

The Country Christian



Sierra Christian Church

August 2017



August Overview

Please plan to come on August 13 to vote for Christine to be our part time pastor and to welcome her in her new role.



At a Congregational Meeting on August 13th, called by our Board Chair, Karen Steinke, the congregation will be asked to vote on a recommendation from the Board of Directors to call Christine Pobanz-Stelter as our part-time Pastor effective September 1, 2017. During the current year, Christine has served as Interim Transitional Minister and her new call will be open-ended. The Board is enthusiastic about her continuing as our Pastor and invites your presence to affirm this decision!

Blessings,

Cliff Cole, Chair, Negotiation Team

REPORT ON THE VISIONING PROCESS



So, how is the visioning process progressing, you might ask. Before answering that I would like to thank those of you who participated in the work. It has not

been easy. But it has been valuable. We have celebrated our history and strengths, examined our challenges and weaknesses, using Scripture we have explored what it means to be a church, and together we have identified our core values.

During our last gathering we began to imagine ways in which we can grow in our relationship with God and each other—how we might use the gifts God has given us, and how we might best utilize the sacred space that has been entrusted to us. We recognize that we come together and worship in a blessed place. God’s spirit is with us not just on Sundays when we gather, but those times when volunteers work the community garden, when alcoholics meet, when Sierra Christian Church folks and other community members walk the labyrinth’s spiritual path, and when Head Start opens its doors to local children and teaches them that they are deserving of the world’s gifts. This is the foundation we have come to recognize, the rock upon which we can build our future.

As we looked at who we have been and who we are now, we acknowledged some obvious things: we are aging and have buried beloved friends; in our congregation we have teachers and chaplains, nurses and caregivers; we have loved ones battling health issues, and we are men and women who love God. From that came the first glimpses of our vision: health and wellness. Not just ours, but the greater community’s, and what our role in creating a more vibrant “village” might look like. Our wellness requires us to stretch ourselves and move beyond the walls of Sierra Christian Church.

What this means and what it will look like is the work that is now in front of us. The visioning team will begin exploring ways we can build on the health and wellness theme, and then present their ideas to the board of directors. Please continue to keep the members of our visioning team in your prayers as they begin this crucial phase of our work.

If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Pastor Christine

Elders' Schedule

August 6– Gary Weatherly

August 13 –Joy Reed

August 20 – Liz Thorne

August 27 – Pam Margo

Good by David DiSandro And Thank You

SCC is bidding farewell to David DiSandro as of July 31, 2017. It has become necessary for him to resign as the staff person for buildings and grounds. His tireless efforts and willing and cheerful presence will be missed at SCC both as an employee and a good friend. He is wished the best as he moves on.



The Board of Directors along with Pastor Christine will be looking at the many ways needed to fill David's shoes. There are some very simple and easy tasks as well as major needs. If you feel you can help in your way to meet the needs around the building and grounds of SCC, please talk to Board Chair, Karen Steinke or Pastor Christine. Thank you for prayerfully considering opportunities to serve SCC.

Tent Revival!

Awaken Your Spirit

Celebrate our 80th Annual
Women's Fall Retreat Together

Sept. 22-24, 2017

**Mission Springs Conference Center
Scotts Valley, CA**



Celebrate the 80th Annual Women's Fall Retreat on Sept. 22-24! Rev. Dr. Christal Williams is our fiery keynote speaker -- you will be revived and renewed at this retreat with time for quiet contemplation, too. Register now for the best room options. For full consideration of a scholarship, apply by August 18.

Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens was elected to serve as the General Minister and President of the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#) in the United States and Canada. She is the first African-American to hold this post and the second woman to lead the denomination.



Hord Owens comes to the position in a time of renewed emphasis on the issues of race, particularly in the United States. Her election comes on the 50th anniversary of the Merger Agreement uniting the African-American and largely white branches of the American-born denomination. She is currently pastor of a predominately white congregation in the Chicago area.

Hord Owens' [resume](#) includes more than 20 years in corporate America leading diverse teams in data management before she entered seminary. For the last 15 years, she has been the dean of students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, shepherding a varied student body in both background and theology. The election of Hord Owens follows the 12-year tenure of the Rev. Sharon E. Watkins, who was the first female to lead a mainline denomination in the United States upon her election in 2005. Hord Owens' term is six years with an option for re-election in 2023 for an additional six-year term.

We are a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a member of the Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada. Our Vision is *to Welcome and Nurture all people as We Become more Faithful Together in a Loving Relationship with God.*

“**The Country Christian**” is a monthly publication of Sierra Christian Church. For more information about the church or to contact us, please call 916-624-8733 or 916-771-9933. Or visit our website at www.sierrachristian.com. Our email address is office@sierrachristian.com.

Our Church Staff

Ministers.....Our Congregation
 Accompanist.....Bob Wyrick
 Webmaster.....Jack Rollins
 Editor.....Janet Peck
 edgarpeck@yahoo.com

WHERE We Are

5645 Rocklin Rd, in Loomis.
 DIRECTIONS: Exit I-80 at Rocklin Road and go east past Sierra College. The church is on the left, about ½ mile past Sierra College Blvd. We are on top of a hill. Look for the beautiful red barn The overlooking the wonders of God’s nature!



