

Connecting. Sharing. Serving!



Thursday, October 10, 2024

ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, October 13, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are Job 23:1-9, 16-17 & Hebrews 4:12-16. The sermon's title is "A Dark Night of the Soul." The Lay Reader is Scott Minor. The Usher is Andy Balog. The Tellers are Mary Kay Rose and John Busschaert. Fellowship Hour is provided by Countree and Angel.

+ If you prefer to meet online, you can watch our live-stream service on the church's <u>YouTube channel</u>. 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,

As you know, I am preaching through the Lectionary's readings of the Book of Job for October. Job is an ageless story about suffering and how one person dealt with it while keeping his faith in God. One of the challenges of talking about suffering is how exactly one goes through it without sounding too religious, pithy, or so other-worldly that it feels like a disconnect with how someone will deal with it when faced with it.



There is a sad story attached to the beautiful hymn, *It Is Well with My Soul*, also known as *When Peace*, *Like a River*. It was written out of unshakable and unbearable grief. Here is that story.

When the great Chicago fire consumed The Windy City in 1871, Horatio G. Spafford, an attorney heavily invested in real estate, lost a fortune. About that time, his only son, age 4, succumbed to scarlet fever. Horatio drowned his grief in work, pouring himself into rebuilding the city and assisting the 100,000 who had been left homeless.

In November 1873, he decided to take his wife and daughters to Europe. Horatio was close to D. L. Moody and Ira Sankey, and he wanted to visit their evangelistic meetings in England and then enjoy a vacation.

When an urgent matter detained Horatio in New York, he sent his wife, Anna, and their four daughters, Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie, on ahead. As he saw them settled into a cabin aboard the luxurious French liner *Ville du Havre*, an unease filled his mind, and he moved them to a room closer to the bow of the ship. Then he said goodbye, promising to join them soon.

During the small hours of November 22, 1873, as the *Ville du Havre* glided over smooth seas, the passengers were jolted from their bunks. The ship had collided with an iron sailing vessel, and water poured in like Niagara. The *Ville du Havre* tilted dangerously. Screams, prayers, and oaths merged into a nightmare of unmeasured terror. Passengers clung to posts, tumbled through the darkness, and were swept away by the powerful currents of the icy ocean. Loved ones fell from each other's grasp and disappeared into foaming blackness. Within two hours, the mighty ship vanished beneath the waters. The 226 fatalities included Maggie, Tanetta, Annie, and Bessie. Mrs. Spafford was found nearly unconscious, clinging to a piece of the wreckage. When the 47 survivors landed in Cardiff, Wales, she cabled her husband: "Saved Alone."

Horatio immediately booked passage to join his wife. En route, on a cold December night, the captain called him aside and said, "I believe we are now passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down." Spafford went to his cabin but found it hard to sleep. He said to himself, "It is well; the will of God be done." He later wrote his famous hymn based on those words. Here is the powerful first stanza:

When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul!"

It is well with my soul!

It is well, it is well with my soul!

[You can find this hymn in the *New Century Hymnal* on page 438 under the title, When Peace, Like a River, (or you can google it.) It is not found in the red UCC hymnal.]

How can someone who has lost so much remain faithful to God? Like Job, he trusts in God and believes only God can help him weather his storms. On Sunday, I'll preach more about this and how one, like Job or Mr. Stafford, does this.

See you on Sunday, Blessings to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones

I've written before about the BWV numbers that serve as a catalogue of Bach's works by genre. BWV numbers 525-721 are works for organ. They do not work well if played on the piano. But BWV 722-994 are for harpsichord, and these do transfer very well to the piano. Now that our wonderful Baldwin piano, manufactured in 1930, has been refurbished, I really enjoy playing works like Bach's *French Suite in G-major*, BWV 816. Each movement of these suites is based on a Baroque dance. This Sunday I'll play the *Allemande*, *Sarabande*, and *Gavotte*.



Born in Dublin, Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), pictured left, became one of the most influential professors at the Royal College of Music, and later at Cambridge, counting among his students such future luminaries as Holst, Howells and Vaughan Williams. He was prolific in every musical genre, and even wrote operas, but they are no longer performed. He was one of the first composers to drive (and on one occasion crash) a car. The

choir will sing his arrangement of the Scottish tune O for a Closer Walk with God.

Capital Chorale rehearsals begin next week, on October 24. If you are interested in singing, or know someone who might be, please contact me.

Word Find Puzzle: Hebrews 4:12-16

Т R Р Ε Ε D 1 Т O L D E S I R E BELIEVE ACCOUNTABLE ALIVE CREATION CUTTING DESIRES ENTERED EVERYTHING **EXPOSES** FIRMLY GREAT EYES HEAVEN HIDDEN HIGH HOLD INNERMOST **JESUS** JOINT MARROW NAKED NOTHING POWERFUL PRIEST SHARPER SHARPEST SOUL SPIRIT SWORD THEN THOUGHTS TWO-EDGED UNDERSTANDS

Donate to Hurricane Relief through the UCC

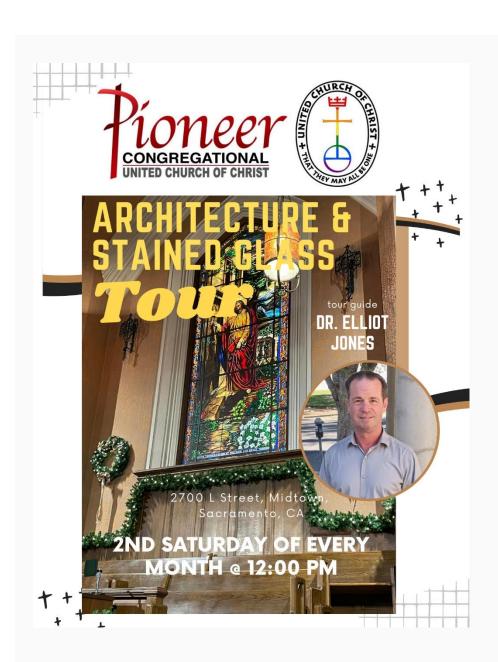


This week Hurricane Milton swept through Florida and caused incalculable damage. The hurricane then moved northeast and caused major damage. Parts of the East Coast are still reeling from the damage from Hurricane Helene. The magnitude of damage combined with the geography of the impacted area further

exacerbates and complicates what is certain to be an extended recovery process.

For more information and to learn how you can help with the recovery efforts, <u>follow this link</u> and make your donation today.

Architecture and Stainglass Tour this Saturday at 12:00 Noon







Invite Cards



We will have a lot of fun going on in the next few weeks, and many of your family and friends may wish to participate. To help you, we have Invite Cards. Hand them a card, which will give them information about our church. Easy peasy! Pick yours up in the Narthex, back table, and Information table.

3 Ways to Give to Pioneer



- 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

10/01 Kelton Jackson

10/05 Elliot Jones

10/08 John Wallace

10/09 Ray Graetz

10/17 John Busschaert

10/25 Xuan Guerrero

10/30 Nancy Alex

10/30 Ginger Rutland



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



GoFundMe for Karen



As many of our church members and friends are aware, our own Karen S. has had her cancer return. To help with her expenses, a GoFundMe page has been set up. While the financial goal on the page has been met, new information about her condition means she'll need more help. We invite you to give to help defray her unexpected costs of treatment. Go here to donate.

Gabby Triezenberg Memorial Service



A Celebration of Life ceremony for Gabby Triezenberg will be held on Saturday, November 9, 11:00am at Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ, 2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95816, followed by a semi-catered luncheon in the fellowship hall.

We'll have music and pictures and an opportunity to share memories about Gabby. Bring your stories, any pictures you wish to share, and--if you are so inclined--a side dish or dessert for the luncheon.



ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

+ Join us for our new **God on Film movie night** on Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 PM. We will watch the delightful romantic comedy, *The Princess* Bride, and discuss the movie's divine themes afterwards. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome.

+ There will be a **Membership/Newcomer Retreat** in the church parlor on Saturday, October 19, at 11:00 AM. All persons interested in church membership are invited to attend. We will share the history of our church and our denomination, discuss membership

expectations, have pizza, and get acquainted with each other. If you're interested, please contact the pastor at pastorbo@pioneerucc.org.

- + The **Pioneer Choir** presents music in various 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.
- + **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!
- + **Bible Study** will NOT MEET on Wednesday, October 16. It will return the following Wednesday night, October 23. Bible Study meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Pastor's Office. We are putting the morning Bible study on hold due to a lack of attendance. We meet in person and on Zoom. We will study the Hard Sayings of Jesus for the next few months. If you would like to participate, please contact Pastor Bo. He'll send you the lesson and Zoom link beforehand. The lesson is also available on our website: http://www.pioneerucc.org/happenings/.
- + **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.



+ **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. 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.



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.

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