



**August 3, 2025
10:00 AM
2700 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816**

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 3, 2025

Eighth 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Martha Sobaje

The Light of Christ Enters

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Call

You Are Welcome Here

Gerard DeMan

$\text{♩} = 100$

G D G A D G/D D G A
 You are wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,
 G A D G D C G A
 no mat-ter where you are_ on life's jour - ney,_ You are
 D G/D D G A G A
 wel-come here, no mat-ter who you are,_ come and
 D G D G/D A D
 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.

Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.

Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.

Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

+ Opening Hymn

At the Font We Start Our Journey

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

1 At the font we start our jour - ney, in the Eas - ter
 2 At the pul - pit we are fash - ioned by the Eas - ter
 3 At the al - tar we are nour - ished with the Eas - ter
 4 At the door we are com - mis - sioned, now the Eas - ter

faith bap - tized; doubts and fears no long - er blind us,
 tale re - told in - to wit - nes - ses and proph - ets,
 gift of bread; in our break - ing it to piec - es
 vic - tory's won, to re - store a world di - vid - ed

by the light of Christ sur - prised. Al - le - lu - ia,
 by the power of Christ made bold. Al - le - lu - ia,
 see the love of Christ out - spread. Al - le - lu - ia,
 to the peace of Christ as one. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Hope held out and re - al - ized,
 al - le - lu - ia! Faith pro - claimed, yet still un - told,
 al - le - lu - ia! Life em - braced, yet free - ly shed,
 al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter's work must still be done.

+ Opening Prayer (Pastor led)

Let us pray. Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works. We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us. Speak, O God, attune our attention for your guidance. Speak to us, O God, for we are listening. Receive our praise as we glorify your name! 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.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Let us pray: Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you.

You, however, continually call us to repentance—to turn back to you and your way.

We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world.

Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do.

Let us now observe a moment of silence to allow you an opportunity to offer a personal prayer of confession to God.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved, you have received an inheritance of riches in God. These treasures of hope, strength, encouragement, peace, grace, joy, rest, and love are yours to claim. They are yours to live. Receive them freely and abundantly.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Introduction to the Epistle Lesson

The Apostle Paul writes to the early Christians on how to live, think, and act in their new life in Christ.

Scripture Lesson

Colossians 3:1-11

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. ⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson

Jesus warns us about storing up the right kinds of treasure that honor God and our responsibilities to love our neighbors.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 12:13-21

Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.”¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?”¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”¹⁶ Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops.¹⁷ He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’¹⁸ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.¹⁹ And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

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*

Unison Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Bb7 Eb Ab Eb

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

9

Sermon: “Soul Investment”

Hymn*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky***ENDLESS SONG**


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.



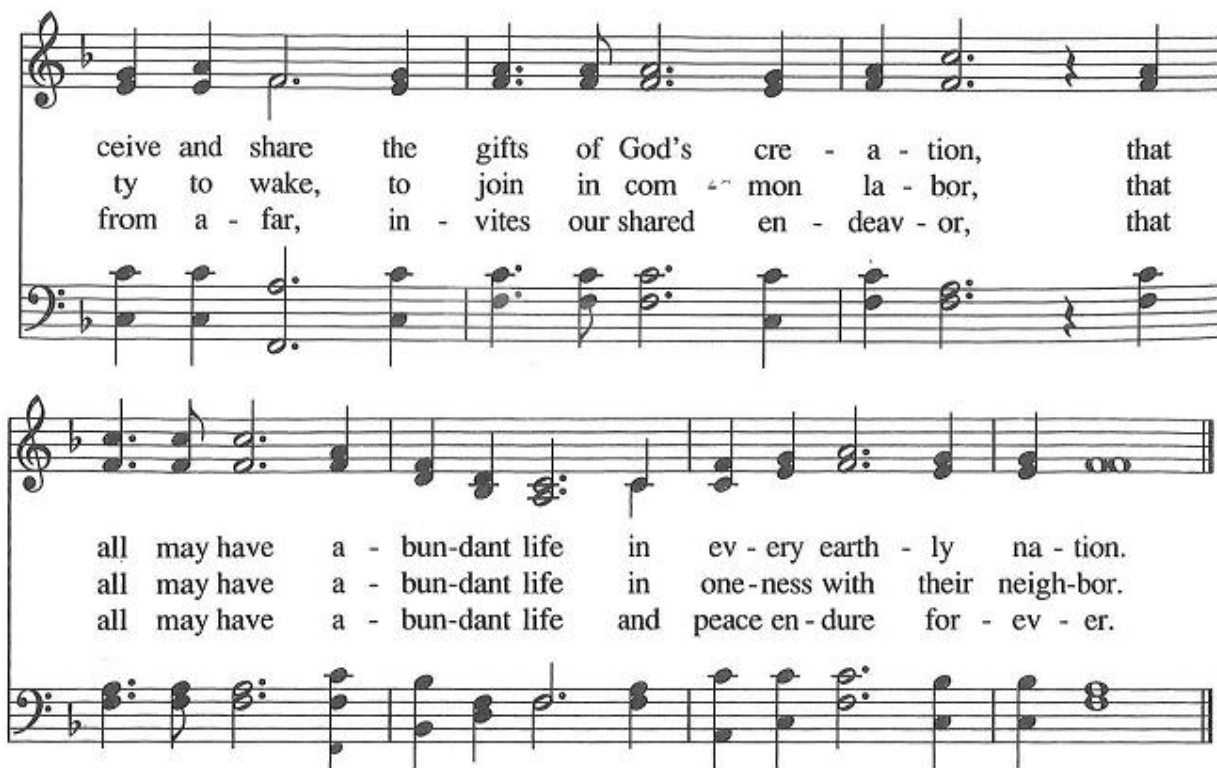
1 We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers
 2 When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for
 3 God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -
 morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and
 a - ting a fu - ture free from want or fear, life's



in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -
 war - horns sound their warn - ing, God calls hu - man - i -
 good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



ceive and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that
 ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that
 from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that

all may have a - bun-dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.
 all may have a - bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
 all may have a - bun-dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

Pastoral Prayer

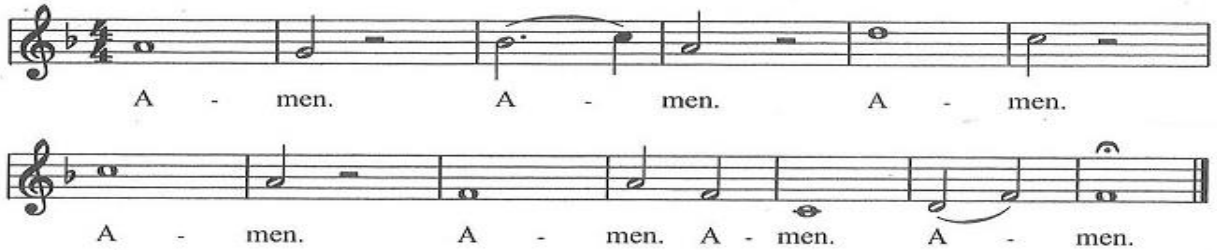
Prayers of the People

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**

Having received the gifts of God, let us seek the kingdom and return a portion of our abundance to the ministry of this faith community so that our collective offering will bless God and God's people. The Ushers will now come forward to receive your pledges and offerings. We invite you to give in person, on our website, or by mailing in your offering today. Thank you.

Offertory Music*Arm, Arm Ye Brave* from *Judas Maccabeus*

G.F. Handel

Randy Triezenberg, bass

+ 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*)

Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kingdom forever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE SUPPER (*read responsively*)

So along with everyone on whom the world has turned its back, along with everyone hungry for justice and truth, along with everyone abused as stranger and foreigner, along with everyone who does not fit "normal," along with everyone who questions, doubts, and even denies, along with every prejudice that has ever been flung, along with everyone made poor by other's riches, you and I are welcome at this table.

Let us pray. Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as though you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shared the joys and sorrows of life as we know it.

We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst.

We offer you our praise for people of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you by singing together:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

REMEMBERING THE SUPPER**PASTORAL CONSECRATION** (*prayed by the Pastor*)

Holy God, consecrate by your Spirit these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine and bless us that, as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, that we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue to be faithful in all things. Amen.

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (*said by the Pastor*)

For these are the gifts of God for us the children of God. Come, let us celebrate our faith in Jesus Christ.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

We invite you to come forward to the altar steps to receive the elements by intinction whereby you dip your bread into a chalice filled with grape juice. We have individual-wrapped gluten-free hosts available. All are welcome to participate.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*said in unison*)

Let us pray. **Bountiful God, we thank you for refreshing us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn

Praise to the Living God

DIADEMATA

1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -

word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.

Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul-tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May
 vades all na - ture, mak-ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think-ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

+ Commissioning Song (*sung in unison*)

SERVANT SONG

(*Please face one another as you sing.*)

We are pil - grims on a jour - ney. We are trav - lers on the road
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load

+ Benediction

May God's kingdom come. May God's will be done through us, in us, and in our communities, as we go wherever we go on earth, in America, around the world, and especially here in and around Sacramento. Go in peace. Amen.

Postlude

Bouree

Georg Philip Telemann

"Our worship has ended; our service continues."



Today's Volunteers are: Reader: Levi Fuentes **Usher:** Karen Shipman **Acolyte:** Randy Triezenberg **Audio Visual Tech:** William Rugyt **Tellers:** Karen Shipman & Vi McNally **Fellowship:** Potluck **Flowers:** TBA

Volunteers for next Sunday Aug 10th are: Reader: Scott Minor **Usher:** Andy Balog **Acolyte:** Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** William Rugyt **Tellers:** Mary Kay Rose & John Busschaert **Fellowship:** Emily **Flowers:** TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Photo Cover

The artwork on the Bulletin cover is from the book, "Heavenly Bodies: Cult Treasures and Spectacular Saints from the Catacombs" by Paul Koudouneris.

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.

Hymn Sing on Sunday, August 10

Join us on Sunday, August 10, for an all-church HYMN SING. You are invited to select your favorite hymns in the red hymnal in the pews. During the service, you'll shout out your hymn and the two stanzas you want us to sing of that hymn, and we'll sing it. The entire service will be devoted to this unique and special hymnody, so we need everyone to participate. Thank you!

Food Pantry Donations

We collect non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toiletries on Sunday, August 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.

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 – 4:00 PM. The bundled cloths need to be marked for HART Respite. Just call the custodian at the church, his number is on the door there. They know where to put donations. Everyday clothes are asked for, nothing dressy. As an aside, Leslie Robinson is able to bring your donations with her when she volunteers on Fridays.

Annual Church Potluck

Planning is underway for the annual church potluck which will be **Sunday 9/28/25** right after service both inside Fellowship hall and outside in the Labyrinth. Our theme this year is *Bring Your Best Church Recipe*.

Please email your sign up to 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.

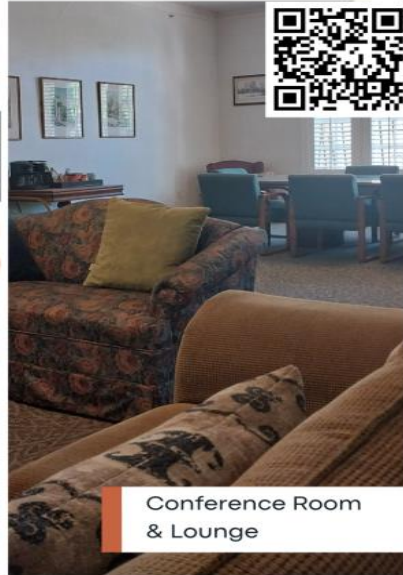
We will also need folks to help with set up and breakdown (especially folks who are not in the choir or otherwise involved in the service).

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.



Conference Room
& Lounge

FREE COFFEE | FAST WI-FI



Outdoor Area



Individual
offices

Contact Us:
916-443-3727
www.pioneerworking.com
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.

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



PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US.

*Experience a traditional service of worship with
beautiful choral music, meaningful liturgy,
reverent prayer, and an inspiring sermon.*

2700 L STREET, SACRAMENTO
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Where the traditional meets a progressive,
open and affirming faith. All are welcome.
Learn more about us at www.pioneerucc.org.





Sunday Aug 3 rd	Holy Communion Service	10:00am
	Worship Committee Meeting	11:30am
Sunday Aug 10 th	Morning Service	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 7th 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

MusicDirector@pioneerucc.org

Connect@pioneerucc.org

pprc@pioneerucc.org

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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