that inspires and supports your success. Rates: Day Pass \$25; full access \$200/mo; private offices for \$1000/month;

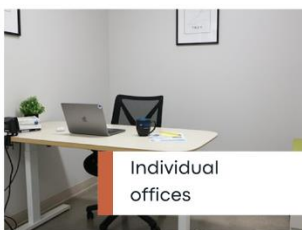
FREE COFFEE | FAST WI-FI



Conference Room
& Lounge



Outdoor Area



Individual
offices

Contact Us:
916-443-3727
connect@pioneerucc.org
2700 L Street, midtown
Sacramento, CA 95816



GoFundMe for Karen



As many of our church members and friends are aware, our own Karen S. has had her cancer return. To help with her expenses, a GoFundMe page has been set up. While the financial goal on the page has been met, new information about her condition means she'll need more help. We invite you to give to help defray her unexpected costs of treatment. [Go here to donate.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

+ 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!

+ **Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 PM. We meet in person and on Zoom. We are studying the Hard Sayings of Jesus for the next few months. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Bo. He’ll send you the lesson and Zoom link beforehand. The lesson is also available on our website: <http://www.pioneerucc.org/happenings/>.

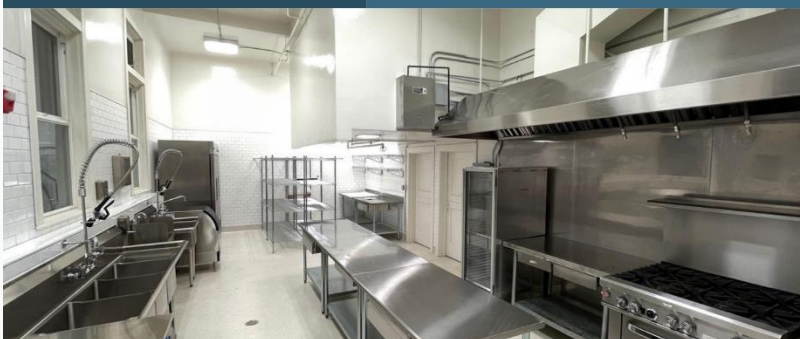
+ **Ghost Kitchen at Pioneer.** We are now looking for start-ups and businesses interested in renting out our kitchen as a “ghost kitchen.” This new way of renting out space means that a business will cook their food here but be delivered to different destinations rather than serving it in our space. 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.** 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
- * 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. 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.