

Pioneer
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.pioneerucc.org
(916) 443-3727



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!



THE Weekly

Wednesday, July 3, 2024



ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, July 7, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 & Mark 6:1-13. The sermon's title is "Reframing Life's Difficulties." The Lay Reader is Levi Fuentes. The Ushers are Karen

Shipman and Philip Jackman. The Tellers are Karen Shipman and Vi McNally. Fellowship Hour is TBA. Flowers provided by TBA.

+ 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 don't know about you, but I am a little stressed by the political drama of the day. From the disastrous Presidential debate to the recent decisions from the Supreme Court that include abortion rights being taken away, gutting affirmative action, a President not being held accountable when breaking the Law, and making public camping by the homeless illegal, I worry that the America we were becoming is now an America we are moving back towards. It's enough to dampen the hopes that more people have greater access to a fuller life.

As a community, we also face the everyday stresses of life, such as the high cost of living in Sacramento, expensive homes, and health concerns. In these moments, it's easy to wonder where God is amidst our worries. But we must remember, as a community, that God is always here, even when we forget to listen and remember. This brings to mind a Scripture passage.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not

sow, reap, or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they are? Can anyone by worrying add a single hour to your life?" — Matthew 6:25-27

Are you worried about something today? Let me encourage you: God is with you and knows what you need. Consider this thought. Look back over your life. Has God been faithful to you during your lifetime? Let that knowledge propel you in faith that God will continue to be with you in your present and future! You can count on God.

You may have heard a commercial before from an investment company that talks about how amazing they are and why you should invest with them. At the very end of the ad, a super-fast-talking person shares a statement required by the SEC (Securities & Exchange Commission) that goes something like this: "Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investments may lose money."

What are they saying? Don't count on us! It sounds like we should worry! But if God were to make a statement, it would be one of unwavering reliability: "Past performance is the best predictor of my future performance, and you, my child, can trust in me! Don't worry!"



Of course, this is easier said than done, but I remember listening to my grandmother's stories about how difficult life was growing up during the Depression. She would tell me how she and her family made it through it all—and always knew God was there to strengthen them to do what needed to be done. May we learn to worry less and trust in God more to care for us through whatever disastrous political landscape we find ourselves in.

On Sunday, I'll be preaching about how to reframe life's difficulties so that

we may find strength for the journeys ahead of us. I hope you can join me in church or online.

See you on Sunday!
Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



Aaron Copland, pictured left, (1900-1990) was commissioned in the 1960s to write a piano piece that could be published in *Time* magazine and he produced the lovely *Down a Country Lane*. I will play my organ transcription of it. The postlude will be his famous *Fanfare for the Common Man*. Emily Balestrini will sing the much-loved spiritual *My Lord, What a Morning*.

Word Find Puzzle: Mark 6:1-13

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

AMAZED	ASKED	BEGAN
CAST	COUNTRY	DISCIPLES
HEAL	HEARD	HOMETOWN
JESUS	LEAVE	LEFT
MANY	MIRACLES	NAZARETH
NEXT	PART	PEOPLE
PLACE	REFUSED	RETURNED
SABBATH	SICK	SYNAGOGUE
TAKE	TEACHING	THEN
TOLD	UNBELIEF	VILLAGE

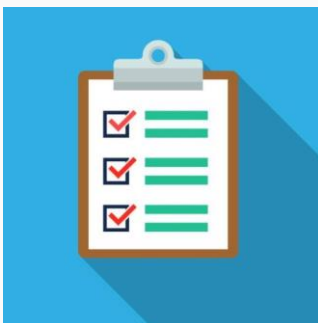


What's Happening in Sacramento?

- Fourth on the Field.** Food Trucks, Fireworks, and Family Fun at Sutter Health Park, West Sacramento, from 6:00 – 10:00 PM. Get your tickets here: <https://www.sutterhealthpark.com/fourthonthefield>
- Thursday Night Concert Series** with Cougar Adams and Bad Moon Rising presented by [Haggin Oaks Golf Complex](#) at [Haggin Oaks Golf Complex](#), 3645 Fulton Ave, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA. Thursday, July 3, from 7:00 – 10:00 PM. Tickets \$22-120.

3. **Folsom Pro Rodeo.** July 3-5 at 7:30 PM. Dan Russell Rodeo Arena, 403 Stafford Street, Folsom, CA. Tickets start at \$30.

Activities Survey



For years, our Spiritual Life Committee has organized fellowship activities for the church. We have attended Sacramento Republic Soccer matches and watched the Rivercats play baseball. In the past, these events were well-attended, but lately, attendance has decreased, and we're wondering what sort of new all-church fellowship activities you would be interested in attending.

To help, we have created a list of potential activities survey to help us find events you would like to attend. Please take a few moments to check the boxes and help us find the activities you would like to do. We have also created a space for your additional ideas. Once this list is compiled, we will select new activities for our church members and friends. Thanks!

<https://forms.gle/VyhDizgpuWWYsadq8>

Birthdays

07/04 Sue Bryant-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



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH



+ **All-Church Anniversary Picnic.** Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, September 29, after church for a picnic party. We'll be joined by the First United Methodist Church as we both celebrate our 175th Anniversary. There will be games, food, and a wonderful time of fellowship and fun!

+ This week's issue of ***The Weekly*** is sent to you a day early as the church office is closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of the national holiday.

+ **Summer is here!** We want to remind you that your presence and participation in the life of the church are still important during this season. We hope to see you on Sunday. We also welcome the idea of fellowship ideas and opportunities to stay connected. Contact Pastor Bo with your ideas.

+ The Pastor will be **out of the office** from July 9 to 15. He'll return to the office on Tuesday, July 16. Ellen Arden-Ogle will preach on Sunday, July 14.

+ **Bible study** will meet tonight, Wednesday, July 3 at 6:30 PM. It will be suspended on Wednesday, July 10, and resume on Wednesday, July 17.



+ **Wedding Vow Renewal Service.** Join newcomers Countree and Angel for their renewal of vows ceremony on Wednesday, July 17 at 3:00 PM at the church.

+ Our monthly **Architecture and Stained Glass Tour** of the church will not happen for July and August. It will return, led by Dr. Elliot Jones, on Saturday, September 7 at 12:00 Noon.

+ Sacramento City Council voted to **end free metered parking on Sundays** and to end the free metered parking between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This began on July 1. If you park outside on Sundays after that, remember to feed your parking meter (or download the ParkMobile app) or park for free in the Teichert/Sutter underground parking garage.

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.



+ **Join us for Bible Study.** Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM as we offer a Bible study that looks at current events and what's happening in the world. Then, a Bible study is created around it. We will also have our Zoom account open during both of these studies. If this is something that you are interested in, please get in touch with Pastor Bo at pastorbo@pioneerucc.org and let him know of your interest and which time of day you can participate. Thanks!

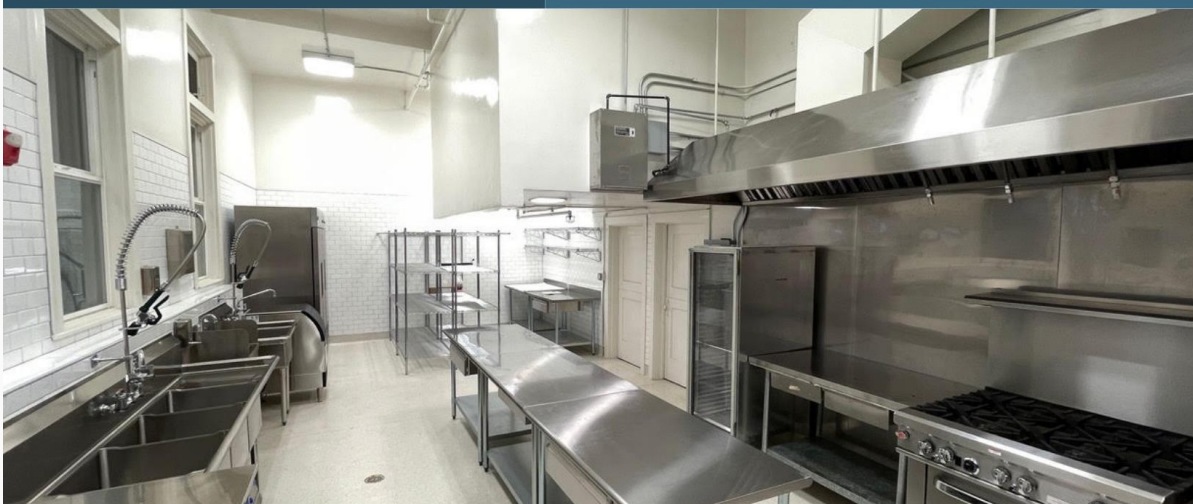
+ **Ghost Kitchen at Pioneer.** We are now looking for start-ups and businesses interested in renting our kitchen as a “ghost kitchen.” This new way of renting out space means a business will cook food here but be delivered to different destinations rather than serving it in our space. If you know anyone interested in our ghost kitchen, please get in touch with Vi or Pastor Bo.

GHOST KITCHEN

*Pioneer Congregational Church
2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA
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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.** Beginning July 1, 2024, there will no longer be free metered parking around the church. 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 at 9:00 AM on Sundays. You may park in any space, even if it says reserved.

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.