



THE Weekly

for Thursday, May 25, 2023

Pastor's Page



Hello Pioneers!

I invite you to join us in person on Sunday, May 28. We will have a special service observing Pentecost Sunday. And then, at the end of the service, Matthew Burbridge will be joining our church. Matthew has been attending for several months along with his boyfriend Estevan. Matthew has been involved in helping me purchase food and packing them in sacks for the homeless. Last week, he and I attended Trinity Cathedral's Respite Program which opens the church doors to the unhoused every Friday morning.

Please come and show your support for him and for our growing congregation. I find it wonderful that he is joining us on Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is a Christian holiday that takes place on the 50th day (the seventh Sunday) after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the

descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Book of Acts. As we'll learn about on Sunday, there was another time the Spirit descends on believers, but this time, it's Gentile Christians in Acts 10. In both instances, the speaking of other languages was present.

In more modern times, Pentecost is a day that has been celebrated as the true birthday of the church. It is the day our Scripture liturgical calendar observes as the day the Holy Spirit is poured out on the new Christian believers in the first century. This outpouring was the pouring out of God's power.

Power can be used in at least two ways: it can be unleashed, or it can be harnessed. The energy in ten gallons of gasoline, for instance, can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into the can. Or it can be channeled through the engine of a Ford in a controlled burn and used to transport a person 350 miles. Explosions are spectacular, but controlled burns have a lasting effect, staying power.

The Holy Spirit works both ways. At Pentecost, God exploded on the scene; God's presence experienced through the power of the Holy Spirit was like "tongues of fire" (Acts 2:3). Thousands were affected by one burst of God's power. But the Spirit also works through the church—the institution God began to tap the Holy Spirit's power for the long haul. Through worship, fellowship, and service, Christians are provided with staying power.

Each of us, and the church itself, has the power of God working in and through it. We honor and celebrate that on Pentecost Sunday. I hope you can attend church in person, experience the great music, the insightful liturgy, an inspiring sermon, and welcome Matthew into our fellowship of believers. It'll be a wonderful celebration! Please plan to attend.

See you on Sunday!
Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones



The prelude and the postlude this week are settings of the same Pentecost hymn, *Come Holy Spirit, God and Lord*, from two composers of the Baroque period. Zachau's chorale prelude is introspective, while Andreas Armsdorf's is more jubilant. The choir will sing Samuel Sebastian Wesley's *Shepherd, Lead Me* and the gospel song *Lord, I Know I Been Changed*. The words are included in the bulletin.

May/June Birthdays

5/4 - Pat Houge
5/4 - Phil Jackman
5/17 Joe Lenihan
5/30 Andy Balog
6/17 Clyde Wilson
6/23 Betsy Wilson
6/24 Bernadette Wallace



Games: Find the Differences



What's Up in Sacramento?

1. Concerts in the Park is a summer music series presented by



Dignity Health and hosted by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership in Cesar Chavez Plaza, 910 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Friday, March 26 from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM. Enjoy live music, vendors, artist activations, and food every Friday. Beer, wine, and cocktails will be available for purchase.

Admission: FREE

2. Experience the power of All City Writers (ACW) through the Word Play series, where you get to witness 15-minute sets from all of the artists' solo shows. Get insight into the creative process and follow their journeys as they take the solo shows from development to production. [The Brickhouse Gallery and Art Complex](#), 2837 36th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817. Saturday, May 27 from 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM. Admission: \$20. What you can expect: Theatre. Poetry. Dynamic performers. Transformative storytelling and healing through evocative, down-to-earth spoken word. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/all-city-writers-wordplay-2-tickets-627344533387>

3. Sacramento-Sierra TCA Train Show Presented by Sac-Sierra TCA Division at [Scottish Rite Center](#), 6151 H St., Sacramento CA. Saturday, May 27 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. You don't want to miss the Sacramento-Sierra TCA Division 52nd Annual Toy Train Show. Check out over 160 tables of trains for sale, operating layouts, and food. Free train set drawing for kids who attend. Admission: Adults \$10; kids (0-12) are FREE

Games: Word Find Puzzle

Acts 2:1-13

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

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| AMAZED | APPEARED | BELIEVERS |
| EACH | EVERYONE | FILLED |
| FIRE | FLAMES | HEAR |
| HEAVEN | HOLY | HOUSE |
| JEWS | LANGUAGES | LIKE |
| LOOKED | MEETING | MIGHTY |
| OTHER | PENTECOST | PEOPLE |
| PLACE | ROARING | SETTLED |
| SITTING | SOUND | SPEAKING |
| SPIRIT | SUDDENLY | THEN |
| THERE | TOGETHER | TONGUES |

This Week's
 announcements



+ We are excited to welcome into the full life of the church **Matthew Burbridge** who will be joining the church this Sunday, May 28. After the service, show your support and welcome him into our family of faith. If you have been thinking about joining our church, please let Pastor Bo know of your interest. It's easy and the benefits are life-changing and affirming!

+ **Strengthen the Church Offering:** On Sunday, May 28, we will be collecting one of our 5 for 5 denominational offerings. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the United Church of Christ. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

+ **Compassion Offering.** We will be collecting our Compassion Offering on Sunday, May 28 during the service. We use this fund in a variety of ways including helping the members and friends of the congregation who need an extra bit of help in our congregation and purchasing meal sacks for the homeless.



+ **Sermon Talk Back.** Join us on Sunday, May 28 at 11:30 AM for our sermon talk-back discussion. The pastor will discuss his sermon and you are invited to ask questions and talk about it or any other part of the Sunday worship experience. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour. Everyone is invited to participate.

+ **The last day of the season for the choir** is next Sunday, June 4. Please come to enjoy communion and to hear the choir. They will return to our Sunday experience on Gathering Sunday/Rally Day in September. Throughout the summer, members of the choir and congregation will sing special music during the service.

+ Stay connected with the life of the church by regular readings and seeing what's happening on our church website: <http://www.pioneerucc.org>.



+ **Life Groups** are an integral part of the life of our church. They provide connection, friendship-making, and opportunities to grow together in one's life of faith. We offer a variety of ways to help you connect with new friends and provide an opportunity to belong to something meaningful and life-giving. If you have been looking for a way to connect with others, you are invited to find a group and get acquainted. For more information, visit our Life Groups page at: <https://pioneerucc.org/lifegroups/>

+ **Outreach & Mission.** We have a variety of opportunities for you to volunteer and help out the Sacramento community. Visit our new Outreach & Mission page on our church website for ways for you to get involved. <https://pioneerucc.org/outreachmission/>

+ Our church has a grief book program called ***Journeying through Grief***. It is a set of four short books to give or send to grieving people at four crucial times during the first year after a loved one has died. If you know of a church member or friend of the church who might benefit from this program, please contact Pastor Bo or Marietta Jackman.

+ We have a **vibrant prayer ministry** in our church. Heidi Munoz collects prayer requests, emails them to our prayer champions, and we pray over all prayer requests every Sunday. If you have a prayer request, please send an email to Heidi at happyheidi@prodigy.net.

+ If you would like to add something to this e-newsletter, ***The Weekly***, please contact Pastor Bo at pastorbo@pioneerucc.org. Submissions need to be on Wednesdays.



ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship this Sunday, May 28 at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Acts 2:1-4, 14-24. The title of the sermon is, "The Outpouring of the Spirit." The Lay Reader is Bernadette Wallace. The usher is Nancy Alex. The tellers are Mary Kay Rose and Someone Else.

+ If you would prefer to meet online, you are invited to 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 if you cannot watch it live.



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Our mailing address is:
Pioneer Congregational Church
2700 L St
Sacramento, CA 95816-5660