

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, storytellers, and singers of song."
— *Unknown*

"An almost perfect relationship with his father was the earthly root of all his wisdom."
— *C.S. Lewis*

"Lately all my friends are worried they're turning into their fathers. I'm worried I'm not." — *Dan Zevin*

"I take back my early statement that 'I could never fall in love with a girl who regularly poops her pants.' I hadn't met my daughter yet."
— *Dax Shepard*

"My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'"
~ *Harmon Killebrew*

Sandy Barry's Father, Don McLaughlin

My "foster dad" was Don McLaughlin. As he was taking his last breaths, I massaged his hands and spoke to him of my love and gratitude for his love.

Dad was a man known by just about everyone in our little town, and was, in fact, selected to be the "Honored Citizen" for the big annual Cherry Festival Parade. Dad was a father, a church Elder, a City Council member (twice-50 years apart), and volunteer fireman for 50 years. He served on the San Geronimo Pass Memorial Hospital Board, and he brought home root beer floats on many a summer Sunday evening.

He was a loving man, father, husband, who came from a ranching family in Tombstone Territory, moving to our small town after marrying my foster mom. They were married 65 years. And I miss knowing he is in this world every day. He loved his gin and tonics almost as much as I loved those root beer floats., so here's to you Dad!

--Sandy Barry



Honored Citizen, Don McLaughlin

The Sierra Christian Church Newsletter will be taking a summer break, returning September 2023

A Daughter's Letter to her Parents

I can't stop the tears that roll down my face. Many grow up in broken homes wondering what this thing called "marriage" is. Of course, you don't know all the answers, and you always haven't been graceful, but you have stayed together.



**Norm & Iris Pobanz
with Daven, their
grandson**

On that day when you became one, you took vows of love—vows that committed to good and bad, healthy and sick, rich and poor. As difficult as it's been, you have done your very best. You have sacrificed your wants and ways, and loved despite the rest. At times, you have denied and hidden, but ever truly run.

I have many days that I look to the heavens and release from inside the joy that fills my being, and I think my God in Heaven for parents and friends like you.

Mom and Dad. Thank you for including me in the vows you took on that Wonderful Day!

I love you!

Christine

April 28, 1992, on the occasion of the Norm and Iris's 30th Wedding Anniversary.

**One cannot help but be in awe
when contemplating the myster-
ies of eternity, of life, of the mar-
velous structure of reality."
—Albert Einstein**

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Sunday 6/04/2023 4pm pst

**A Virtual Fundraiser to Benefit
CA PPC Delegation to The 2023 Moral
Action Congress June 19th - 22nd in
Washington, DC**



CALIFORNIA

Poor People's Campaign

**Presents a Rarely Seen Historic
Documentary**

**Part II - the Legacy continues
KING: A FILMED RECORD
Montgomery to Memphis
joining us Special Guest
Danny Glover**



**RSVP to hold your spot
https://bit.ly/CAPPC_MoralCongressFunds**

**"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so
ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man
around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was
astonished at how much the old man had learned
in seven years."**

~ Mark Twain

Prayers & Celebrations

- ➡ Leaps of joy and high fives for Daven Stelter as he gets confirmed on June 4, and moves on to the 10th grade!, and while we're mentioning Daven Stelter, it so happens he turns a whopping 15 on June 27.
- ➡ To all fathers everywhere: Happy Father's Day. (Selfish note #1: a most special salute to the our father, Rev. Wayne C. Hartmire, who would have turned 91 on June 5!
- ➡ Anniversary celebration #5 to Pastor Christine and John. (And it seems like only yesterday they were exchanging vows at Bass Lake)
- ➡ Continued prayers and support to Pastor Casey Martinez-Tinnin of the Loomis Basin Congregational United Church of Christ. A Proud Boy nut job has positioned himself outside Casey's home with a megaphone shouting out to passing cars that Casey's a pedophile. It continues to astonish us the price we sometimes have to pay for doing the right thing, and the vileness and lack of decency some will display because the right thing scares the bejeezus out of them.
- ➡ Congratulations to Karen Steinke's daughter, Michelle! Closing the door on her oncologist and continued health!
- ➡ Kudos to Liz Throne's grandson, Jake—bring on Rio Del Oro High!
- ➡ Congrats to Susanne Davis, settling into her new apartment and a successful cataract surgery. The world is looking better, and will continue to do so, as a second surgery has been scheduled for this month...

Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Sierra Christian Church is sponsoring a fascinating Zoom workshop every Wednesday evening in August. Moderated by Rev. Steve Kindle, it will explore Jesus' understanding how the Kingdom of God was diametrically opposed to Rome's notion of Empire. But unless the Empire's influence is moved from lurking in the background of the New Testament to front and center, we miss seeing what Jesus came to teach us. From 5:30 to 7 pm starting August 2 and continuing on Wednesdays until August 30, all are encouraged to attend and participate in this fascinating dive into theology and history. Our Zoom link will be the door in. An email invitation will be forthcoming.
2. Books that Bind meets Thursday, June 15 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are reading, "Hart's Ridge," by Kay Bratt
3. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast scheduled for June 3, at 9 am, on Zoom, was cancelled. It will be rescheduled.
4. It's baseball season. That's all. No further words needed.
5. We will be holding a Congregation Meeting following church services on Sunday, June 18 to approve the new budget for fiscal year 23-24.
6. The National Benevolent Association, a general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will hold its annual SENT seminar for people feeling a call to entrepreneurial ministry. Thursdays, September 7-28, 2023, at 4pm. This year's theme, "Changing the Narrative" will focus on storytelling and feature speakers who will share stories of how they brought their social enterprises to life. Speakers include Rev. Dr. William Barber, Rev. Dr. Mary Donovan Turner, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III, and Dr. Jennifer Madden. Sessions will also include pre-recorded material. For more information and to register and add the dates to your calendar go to <https://www.nbacares.org/event/2023-sent-seminar>
7. Sunday, June 25th is our Congregational Meeting. Following services that morning, please remain on line or in the barn to discuss and approve the 2023-24 church budget.

A Father Explains When Joy Seems Inexplicable

My father became friends with Peter Matthiessen when the writer came to California in 1968 to meet Cesar Chavez for a New Yorker article. The article later became a book, and Matthiessen and my father became friends. Matthiessen, who died in 2014, is the only author to ever win the National Book Award for both fiction and non-fiction. My father, who died last December, told me soon after hearing the news of Matthiessen's death that there was one story Matthiessen regretted never having written. He told my father he did not know how to describe the experience without offending friends.

I am relying on my memory and my father's notes, which are neatly penned on canary yellow legal pads he did all his writing and musing on. There is one where he has jotted down the whimsically wise things his granddaughters said out of the blue back when they were young and had not yet started editing themselves.

Matthiessen was, among other things, a devout Buddhist, and the story he lamented never writing in a way that captured the moment involved visiting Auschwitz and Birkenau, the Nazi death camps in Poland, those dark scars on the earth and in our history where 2 million were roasted because they were Jewish. My father's eyes teared slightly as he recalled this conversation with his friend. People from all over the world now visit these camps to pray.

Along with friends, Matthiessen stayed in those camps for a week at a time, wandering through them, weeping, sitting for long hours in prayer, walking silent through the museums. Some of his companions were so spooked and oppressed by the spoor of evil they felt in the air and walls, in the ground and silence, they could not get out of bed some mornings.



Author Peter Matthiessen, left, with Chris Hartmire and Cesar Chavez, back in 1968

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

--Marianne Williamson

One night in Auschwitz, he described to my father, they were all gathered together in one room, more than a hundred visitors, when a rabbi reached out with both hands and grasped the hands of the people standing next to him. Slowly, most of the people began to hold hands, and then they began to sway a little, and then some began to cautiously dance, and then, my father recounted Matthiessen's words, there rose up in that room such a powerful and profound joy that they were stunned, speechless, confused. Apparently, everyone in that room felt an unexpected sweeping joy, and some ran out horrified that they were dancing and joyful in that place of such horror and evil.

Matthiessen asked my father how could there be dancing and joy that night, in that place of all places?

My father, who always seemed to have the an-

Please see JOY page 7

Jesus Versus Caesar: The Struggle Continues

The New Testament may be the most important political document ever written. It displays for all to see how Jesus' understanding of the Kingdom of God was diametrically opposed to Rome's notion of Empire. But unless the Empire's influence is moved from lurking in the background of the New Testament to front and center, we miss seeing what Jesus came to teach us.

This Zoom seminar will uncover Rome's presence on virtually every page and lead to a rich understanding of the gospel then and our place in the world now.



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN AUGUST FROM 5:30 TO 7:00 PM

“Jesus Versus Caesar,” presented by Rev. Steve Kindle. Steve is an ordained Disciples of Christ pastor and executive director of Clergy United, Inc. He recently retired from ministry and is devoting his time to increase biblical awareness so that the Bible's ancient message becomes relevant for today.

Did you know that:

To pray the Lord's Prayer put one's life in danger during the first few centuries of the church?

Jews couldn't walk a mile without a reminder that Rome owned them?

Jesus was executed as an enemy of the state because he was an enemy of the state?

“Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's,” is one of the most misunderstood sayings of Jesus, and how its true meaning is an act of sedition?

- August 2** An overview of the Roman Empire in contrast to the Kingdom of God
- August 9** The Gospels and the Roman Empire
- August 16** The Epistles and the Roman Empire
- August 23** The Book of Revelation and the Roman Empire
- August 30** The Powers and Principalities: Empire in our day

Us Old Folks Are Worth a Fortune

Us old folks are worth a fortune. With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs. I have become more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I'm seeing five gentleman every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I hurry to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along and he takes a lot of my time and attentions. When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and hangs around most of the day. (He doesn't like to stay in one place for too long, so he takes me from joint to joint.)

After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay.

What a life!

—Courtesy of Norm Pobanz, from an old Dear Abby Column

Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	1	2	3 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
4 10:30 am Worship <u>Zoom Only</u> Daven Stelter's Confirmation	5	6	7 7 pm Prayer Fellowship	8	9	10
11 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15 7 pm Prayer Fellowship	16 6:30 pm Books That Bind	17	18
18 10:30 am Worship Father's Day!	20	21	22	23	24	25
25 10:30 am Worship	26	27	28 7 pm Prayer Fellowship	29	30	1

Jim Bishop describes the feeling he had when his daughter became engaged: "This is the third of four daughters. Every time it happens, I'm obsessed with the feeling I'm giving a million-dollar Stradivarius to a gorilla.

"When asked about his father, Al Unser, Jr said, "Well he taught me everything I know. Unfortunately, he didn't teach me everything he knows."

Three things you probably will not hear any father say anytime:

- "You know Pumpkin, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for un-chaperoned car dates. Won't that be fun?"
- "I notice that all your friends have a certain hostile attitude. I like that."
- "Here's my credit card and keys to my new car. Go Crazy."

JOY

(Continued from page 4)

swers when I was growing up, and even moreso now that I am almost grown up, looked at me and asked if I understood what might have happened to Peter and his friends that night. I had no answer.

He nodded. "Baseball makes more sense, but what if this was an evolutionary thing Peter witnessed? And God?"

"Yeah?"

My father's eyes sparkled as he spoke. "We came down from the trees and out of the caves some 60 million years ago. We were weak and slow and naked, and to survive, we evolved great brains and ferocity and a penchant for killing because that meant staying alive, and there wasn't much discretion about it. We killed everything, including each other. History has shown time and time again that we are capable of unspeakable evil. The Nazis are not unique. I think Peter and his friends felt that evil and thirst for killing while at Auschwitz.

"But they also experienced something else, and this is the good news. I know from experience, from what I've seen, that our morality and capacity to love developed right alongside our physical and intellectual selves. We are every bit as good as we can be evil. One is less loud, has a quiet, sustaining power, and I think it sometimes reveals itself as reasonless joy in what may seem like the most absurd of times and places as a reminder. God reminds us."

I am just now, at age 66, beginning to understand how good a man my father was—not just as a father, but as a man. He never had all the answers, despite me growing up thinking he did, but he understood and embraced the fact that there are times that God reveals to us a joy that compels us to hold hands and dance, even if only God and the Joy itself knows why.

My father's life helps me understand the grace that Joy offers.

—John Hartmire

Norm Pobanz Carries Father's Integrity Forward

When my grandson Daven did a report for school a few years ago he interviewed me as someone he admires. What I think he admires about me are the traits and values I learned from my father. Case in point: I can clearly remember being a boy in South Dakota and hearing adults say, "If Fritz says he will do something for you, you will not ever need a contract. His word is good enough." I have tried to live that way as well.

One other quality about my father that forever

impacted me and guided my life is that despite having only a third grade education, he could compute numbers in his head like a human calculator. And if he was being offered a price for, say grain, and it didn't make sense based on what he understood to be the price per pound, he would stop the transaction and question it. It had to calculate and make sense to him.

I think this is why I became an engineer.

--Norm Pobanz

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What Happened in June in History

1st June

1938 Superman appears for the first time in D.C. comics.

1967 Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band released by The Beatles.

2nd June

1924 Congress passed the Indian Citizenship Act, which conferred citizenship on all Native Americans born within the territorial limits of the country.

1935 Legendary baseball player Babe Ruth retired.

4th June

1919 The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote, passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification.

5th June

1968 US Senator and presidential candidate Robert Kennedy is shot after winning the California Presidential primary. He died the following day in a Los Angeles hospital.

6th June

1944 World War II Operation Overlord/D-Day.

2001 A Los Angeles court awards \$3 billion in punitive damages to Richard Boeken against cigarette maker Philip Morris saying they did not do enough to warn him of the dangers of smoking. Boeken died on year later.. The award was eventually reduced to \$50 million and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear Phillip Morris's appeal.

7th June

1968 James Earl Ray captured at London airport two months after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

11th June

1944 The five Allied landing groups, made up of some 330,000 troops, converge in Normandy.

2001 Timothy McVeigh executed by lethal injection for his role in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

13th June

1966 Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered The Supreme Court landmark Miranda vs. Arizona decision, establishing the Miranda rights.

14th June

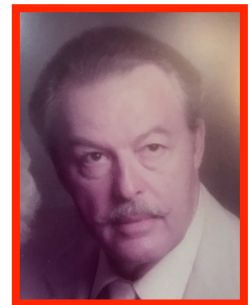
1940 German tanks rolled into Paris and took control of the city.

1942 Anne Frank began her diary after she received it for her 13th birthday.

See HISTORY, next page

Steve Kindle Shared his Father with All of Bismarck

For many of us brought up in the 1950s, our fathers were more remote than they are today. In fact, I did not really get to know my father, although he was a daily presence in my life, until I was an adult. I knew him mostly as the face of NBC TV in Bismarck ND, often voted best dressed North Dakotan, and emcee of things like the Miss America Pageant. Yet, I had a strong sense that he loved me and my brother.



Larry Kindle

After I was discharged from the Marine Corp, we began having adult conversations. He confessed to me that he didn't know how to relate to us as children. He left the details of raising us to our mother. But as adults, we got along splendidly. We enjoyed a loving, fun, and heartwarming relationship through the next 40 years. Diane adored him from their first meeting.

We miss him greatly.

—Steve Kindle

History

(Continued from previous page)

17th June

1972 5 men arrested for breaking into Watergate Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.

18th June

1948 Columbia Records publicly unveiled its new long-playing phonograph record, the 33 1/3, in New York City.

19th June

1953 Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are executed at Sing Sing Prison.

1968 50,000 people participated in "The Poor Peoples March" organized by Martin Luther King Jr.

20th June

1893 A jury in New Bedford, Mass., found Lizzie Borden innocent of the ax murders of her father & stepmother.

1910 The First Father's Day was celebrated for the first time in Spokane, Washington

21st June

1877 Ten members of the Irish Miners Group, the Molly Maguires, hanged for murder.

2003 JK Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" released and becomes the fastest-selling book ever.

22nd June

1970 President Nixon signed a bill to lower the voting age to 18 for all federal, state and local elections.

24th June

1901 First major exhibition of Pablo Picasso's artwork displayed in France.

25th June

1876 Custer's Last Stand during the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

1950 North Korea attacked South Korea starting the Korean War.

26th June

1906 The first French Grand Prix, the first race of its kind to be held anywhere, was staged in Le Mans.

1945 50 nations signed the United Nations Charter, establishing the world body as a means of helping to stop another World War.

28th June

1919 Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles with the Allies, officially ending World War I.

29th June

1956 Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act to create 41,000 miles of interstate highways.

30th June

1997 JK Rowling's first Harry Potter book "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" released in the United Kingdom.

"Sometimes I think my papa
is an accordion. When he
looks at me and smiles and
breathes, I hear the notes."
—Markus Zusak,
"The Book Thief"