



*Humility and Kindness: Forgiveness* by Miroslav Tkacenko

**August 31, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**2700 L Street**

**Sacramento, CA 95816**

# PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**August 31, 2025**

**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Welcome! We're very glad you've come to this service today and we pray our experience of worship here will renew and inspire you. If you are not familiar with our practices of worship, the following information may be helpful to you:*

1. *We are an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome into full membership, leadership, and participation in our church all persons and their families, of every race, language, age, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, economic status, and personal opinion.*
2. *A cross "+" before a heading denotes standing if you are able:*
3. **Bold** print indicates that the congregation reads or sings aloud, in unison;
4. *An (\*) indicates the selected hymn is a favorite hymn of the congregation.*
5. *All Bible readings are read from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise indicated.*
6. *Please silence your cell phone ringers;*
7. *If you have a prayer concern, you may fill out the prayer request form located in the back pews and the ushers will collect them later in the service.*
8. *If you are a guest with us, we invite you to fill out the Connection Card located with your Welcome Packet and place it in the offering plate in lieu of an offering. We have a special gift for you.*
9. *You are invited to join us for an informal time of coffee, food, and fellowship during our Fellowship Hour after the service.*
10. *We have a Pioneer Guest wifi signal throughout the church. Our wifi password is **welcome2700**. One way to promote our church is to let your friends on your social media know you're in church right now.*

*If you have any questions about life in the Pioneer Church or have needs of a personal nature, please speak to the pastor. We are happy to do what we can to help.*

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

**"No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome here!"**

**Prelude**

*Farewell to Stromness*

Peter Maxwell Davies

**The Light of Christ Enters**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Call**

*You Are Welcome Here*

Gerard DeMan

$\text{♩} = 100$

You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,

no mat-ter where you are, on life's jour - ney, You are

wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are, come and

join with us, we're u - ni-ted in the church of Christ.

**Welcoming One Another** (*said in unison*)**Psalm 118:24**

Let us begin our worship service today by saying aloud our Opening Scripture:

**“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**

**+ The Passing of the Peace****+ Call to Worship** (*read responsively*)**Inspired by Psalm 107**

One: The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

God, who dwells in light, is present and available to us here and now.

**God, who is more than we can ever imagine, reveals to us, here and now, glimpses of eternity.**

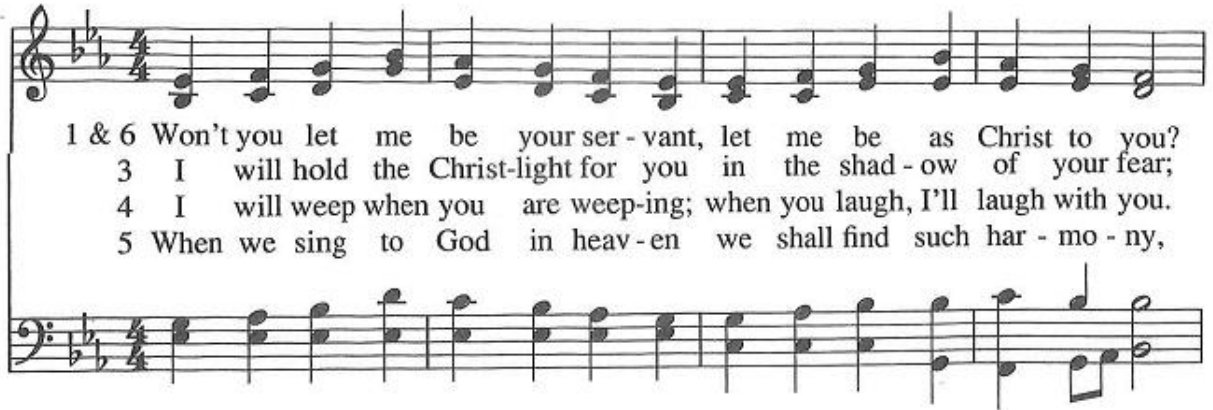
We are all children of one God, who loves u all, poor and rich, old and young, powerless and powerful.

**God richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy and calls us to live for the good of all.**

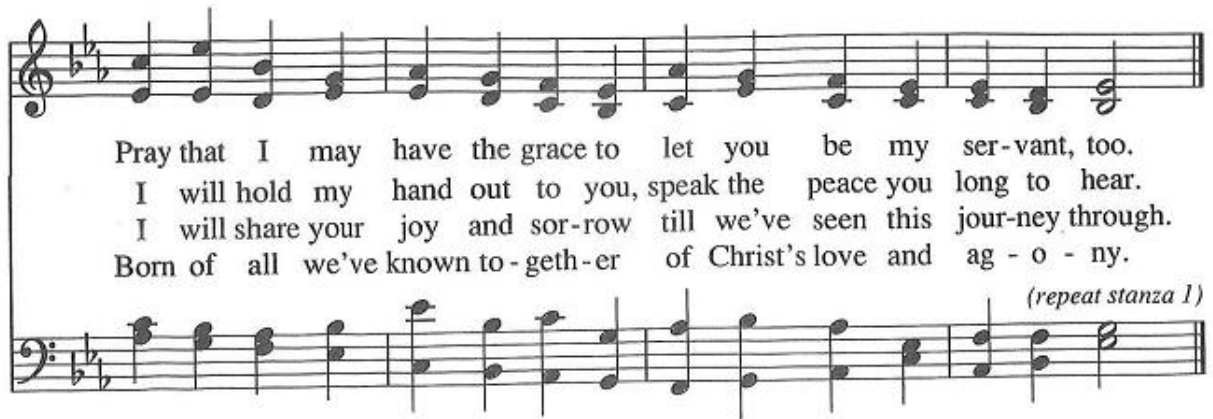
Let us be glad and rejoice in our God. Let us praise God, who deals wondrously with us.

**Give thanks to God, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

**+ Opening Hymn***Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?\****SERVANT SONG**


1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?  
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;  
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.  
 5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.  
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.  
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.  
 Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

**+ Opening Prayer (Pastor Led)**

Source of all goodness, we know we have been blessed with abundant opportunities. Everything necessary for life in all its fullness has been made available to us. You have dealt wondrously with us. Pour out on us now, we pray, and an extra measure of your spirit to expand our vision, enlarge our dreams, and help us to speak and live your truth. God be with us. Amen.

## Introit (sung by all)

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Doris Akers

There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, \_\_\_\_\_ And I

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ There are

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, \_\_\_\_\_ And I

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet Heav - en - ly Dove,

Stay right here with us, \_\_\_\_\_ fill - ing us with your love.

And for these bless - ings \_\_\_\_\_ we lift our hearts in

praise; With - out a doubt we'll know \_\_\_\_\_ that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

## Introduction to the Prophetic Lesson

The anonymous author of this book encourages us to love God and one another. He also reminds us of our commitments to God.

## Scripture Lesson

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. <sup>2</sup>Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! <sup>3</sup>Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated, as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.<sup>4</sup>Give honor to marriage and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery.<sup>5</sup>Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."<sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.<sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. <sup>15</sup>Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. <sup>16</sup>And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.

## Introduction to the Gospel Lesson

Jesus teaches his followers about the importance of humility toward God and with one another.

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:1, 7-14

One Sabbath day Jesus went to eat dinner in the home of a leader of the Pharisees, and the people were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When Jesus noticed that all who had come to the dinner were trying to sit in the seats of honor near the head of the table, he gave them this advice: <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited to a wedding feast, don’t sit in the seat of honor. What if someone who is more distinguished than you has also been invited? <sup>9</sup> The host will come and say, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then you will be embarrassed, and you will have to take whatever seat is left at the foot of the table!<sup>10</sup> “Instead, take the lowest place at the foot of the table. Then when your host sees you, he will come and say, ‘Friend, we have a better place for you!’ Then you will be honored in front of all the other guests. <sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”<sup>12</sup> Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. <sup>13</sup> Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

*This is the Word of the Lord. Let us respond by singing together our Scripture refrain.*

**Scripture Refrain** (sung twice) *Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet*

The musical notation is for a unison song in 4/4 time, written in E-flat major (three flats). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path." The music is divided into measures corresponding to the lyrics. Above the staff, the following chords are indicated: Eb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

**Sermon:** “The Faith of the Humble”



## Hymn

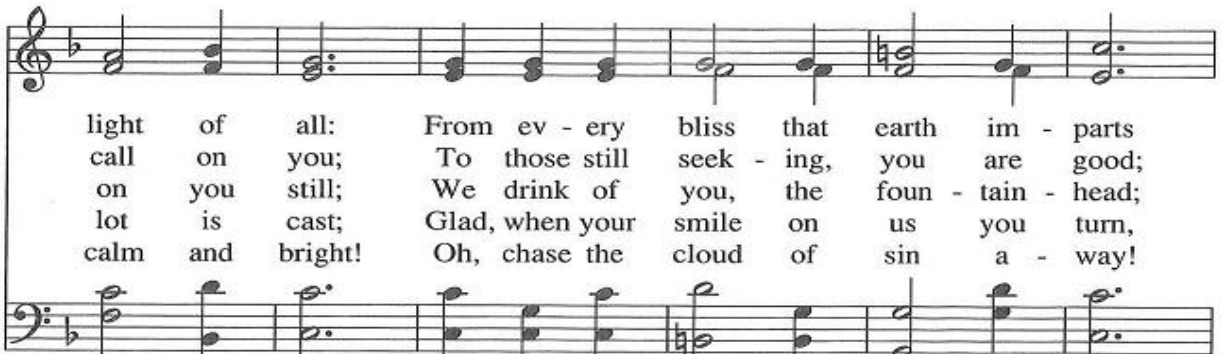
*Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts*

## HESPERUS

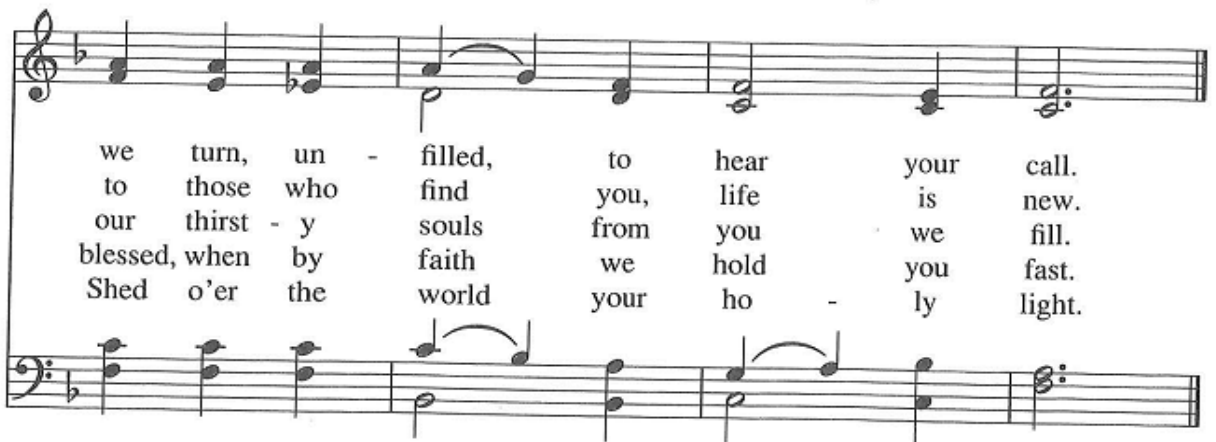
You may remain seated while singing this hymn. The Ushers will collect your prayer cards to be prayed for during the Prayers of the People.



1 Je - sus, the joy of lov - ing hearts, fount of our lives, and  
 2 Your truth un - changed has ev - er stood; you plead with all to  
 3 We taste of you, the liv - ing bread, and long to feast up -  
 4 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher-e'er our chang - ing  
 5 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our mo - ments



light of all: From ev - ery bliss that earth im - parts  
 call on you; To those still seek - ing, you are good;  
 on you still; We drink of you, the foun - tain - head;  
 lot is cast; Glad, when your smile on us you turn,  
 calm and bright! Oh, chase the cloud of sin a - way!



we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 to those who find you, life is new.  
 our thirst - y souls from you we fill.  
 blessed, when by faith we hold you fast.  
 Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer** (*said in unison;" sins;" or any version you choose to say*)

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

### Sung Response

*Great Amen*

Carl MaultsBy



### Invitation to Generosity

*We will be receiving the Compassion Fund offering today. As it is passed to you,  
please put your donation into the wooden plate.*

God has dealt wondrously with us. How shall we respond? We receive living water when life seems like a desert. We are fed and clothed from the abundance God makes possible. We are called to do good, to be rich in good deeds, to be generous with our time and our love. Let us respond as people who see and feel the plight of sisters and brothers whom we have the resources to help. The Ushers will now come forward to receive your pledges and offerings. We invite you to give in person, on our website, or mail in your offering today. Thank you.

**Offertory Music**

*Alla mente confusa di dubbio e di dolore*  
 Kathleen O'Rourke, soprano

F. Paolo Tosti

In the doubting mind full of uncertainty come to my aid, Lord, with the light of my faith.  
 Raise up the heavy weight upon me, which sinks me lower into the mire.  
 I sigh and call out to you, I entrust myself to you.

You know that my life is suffering; I only ask that you remove my sins  
 like beeswax in flame; or like snow melting in the sun.

My soul longs to shelter itself in your arms.  
 Oh, destroy the snare which impedes my soul's flight. Have mercy on me, God.

**+ The Doxology** (*sung in unison*)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures here below;  
 Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
 Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**+ Prayer of Dedication** (*said in unison*)

O God, you have made us rich, and we are grateful for your trust in us. May our gifts be used to be generous to our church and to those in need. Receive our gifts as our trust that you'll use them and us to show love in our community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## + Closing Hymn

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise\**

ST. DENIO

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;  
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;  
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;  
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,  
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.  
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.  
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

**+ Commissioning Song** (sung in unison)**SERVANT SONG**

(Please face one another as you sing.)

**+ Benediction**

God has sustained and fed us here, but God also confronts and challenges us. I ask you this: Dare to receive and walk in the Spirit, believing the promises of God to provide for you and to those with whom you're called to serve, both now and forevermore. Go in peace. Amen.

**Postlude***Fugue in F*

Johann Pachelbel

**"Our worship has ended; our service continues."**

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**Today's Volunteers are:** Reader: Kathleen O'Rourke Usher: Christine Rubio Acolyte: Garylee Stephenson Audio Visual Tech: TBA Tellers: TBA Fellowship: Yvette Cuny Flowers: TBA

**Volunteers for next Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> are: Reader:** Levi Fuentes **Usher:** Karen Shipman **Acolyte:** Randy Triezenberg **Audio Visual Tech:** William Ruygt **Tellers:** Karen Shipman & Vi McNally **Fellowship:** Potluck **Flowers:** TBA

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### All Church Anniversary Picnic

Planning is underway for the church **Anniversary** 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 for this 176-year Celebration is *Bring Your Best Church Recipe*.

Please email your sign-up to Ellen at [ellen.ardenogle@gmail.com](mailto: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 breakdown (especially folks who are not in the choir or otherwise involved in the service).

### Potluck on the First Sundays

We'll have our Potluck luncheon on Sunday, September 7, after church. On the first Sunday of each month, we host a potluck luncheon after church in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to bring your favorite dish to feed about 25-30 folks who stay after the service. We also have a few unhoused folks who join us. You don't need to sign up for anything specific, just bring what you like to cook, and we'll eat it!

## **Signup Sheets**

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!

## **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 individuals experiencing homelessness. They also accept dog and cat food, as well as a few books and magazines at a time, please. Donations are received Monday through Friday between 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. All donations must be designated for HART Respite. Please call the church custodian; 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.

## **Women's Breakfast**

The Women's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, September 13 at 9:00 AM. Join us for lively and friendly conversations. We meet at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd, Sacramento, CA. Please contact Sue Bryant Still to let her know you're interested in attending. Reservations need to be made for each breakfast.

## 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.

## Tour of the Sanctuary

**Pioneer**  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**ARCHITECTURE &  
STAINED GLASS  
Tour**

tour guide  
**DR. ELLIOT  
JONES**



2700 L Street, Midtown,  
Sacramento, CA

**2ND SATURDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH @ 12:00 PM**

Dr. Elliot Jones, our music director, leads a tour of the sanctuary that includes the building architecture, explaining the history of the various stained-glass windows, and offers a history of our organ and plays on it to show its capabilities. The tours will be taking a hiatus during the summer months and will return on Saturday, September 13 at 12:00 Noon. Invite your friends to this lovely tour as it is a great way to introduce them to our historic building and church.



Celebrating  
176 years!  
—♡—

# Welcome Back to CHURCH!

*Your Place to Belong*

**Sunday, September 14**

We'll have cake and ice cream after the  
service in Fellowship Hall



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](http://www.pioneerucc.org)



**Pioneer**  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



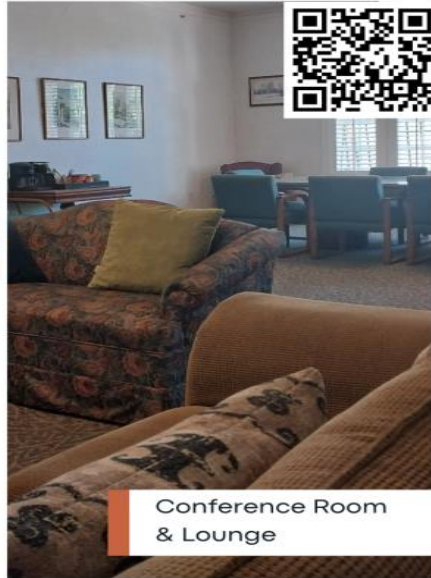
## OFFICE AND ROOM RENTALS

We have office rentals 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.

FREE COFFEE | FAST WI-FI



Outdoor Area



Conference Room  
& Lounge



Individual  
offices

Contact Us:  
916-443-3727  
[www.pioneerworking.com](http://www.pioneerworking.com)  
[connect@pioneerucc.org](mailto:connect@pioneerucc.org)  
2700 L Street, midtown  
Sacramento, CA 95816



We have office rentals, a commercial kitchen, sanctuary spaces for weddings and funerals, and a Fellowship Hall for receptions, all available to rent. If you or someone you know is looking for a place to hold your next party, anniversary, or wedding, please let us know. For more information, visit <http://www.pioneerworking.com> or call the church office.



Sunday Aug 31 <sup>ST</sup>	Morning Service	10:00am
Thursday Sept.4 <sup>th</sup>	Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm
Sunday Sept.7 <sup>th</sup>	Communion Service Potluck Luncheon After Church	10:00am

### What's Happening this Week

- + The newest addition of *The Weekly eNewsletter*, will be available online or at the Information Table on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- + Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM.

*\*\*\*Any changes/updates to future events please make notation on this Bulletin and place it in Kelton's box in the main office.*

**Many other activities take place in the building regularly.**

Please check the calendar in the church office regarding space and time availability before scheduling any event.



www.pioneerucc.org ● (916) 443-3727 ● connect@pioneerucc.org  
2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"*

**CONNECTING. SHARING. SERVING!**

Pastor: **Rev. Dr. David "Bo" Bocock**

Music Director: **Dr. Elliot Jones**

Church Administrator: **Rev. Kelton Jackson**

PPRC – Pastor Parish Relations Committee

Website:

[PastorBo@pioneerucc.org](mailto:PastorBo@pioneerucc.org)

[MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org](mailto:MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org)

[Connect@pioneerucc.org](mailto:Connect@pioneerucc.org)

[pprc@pioneerucc.org](mailto:pprc@pioneerucc.org)

[www.pioneerucc.org](http://www.pioneerucc.org)

**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**For an appointment outside of these hours please call the church office at 916-443-3727.**

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