

Justice, by Anne Cameron Cutri

**January 19, 2025
10:00 AM
2700 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95816**

PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after Epiphany

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 reading 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.

**“No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”**

Prelude

Melody

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

The Light of Christ Enters

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Call

You Are Welcome Here

Gerard DeMan

♩ = 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 36

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.

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep.

For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

(+) denotes standing, if you are able.

+ Opening 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 - mighty, 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.

+ Opening Prayer (Pastor Led)

Magnificent God, we come to draw near to you. Your presence among us sustains and challenges us. In you, we find strength and surprises. May the songs we sing, the prayers we pray, the word proclaimed, and the lives touched honor your name. We welcome you and pray that your spirit shapes us with fresh wind, power, and compassion-in the prophetic witness of those who have taught us to love others as you love us. God be with us. Amen.

Introit

I Was Glad

Robert Wooten

Food Pantry Dedication

We are called upon throughout the Scriptures to give to those who have less than we do. We're called to love and support them and to provide whatever sustenance we are able. We are also called to offer them hope.

Through our generosity, may we show that we love them, that we're merciful and kind, and more than anything, that the God we believe in loves them too.

Let us now bring our mission offerings up and dedicate them to God, to our church, and to one another.

As you come forward to place your mission donation in the baskets or on the altar, we invite you to say these words, "Receive my offering, O God."

Prayer of Dedication (*responsively*)

Please join me in our Food Pantry dedication.

We offer these gifts to you, O God, to help care for the poor and hungry who need this food and these toiletries. Guide those who have much to care for those who have so little. We pray that you will bless those who receive these gifts and those who have given that together, we might fulfill Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Introduction to the Gospels

Jesus, reluctantly performs his first miracle, for his mother, turning water into wine.

Scripture Lesson

John 2:1-11

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."⁵ But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Introduction to the Epistle Lesson

The Apostle Paul explains the nature and opportunity of the spiritual gifts given to us by God for the benefit of the local church.

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. ²You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshipping speechless idols. ³So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

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

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

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of the Scripture Refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is E-flat major (three flats: B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B-flat3, and a quarter note C4. The accompaniment starts with a whole note chord of G3-B-flat3-E-flat4. The lyrics are: "Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path." The music concludes with a double bar line.

Sermon: "Knowing When It's Time to Speak Up"

+ Hymn

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

VIENNA

As we sing this hymn, the ushers will collect your prayer cards to be prayed for during the Prayers of the People.



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.
 2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.
 3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
 4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.
 Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.
 Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.



A Covenant Prayer of Recommitment to Justice

Inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr.

O God, who has created your children to be free, we attest in word and deed that you are our God, and we are your people. From our earliest days as the people whom you intend to be free, O God, you have called us forth from self-seeking bondage, comfort, complacency, and complaint, to freeing and redeeming action for justice everywhere in the world.

You are our freeing God, and we would be your free and freeing people.

O God of Exodus and the Burning Bush, of the Prophets and of Jesus, we hear your powerful calling to be your servants in the service of all those who are oppressed. At every turn we hear your voice in the cries of the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the broken, for you made yourself one with those who seek justice, freedom, and peace. We share a vision, a promise, and a yearning for the day of your reign, O God.

You are our servant, God, and we would be your serving people.

O God, Our Sustainer, search our hearts and reveal to us our sinfulness, all the ways that we contribute to injustice and to self-destroying bondage. Give us deep courage to find the true path of your way, ready to give our very selves as living sacrifices for your will. We have heard your calling. Hear us now as we make our pledge.

You are our God, and we are your people. We pledge ourselves now to relentlessly pursue that living, breathing justice that transforms persons and peoples. To your will for justice, we recommit ourselves and pledge ourselves, our funds, and our actions. Through Christ, we pray. Amen

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 by 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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the 'Sung Response' 'Amen'. The first staff contains three measures of music, each starting with a quarter note 'A' followed by a dotted half note 'men.'. The second staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a quarter note 'A' followed by a dotted half note 'men.'. The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

Introduction to the Offering

Whatever gifts we bring may be transformed like water to the best wine. Trust God with what we have to offer. Our trust can sow miracles, reveal Jesus in the world, and magnify joy in our communities. Give with peace that the kingdom overflows with abundance and with hope that our collective efforts make the world new. 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 Anthem *O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* (from *Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

Kathleen O'Rourke, soloist

+ 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, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good.
Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to
participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.

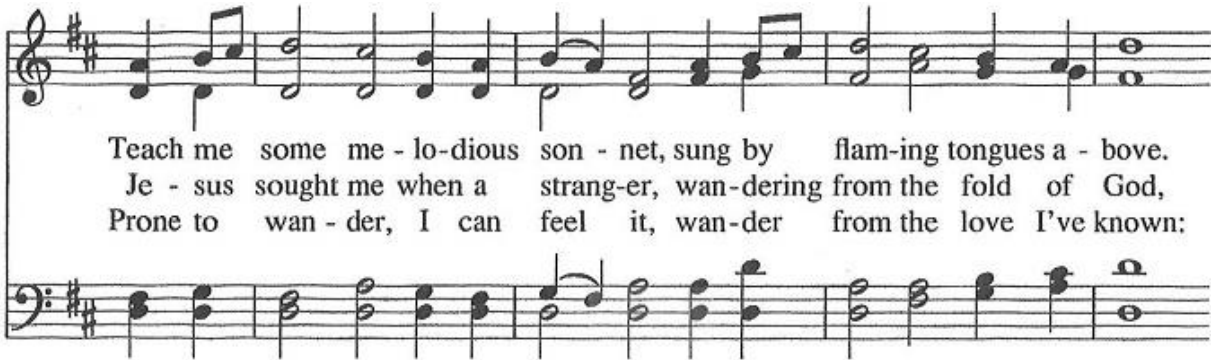
+ Closing Hymn

*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

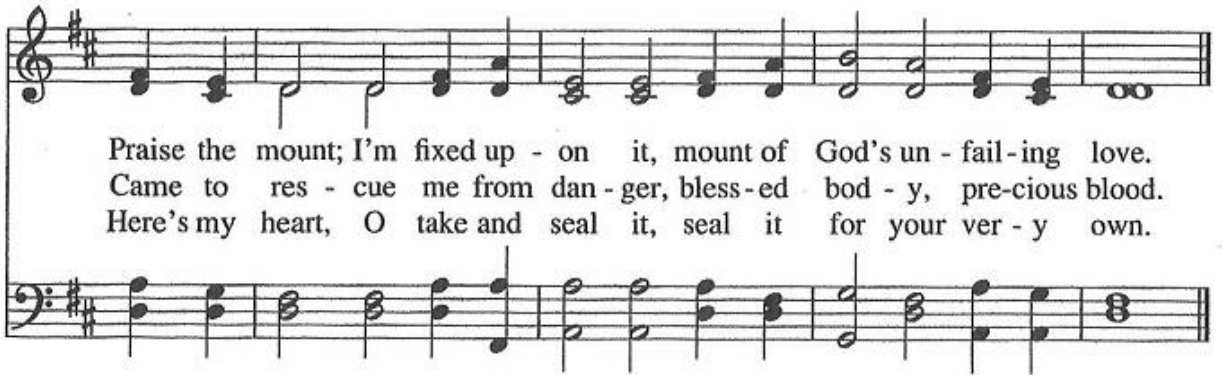
NETTLETON

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

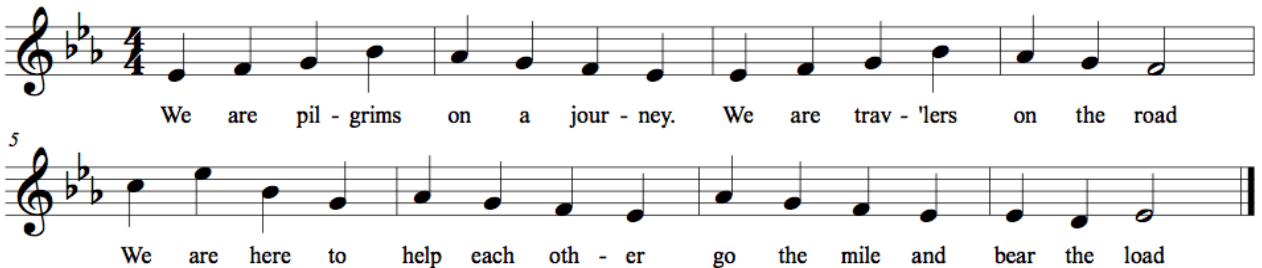


Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

+ 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
 5 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load

+ Benediction

May you be filled by the presence of God. May you draw from the wells of justice, peace, and righteousness. May you taste the fruit of the Spirit as you make the way of Jesus your path in the world. And you make the name of God known in word and deed. Go, in peace and power to love and serve God and neighbor. Amen.

Postlude

“Allegro” from *Water Music*, HWV 349

G.F. Handel



Volunteers for today are: Reader: Randy Triezenberg **Usher:** Mary Kay Rose
Acolyte: Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** Scott Minor **Tellers:** Xuan Guerrero & Heidi Munoz **Fellowship:** Linda Mendiola & Randy **Flowers:** In Honor of Mary Kay Rose Birthday

Volunteers for next Sunday, January 26 are: Reader: TBA **Usher:** TBA **Acolyte:** Garylee Stephenson **Audio Visual Tech:** Scott Minor **Tellers:** TBA **Fellowship:** Potluck **Flowers:** TBA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ Food Pantry Donations

Today, we collect non-perishable food pantry donations and travel-sized toilet and dedicate them during the service and then Andy Balog will take the donated food to the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership's Food Closet and the toiletries to Wind Youth Services during the week.

+ 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.

+ Call for Reports for the Annual Meeting

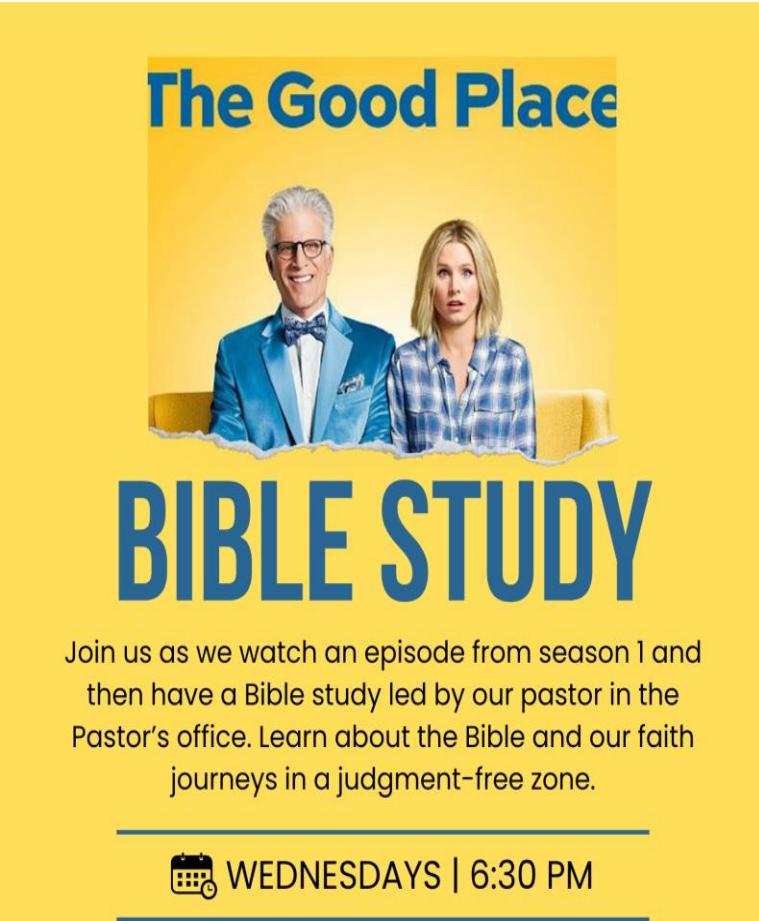
Council Members, I am asking each of you, if possible, to have your full report in the church office no later than 12 noon on Monday, January 20th.

+ Sermon Recommendations Survey


The Worship Committee and the Pastor have created this online survey to help in sermon preparation. <https://forms.gle/gP9kE376AkU157Le8>

The purpose of the survey is to ensure that sermon preparation and delivery is relevant and inspiring. Sermons should address people's life issues and questions about the faith. To aid in this endeavor, a survey has been created both online and as a printed form available at the church. You are invited to fill out the survey in either format. You do not need to be a member of the church to fill this out, although you do need to be a regular attender in person or online. If you have any questions, please speak with the Worship Committee or the Pastor. Thanks!

+ 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

Join us for a lively discussion of the Netflix series, *The Good Place*. We'll watch a 22-minute episode and then look to our faith tradition, philosophy, and ethics and engage in conversation.

Bible study meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Pastor's Office. [Go here to download the discussion guide.](#)

+ California Wildfire Donations

The United Church of Christ's Global Response has provided an opportunity for us to donate to those affected by the California wildfires. We have lost several churches in the area and you can donate to help them recover at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/kch9ncca>

+ Coworking Office Space @ Pioneer

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.pioneercoworking.com
connect@pioneerucc.org
 2700 L Street, midtown
 Sacramento, CA 95816



We are looking for persons 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 at an affordable price to work in a peaceful atmosphere. Spread the news and tell your friends.

For more information, visit <http://www.pioneercoworking.com> or call the church office.

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.



CHURCH CALENDAR – 2024

Sunday January 19 th	Morning Service Council Meeting	10:00am 11:30am
Monday January 20 th	Office Closed In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Birthday	
Wednesday January 22 nd	Bible Study	6:30pm
Thursday January 23 rd	Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm-8:00pm
Sunday January 26 th	Morning Service Annual Meeting	10:00am 11:30am

What's Happening this Week

- + [Download our latest eNewsletter](#), The Weekly, for Thursday 23rd, January 2024.
- + **Bible Study** will meet on Wednesday, January 22nd, at 6:30 PM

*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.

Pioneer

CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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're 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 916-443-3727 the church office.

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