



Connecting. Sharing. Serving!

THE Weekly

Thursday, January 16, 2025



ON SUNDAY

+ Join us for worship on Sunday, January 19, at 10:00 AM. The Scripture lessons are 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 & John 2:1-11. The sermon's title is, "Knowing When It's Time to Speak Up." The Lay Reader is Randy Trienzenberg. The Usher is Mary Kay Rose. The Tellers are Xuan Guerrero and Heidi Munoz. A/V Tech is Scott Minor. Fellowship is provided by Linda Mendiola & Randy Ralston.

+ 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're not able to watch it live.



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends,

For the past few weeks, I've had a heavy heart. With the upcoming Presidential Inauguration and today's politics and the threat of what's going to be standard fare for the next four years is troubling.

The newest stress for me is how so many companies of late are doing away with their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training. From Facebook announcing that calling gay and

trans-people derisive names will no longer be moderated and therefore now allowed, to McDonald's reimagining the DEI conversation by no longer mentioning it, to Wal-Mart, Ford, and John Deere reducing their DEI commitments, it's like we're taking two steps back in the conversation of equality and justice. And, it's a startling reminder that companies need regulations rather than simply giving them the choice to police themselves.



They are more concerned about their financial situation and less about what is right or just for others. As a result, without laws to protect all Americans, they will only serve their own interests.

On Sunday, I will preach about standing up and voicing prophetic calls for justice and hope in our relationships and communities. Since Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. day, a federal holiday signed into law by then-President Bill Clinton, my sermon will look to the prophetic witness of Dr. King and others who stand up for equity and equality.

More and more, we are witnessing how so many of our friends and family are unjust in matters of equality. Over the last decade, we've watched our Facebook and Twitter feeds explode with comments from our loved ones that rattle our faith and belief in matters of justice. So, in response to their blistering comments and to make peace, many of us have decided to clam up. We have stopped engaging in political conversations because of the stress of those conversations. We clam up. I think there is a time to clam up—but it isn't all the time—it's only sometimes—like over a holiday dinner party. There comes a time when each one of us is called up to confront injustice and bigotry—we need to learn how to be clever in doing so.

I love this Bible quote from Jesus in Matthew 10:16. He was commissioning the Apostles to go out and spread the Gospel's Good News. Jesus said, "Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So, be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves." He also warned them that some people would not like their message, and as a result, they would be persecuted—handed over to courts, arrested, and sometimes even whipped (Matthew 10:17-20). But they should be clever in proclaiming the truth, knowing that the Spirit of God will speak through them.

We all need to share a prophetic witness from time to time to the love of God and how we have this divine responsibility to love others. We don't have to shout or be overtly confrontational. Another way to engage folks is to offer an insightful word or question to those we know, asking and prodding them to find better ways to love their neighbor. I like to use humor, the great defuser, to get across my points. Whatever we do it, we'll be aided by God's

power to say the right thing at the right time.

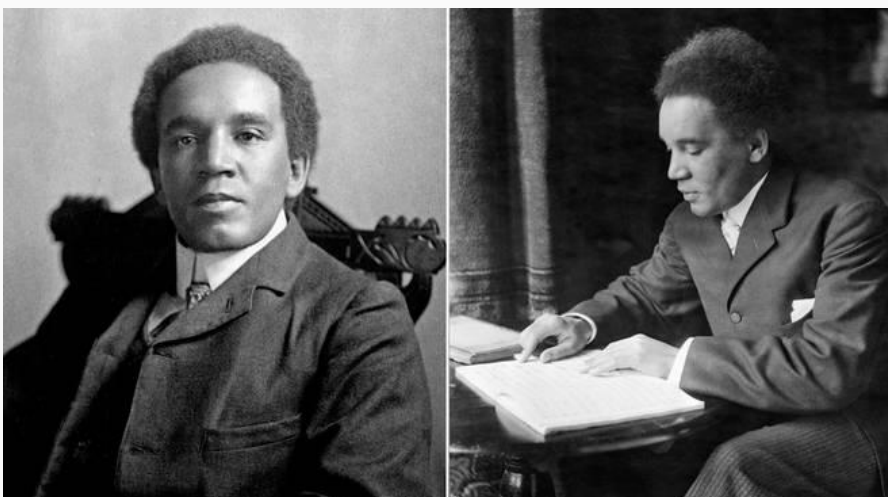
I pray that you will have an opportunity to promote love for others. James Cone once said, “Justice is what love looks like in public.” Let us promote justice, hope, and a better way of living—rather than clamming up and allowing the loudest voices to say and do the ugliest things toward others.

Peace to you,

Pastor Bo

Music Musings, by Dr. Elliot Jones

Sunday’s prelude was composed by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (pictured below) who was born in London in 1875 to a British mother and an African father. He took violin lessons, but his prowess as a composer was quickly recognized by his teacher at the Royal College of Music, the esteemed composer and professor Charles Villiers Stanford. It is fun to imagine that *Melody* could easily be a violin or oboe solo with piano or orchestral accompaniment.



The choir will sing the Gospel song *I Was Glad* and Katie O’Rourke will be the soloist in *Oh Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion* from Handel’s *Messiah*. In July of 1717 King George I asked Handel to provide music for a concert on the River Thames. *Water Music* was performed by about fifty musicians on a barge, while the King and his entourage listened from another barge.



This painting, from over 100 years later, romanticizes this event by placing Handel on the same barge as the King! The *Water Music* is divided into three suites of five to seven movements each. I will play the first movement of the second suite, which is scored for alternating trumpets and French horns.

Word Find Puzzle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

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

ACTIVATES	ANOTHER	ASTRAY
BROTHERS	CONCERNING	CURSED
EACH	ENTICED	EVER
GENTILES	GIFTS	GIVEN
IDOLS	IGNORANT	JESUS
KNOW	LORD	SAME
SISTERS	SPEAK	SPIRIT
SPIRITUAL	THERE	THEREFORE
TONGUES	UNDERSTAND	UTTERANCE
VARIETIES	WANT	WHEN



Food Pantry Dedication on Sunday

We invite you to donate food pantry staples to the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership's Food Bank, and personal hygiene items for the WIND Youth services. We will dedicate them during the Sunday service and bring them to these respective charities later in the week.

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>

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 church members will be allowed to vote.

The Good Place Bible Study


We watched the second episode from Season 1 of the Netflix series, *The Good Place* this week. Several folks gathered in the Pastor's Office for a fun Bible study and insightful conversation about grace and how it works in our understanding of God and ourselves. Each week, we'll provide a discussion guide to the series and discuss 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  2700 L Street, Sacramento, CA



The Pioneer Church thanks the volunteers who helped us un-decorate the Sanctuary last week. Several newcomers and new members showed up, and we got everything down and put it all away for next year in record time. Most of our holiday items are located in the hallway closet in the Narthex. Everything except for one tree fit in there.

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

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!



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 coworking website at <http://www.pioneerCoworking.com> or call the church office.

Pioneer
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



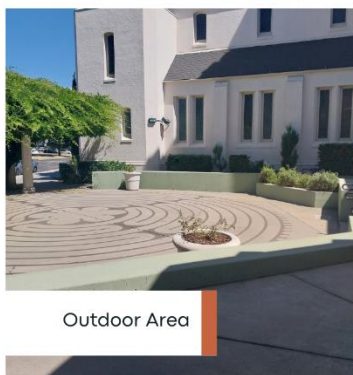
COWORKING & OFFICE SPACE

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;

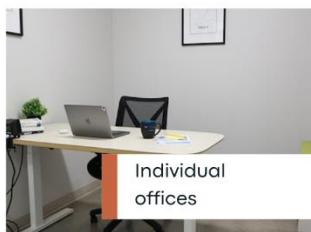
FREE COFFEE | FAST WI-FI



Conference Room
& Lounge



Outdoor Area



Individual
offices

Contact Us:
916-443-3727
www.pioneerworking.com
connect@pioneerucc.org
2700 L Street, midtown
Sacramento, CA 95816



CONTINUING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH



+ The **Church Council** will meet on Sunday at 11:30 AM in the Parlor following Sunday service. We will meet to approve the 2025 budget and review the Nominating Committee of names for officers and chairpersons of the church.

+ **Annual Reports** for the Annual Meeting are due on Tuesday, January 21. All chairpersons and officers of the church need to submit one. Please email your report to Kelton.

+ The **church office will be closed** on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

+ **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.

+ 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.

+ 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!

+ **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.

+ We provide **large print bulletins and hearing devices** for the hearing and visually impaired.

+ **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 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



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