

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation



WE COME TOGETHER
AT THE TABLE

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California-Nevada members, clergy and lay, are invited to join the Regional Minister in three zoom calls to talk together about strengthening the mission and ministry of our life together. The conversations will take place on Tuesday, July 7, 21, and August 4 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. July 7 (Deep Christian Spirituality); July 21 (True community); August 4 (A Passion for Justice). Zoom registration is required.

Sierra Christian's Re-Entry Plans are Tabled

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases has prompted Sierra Christian Church's Re-entry Task Force to suspend plans for resuming Sunday morning worship in the barn.

The brakes were not applied to the groups who utilize Sierra's facility conditioned that they agree to and follow the procedures and protocols the task force outlined for them.

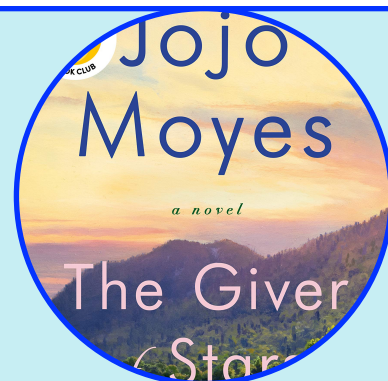
When initially convened, the task force, comprised of Pam Margo, Connie Cole, Steve Kindle, and Pastor Christine, had two consuming tasks: determining what procedures needed to be established to allow the AA groups and the Seventh Day Adventists to once again gather and meet at church; and under what conditions

See VIRUS, page 3

The Giver of Stars

Books That Bind, Sierra's Book Club, is now reading JoJo Moyes's "The Giver of Stars." The story of five women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. a novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when we reach beyond our grasp for the great beyond. Thursday, July 16, 7 pm.

(Note: Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held Saturday, July 11) at 9 am)



Pastor's Pitch—Pride in Accepting our Family, Friends

The winds that took care of the recent heat wave have also managed to blow June off our kitchen calendar with almost no warning. Suddenly it's July, but before she went, June, ever proud, provided us several transcendent opportunities to expand our understanding and appreciation of the world's abundance and our communities' grace-filled diversity. June was Pride Month, and as an Open and Affirming Congregation that recognizes there is a need at Jesus's table for everyone, we focused our attention on our gay and transgender family and friends, listening to their stories to better understand their struggles to fully be what so many of simply take for granted—themselves!

By listening, we become empowered.

Pride Month rose from the brick and smoke of the June 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, which did not erupt because members of New York's LGBTQ community decided it was time to to embrace and accept themselves for who they are, but because it was high time that the world accept the LGBTQ community as it is. As Steve Kindle emphasized in his reflection Sunday morning, being an ally to the LGBTQ community is not about stepping up and proclaiming our intention to save them, but about finding our legs to humbly stand with them and let them save us with their voices and honored presence among us.

Earlier in the month, our childcare staff person, Jay Coe, shared in a powerful and dramatic poem the pain he has experienced coming to terms with his sexual identity. In a strong, sure voice, he challenged the legitimacy of the metaphorical box we are all placed in at a young age, with its rigid sides and sharp corners, its unfair expectations and standards. To bust out of the box because you don't comfortably fit inside it requires faith and strength and courage, along with the support of family and friends to help with the inevitable pain that comes with such an undertaking. Jay's journey is one Jesus would embrace.. Jay's words and performance was not asking us to save or rescue him. He was, rather, challenging us to accept him. By doing so, we become more fully who we are entitled to be. We grow more whole. It is his gift to us.



Rev. Christine Pobanz-Hartmire

June also included the reading of 1 Corinthians: 12, where the Apostle Paul writes in timeless and timely fashion: "There is one body, but it has many parts.... It didn't matter whether we were Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free people. We were all given the same Spirit to drink. So the body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts... God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be."

The message is clear. Without the amazing variety and diversity of all peoples, we are diminished and not whole. To cut someone out of our life because of the gender they define for themselves, or their sexual preferences, is to cut ourselves off from the greater good of the world. Jay Coe's brave struggle to be Jay Coe makes us more human, closer to God. Just as Kelly Boutwell's story helps us to be more complete.

A few weeks ago, she reflected on her experiences embracing her evolving sexuality. The element of her story that resonated painfully was her reasoned decision not to publicly come out of the closet until after her father died. The decision was not based on her reluctant acceptance of herself, or having doubts about what it was that defined her—she was clear on that—but on her father's likely reaction. She knew he would be unable to accept the news with anything resembling grace or aplomb. In fact, the resulting pain would be, in her estimation, unqualified and unnecessary,—a gift he deprived himself.

June 2021 is a year away. Taking pride and accepting everyone no matter their sexual identification orientation is a daily privilege. Just ask the Apostle Paul: "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part... If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

VIRUS

See *VIRUS*, page 5

could the Sierra congregation safely worship together on Sunday mornings.

With the withering rise in COVID-19 cases, it was determined that there were no safe conditions for the Sierra Congregation to safely worship together in the big red barn. For the groups choosing to use the property, the specific conditions required for their gathering were agreed upon by the task force and presented to the Board for approval. They were then shared with the AA secretaries and the Seventh Day Adventists for signature. The bottom line requires them to follow capacity guidelines spelled out by the state and county—23 in the sanctuary, 10 in Lockie Hall—and, equally critical, leaving the facility hygienically clean and safe for others. Only one of the AA groups and the Seventh Day Adventists are planning on meeting, the other groups are waiting an additional 30 days.

With the continued availability of, and increasing experience with, Zoom, rushing back is not necessary, probably just foolish. Nor did it escape the task force's notice that a number of congregations in the region had announced a return to in-person worship only to quickly rescind the decision due to the changing situation.

Not more than 48 hours after the task force's prescient decision, local officials sounded an alarm that had an eerie familiarity.

The region is nearing a new tipping point, according to health officials, and if residents don't heed the virus's virulent stubbornness, it could spread beyond containment. This dire pronouncement was not limited to Governor Gavin Newsom. It was echoed by Sacramento County's Public Health

chief, Dr. Peter Beilenson, who went a step or two further imploring residents not to gather in large groups for the Fourth of July weekends.

"No parades," he said. "No barbecues. We are asking people not to gather this weekend."

Churches were also being asked not to sing or chant.

Newsom issued his own warning last week about the collectively festive Independence Day weekend.

He remarked how people start out with the best intentions, arriving with their masks on, then "they put their mask down in order to have a drink, eat some food and all of a sudden, the cousins get a little closer, the kids are jumping on top of you. All the normalcy of life, love, family, relationships, you let your guard down and we are seeing a lot of that," he said.

CCNC-N Family Camping at CGC July 10-19, 2020



Come enjoy a few days or a week at CGC!

We have distancing protocols in place to ensure a safe family experience in the beauty of the Sierras.



Bobbitt Cabins \$85/Night (5 available)

Each cabin sleeps up to 10. Full Bathroom.

Summer Cabins \$55/Night (5 available)

Each cabin sleeps up to 10. Shower House

Tent Camping \$40/Night for up to 5 people.

Claar House \$500/Night.

Sleeps up to 20. 5 full bathrooms. Full kitchen

- All families will do their own cooking in Bobbitt picnic area or Summer Outdoor Cook shed (except Claar House). Refrigerators available.
- Bobbitt Hall & Bobbitt shower house will be closed. Summer Area shower house will be open.
- Families should bring their own sports equipment like balls, Frisbees, etc.
- Families should bring all their own cooking supplies and camp stoves.
- Pool will be opened 12-3PM when 3 or more families are camping to cover lifeguard costs
- Sorry, no pets allowed.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

CONTACT Leanne Stump, Registrar, Jokeca@aol.com OR 925-323-3184

Email or call Tina Heck with questions at tinasueheck@uccr.org OR 530-265-6636

Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

JULY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 28	29	30	1 2 pm Children's Time with Pastor 7 pm Drop-In Prayer	2	3	4 4 th of July!
5 10:30 am Worship on Zoom	6	7	8 2 pm Children's Time with Pastor 7 pm Drop-In Prayer	9	10	11 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
12 10:30 am Worship. See Zoom link box	13	14	15 2 pm Children's Time with Pastor 7 pm Drop-In Prayer	16 Books That Bind. 7 pm on our Zoom channel	17	18
19 1 10:30 am Worship.. See Zoom link box	20	21	22 2 pm Children's Time with Pastor 7 pm Drop-In Prayer	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship. See Zoom link box	27	28	29 2 pm Children's Time with Pastor 7 pm Drop-In Prayer	30	31	Aug. 1

Restart Ministries Update

Though Re-Start Ministries shut down operations due to COVID-19 the need for their services did not slow down. Wayne Worden reports receiving more than 135 calls during the shutdown. Back up and operational since June 1, Worden has been steadily returning every call received. Since the reopening, and as of this writing, Re-Start Ministries has seen 18 clients and orchestrated a handful of pickups.

Writes Worden: "I continue to be amazed (though not surprised) at how God works through this ministry. On the evening of June 4, I picked up a donation of new and like-new handicap items from a widow of a veteran. The items included a hospital bed, walkers, shower chairs, commode, transport wheelchairs, an electric scooter, and a bumper-mount lift for the scooter. About a half hour after I picked up the items, I learned that a friend of mine in a local motorcycle club had fallen 12 feet off a ladder THE DAY BEFORE! I called the widow who donated the items and told her I already had someone who needed them. Nearly in tears she said, 'What? It's only been an hour!' I responded that this is how I watch God work all the time!

"My friend broke both his legs at the ankles. A week later, he was home with both legs in casts. Thanks to God's timing, Re-start was able to supply him with all the handicap things he needed for his recovery."

Two Stories of Awareness To Chew On

There are these two guys sitting together in a bar in the remote Alaskan wilderness. One of the men is religious, a man of faith, the other is an atheist, and they are arguing about the existence of God with that special intensity that comes with sitting in a bar drinking beer.

The atheist says, "Look, it's not like I don't have my reasons. It's not like I haven't ever experimented with the whole God and prayer thing. Just last month I got caught away from the camp in that terrible blizzard, and I was totally lost and I couldn't see a thing, and it was 50 below, and so I tried it. I fell to my knees in the snow and cried out 'Oh, God, if You can hear me, I'm lost in this blizzard, and I'm gonna die if you don't help me.'"

The religious guy looks at the atheist all puzzled.

"Well then you must believe now," he says, "After all, here you are, alive."

The atheist just rolls his eyes. "No, man, all that happened was a couple Eskimos happened to come wandering by and showed me the way back to camp."

It's easy to slap our foreheads at the atheist's certainty that the Eskimos happening by was merely fortunate happenstance, but that is only some of what the story is begging us to consider.

And it's easy to dissect the story by saying how it is that the same experience can mean two totally different things to two different people, given those people's two different belief templates and two different ways of constructing meaning from experience.

But let us also consider the question of certainty so staunch it becomes arrogance. The atheist in the bar is so totally resolute in his dismissal of the possibility that the passing Eskimos had anything to do with his prayer to God he is shut down to whatever grace and growth that seems to always be available if we open ourselves to the possibility—to, if you will, take that proverbial leap of faith.

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Consider
Doubting

Thomas, whose uncertainty created in him such a cavernous space in which to receive the possibility of a faith so robust and resounding that it led him to preach the Gospel to the outer limits of the known world. His doubt led to a greater faith than certainty could ever have allowed.

To be uncertain is uncomfortable, but to be certain can be suffocating, and sometimes our certainty blinds us to the obvious. It's all a matter of awareness.

A second story: There are these two young fish swimming along and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says "Morning, boys. How's the water?" The two young fish swim on, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and asks, "What the heck is water?"

There are times when the most obvious and important realities are often the ones that are hardest to recognize. Again, it's about being aware of God's grace, diversity, and the world's abundance.

Unless notified, our link to all Sierra Christian meetings, gatherings and worships is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4212017769?pwd=ZW5lUjQ4NHpFQjViUVJqVW5VRmdjUT09>

The Meeting ID is: 421 2017 769

The Password is: 543838

The phone number to dial in is: 1-669-900-6833

This is the monthly newsletter of **Sierra Christian Church**. Representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville and surrounding areas, we are a member of the Christian Churches of Northern- California.Nevada. For more information about us, please call 916-624-8733, or visit our webpage at www.sierrachristian.com, or send an email to PastorChristine@yahoo.com

Prayers & Celebrations

- ▶ Congratulations on your 234th Independence Day, America! Happy July 4!
- ▶ Happy Anniversary to Cliff and Constance Cole on July 23.
- ▶ Very happy July 11 birthday wishes to musician Bob Wyrick.
- ▶ Happy Anniversary to Pam and Randy Margo on July 24.
- ▶ Happy July 2 birthday to Jack Rollins!
- ▶ Continued healing prayers for Bob as he continues chemo and radiation.

July in Christian History

July 2, 1752: The first English Bible published in America rolls off presses in Boston.

July 8, 1896: At the Democratic National Convention, fundamentalist William Jennings Bryan gives his famous speech supporting "the little man" of American life. "You shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold," he shouted.

July 8, 1741: Colonial Congregational minister Jonathan Edwards preaches his classic sermon at Enfield, Connecticut: "You are thus in the hands of an angry God; 'tis nothing but his mere pleasure that keeps you from being this moment swallowed up in everlasting destruction."

July 10, 1925: The Scopes "Monkey Trial" begins in Dayton, Tennessee, as John Scopes, defended by Clarence Darrow, is tried for teaching evolution to his students. Though William Jennings Bryan, acting as prosecuting attorney, won the courtroom battle, the creationists lost the public opinion trial.

July 11, 1955: Congress puts "In God We Trust" on all U.S. currency.

July 19, 1848: More than 300 men and women assemble in the Wesleyan Chapel in New York, for the first formal convention to discuss "the social, civil

and religious condition and the rights of women." The event has been called the birthplace of the women's rights movement.

July 21, 1925: Biology teacher John T. Scopes is fined \$100 for teaching evolution. He lost his trial, but because of it, fundamentalists lost respect and retreated from the foreground of Christian influence.

July 25, 1918: Walter Rauschenbusch, Baptist pastor and theologian of the Social Gospel, dies. His books influenced many, including Martin Luther King, Jr., who said that "Rauschenbusch gave to American Protestantism a sense of social responsibility that it should never lose.

July 26, 1925: William Jennings Bryan, American editor, politician, and anti-evolutionary leader, dies five days after being publicly ridiculed for his role in the Scopes "Monkey" trial.

July 29, 1794: In a converted blacksmith's shop in Philadelphia, former slave Richard Allen assembles a group of black Christians who had faced discrimination in the local Methodist Episcopal Church. They formed the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the mother church of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, now known throughout the world.