



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

## THE Weekly

Thursday, January 9, 2025



### ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, January 12, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Isaiah 43:1-7 & Luke 15-17, 21-22. The sermon's title is, "Healing through Waters." The Lay Reader is Xuan Guerrero. The Usher is Andy Balog. The Tellers are Mary Kay Rose and John Busschaert. A/V Tech is Scott Minor. Fellowship 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,



This coming Sunday is one of my favorite liturgical events of the new year. We will be observing the Baptism of Christ. Last week, I preached on the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus. One week later, Jesus suddenly became an adult and was about to be baptized by John in the Jordan River. The Liturgical Calendar is funny that way—but by preaching it, we get to entertain the Christian story from the beginning to the end of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Then, we learn how the early church interpreted Jesus in the formation of the Church. It's all a beneficial journey about learning to appreciate one's religious faith history.

This Sunday, we will once again pass out tiny sponges as we remember our baptism. Churches observe this day in several ways. In a church I served as an Associate Pastor, the senior pastor would walk down the aisle on the sanctuary challenging us to “remember the waters of our baptism.” He then splashed everyone with water, which was both funny and delightful, rolled into one.

Why should we think about baptism? When a person is baptized, there's so much more to it than water. Baptism symbolizes how, through faith in Jesus, we've become “clothed” with him (Galatians 3:27). Or, in other words, it's celebrating that we belong to him and he lives in and through us.

As if that weren't significant enough, the passage in Galatians 3 informs an orthodox view of baptism that if we've been clothed with Christ, our identity is found in him. We're the very children of God (v. 26). As such, we've been made right with God by faith—not by following strict religious rules. We're also not divided against one another by gender, sexual orientation, skin color, culture, and status. We're set free and brought into unity through Christ and are now his own (v. 29).

As liberal people of faith, we are baptized as a promise to walk in the ways of Jesus who points us to a deeper and abiding relationship with God. Baptism is a promise, a symbol of a holy relationship, and a communal activity that all members of the Christian family have done. If you have yet to be baptized, that's okay, too. You are still connected with us in many ways.

So there are very good reasons to remember baptism, to be baptized, and all it represents. We aren't simply focusing on the act itself but that we belong to Jesus and have become children of God. Our identity, future, and spiritual freedom are found in that relationship.

Also, on Saturday, we will be undecorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you are available, I invite you to join us at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary for this fellowship and friendship-making opportunity. If you would like to arrive a little early, you can join Dr. Jones for his Architecture and Stained-Glass Tour as he tells of the history of the church

building, explains our many stained-glass windows, and demonstrates the historic church organ in our sanctuary. It's a lovely experience that begins at 12:00 Noon sharp outside on the front steps of the Sanctuary.

See you Saturday and Sunday!

Blessings to you,

**Pastor Bo**

**Music Musings**, by Dr. Elliot Jones



Happy New Year everyone! Sunday's prelude will be Bach's *When Jesus Went to Jordan's Stream* in which the hymn tune is accompanied by bubbly counterpoint that depicts water. The third verse of the sermon hymn, *O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word*, also refers to Jordan's stream. During the Epiphany season, any reference to a star is an opportunity for the *Zymbelstern* to play, so listen for it in one of the hymns. It is a set of small bells that ring when the device they rest on is set in motion. The word means "spinning star," and indeed there are some of these that also have a visible star that spins as the bells do.

The choir will sing a new arrangement of the English carol *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* by Richard Shephard. The postlude is the Epiphany hymn *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* followed by Pachelbel's contrapuntal variation on it.

**Word Find Puzzle: Luke 3:1-20**

---

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

ABRAHAM	ANYONE	ASKED
BAPTIZE	BEAR	BROTHER
CAME	COMING	CROWDS
EVEN	EVERY	FILLED
FIRE	FRUIT	GOOD
HEROD	JOHN	MADE
MORE	PEOPLE	PROCLAIMED
REGION	REPENTANCE	RULER
SAID	STRAIGHT	THEREFORE
TREE	WILDERNESS	WORD



### Notice for Annual Meeting 2025



The Annual Meeting of the Pioneer Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025 following Sunday worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet to vote on the 2025 annual budget, elect new officers, and vote on new business brought up from the floor. Everyone is invited to attend, participate, and ask questions but only members of the church will be allowed to vote.

### The Good Place Bible Study

Our first episode of watching season 1, episode 1 of the Netflix series, *The Good Place* happened this week. Several folks gathered in the Pastor's Office for a fun Bible study and conversation of heaven and who goes there. Each week, we'll provide a discussion guide to the series and talk about the episode and how our faith tradition responds to it. If you would like to attend, please let the Pastor know and show up on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. You'll have a lovely time!

# The Good Place



# BIBLE STUDY

Join us as we watch an episode from season 1 and then have a Bible study led by our pastor in the Pastor's office. Learn about the Bible and our faith journeys in a judgment-free zone.



WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 PM

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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



2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA

### 3 Ways to Give to Pioneer

#### 3 WAYS TO GIVE



in person



by mail



online

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

## **Birthdays**

01/05 Heidi Munoz

01/15 Henry Parks-Cutigini

01/18 Mary Kay Rose-Hosmann

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

Thanks!





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



## **Coworking Office Space @ Pioneer**

We need your help in locating anyone who would like to work out of one of our offices or use our many common rooms as a place to work. Mainly geared for those who work from home, our coworking space sharing 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, visit our website at [www.pioneerworking.com](http://www.pioneerworking.com) or call the church office.



**Pioneer**  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



# COWORKING

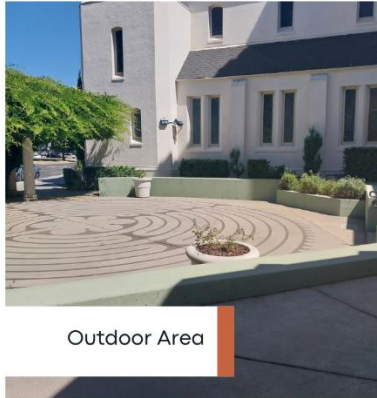
## OFFICE SPACE

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  
[www.pioneer coworking.com](http://www.pioneer coworking.com)  
[connect@pioneerucc.org](mailto:connect@pioneerucc.org)  
2700 L Street, midtown  
Sacramento, CA 95816



## CONTINUING 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. Choir rehearsal returns tonight, Thursday, January 9.

+ Each chairperson of a committee or ministry is responsible for **writing an annual report** for our annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. All reports need to be emailed to Kelton by Monday, January 20. He will assemble all the reports and email them out shortly thereafter. Please read the reports prior to our annual meeting. Thank you!

+ Join us for **Bible Study** on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the Pastor's Office.

+ **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!

+ **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](mailto:prayingpioneers@gmail.com).

+ 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 underground car park at 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, download Park Mobile App for easier pay-to-park experience
- ✿ 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.
- ✿ Free Street Parking without meters, 2-hour time limit
- ✿ Pay-to-park Sutter Garage, 27th St, 1 block north of N St.



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.