

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

It Is A Blessing That We Are Here For Each Other

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said

Pastor's Pitch



Sierra Christian Church's pastor is the Rev. Christine Pobanz-Hartmire. Her challenge to us is to embrace, the beautiful truth that everyone is always welcomed at Jesus' table.

Pooh.

"Hello

Pooh.

Hello

Piglet,"

said

Eeyore,

in a Glum Sounding Voice.



"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now."

Pooh glanced at Piglet, and Piglet glanced at Pooh, and they both settled, one on each side of Eeyore in his twig abode.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

PITCH

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"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There.

AA Milne wrote the Winnie the Pooh stories for his son Christopher as a way to explain the effect WWI had on him. Eeyore represented depression, isolation — Milne's PTSD symptoms — and in the excerpt above, Pooh and Piglet provide us a beautiful picture of the "ministry of presence."

Remember Job's three friends? They led, arguably, the greatest counseling session ever when they "sat and mourned with him (Job) for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great (Job 2: 13). And then they blew it by delivering speeches about suffering and judgement and God's wisdom, and how it is a result of something done. Sometimes, just being available is the greatest ministry we can provide.

Thank you, Sierra Christian, for your continued ministry, this "ministry of presence." Your presence in each other's lives helps us remember that we are never alone, no matter how alone we may at times feel.

It is good that we, Sierra Christian Church, are here for each other. Sometimes simply sitting still and quiet together.

An Invocation Worth Sharing

The Reverend Holly Morrison, pastor of the Phippsburg Congregational Church, UCC, Phippsburg, Maine, delivered the invocation to the Maine State Senate on March 26, which happens to be the birthday of Robert Frost, one of New England's, and the entire nation's, most cherished poets. He won four Pulitzer Prizes for his poetry. On his tombstone is a quote from one of his poems:

"I had a lover's quarrel with the world."

Pastor Morrison's invocation:

Please join me in a spirit of prayer, however you understand it.

Holy One, speaking of lover's quarrels, the calendar claims it's spring, but we are behind on snow, and the storms still rattle us.

Some of us are up to our axles in mud, and some still trapped by ice.

Our minds, like the roadsides, are littered with last season's roughly-used ideas.

You know every road we travel, here and home again, and you understand the toll.

Holy One, bless each of these travelers, however far they've come.

Bless these civil servants, these Spring pilgrims.

Put some of your Spring in their step. Get the sap running.

Give them the woodcock's bold hope, the snowdrop's endurance, the golden willow's willingness to bend.

Give them the wisdom of wild geese, to move in a different direction when the time is right, to help each other face the headwinds with loud encouragement.

And grant them, even in ice and snow and mud, a sense of promise that moves from the grassroots up, restoring our common ground and the common good.

Prayers & Celebrations

- ▶ Cliff Cole has a birthday on April 24!
- ▶ April 12 is Gabby Hines' birthday!
- ▶ Prayers for Iris Pobanz and her family. She is on hospice.
- ▶ Prayers for Janet Peck and her family. She, too, is on hospice.
- ▶ Continued positive thoughts for Cliff and Connie Cole, who though 100 miles away in Fresno have never felt closer as they carve out their new lives and with friends in the raisin capital of the world.
- ▶ Continued healing prayers for Jack Rollins, Maureen's husband. His hand is recovering while Maureen chops up the tree branches that fell in last month's storm.
- ▶ Celebration and woof woofs for Gaye Wilhelm, who welcomed 5-year-old Brodie into



her life. A Golden Retriever-Terrier mix, both dog and Gaye are overjoyed with each other, as long as Gaye's arm holds out that is. Apparently, the dog can chase a ball until the cows come home.

▶ Healing prayers and thoughts for Hunter Morgan, healing from successful ear surgery.

Pulpit Supply Upcoming

On the one Sunday each month that Pastor Christine is off doing whatever it is she chooses to do on those Sundays, the Sierra Christian Church pulpit will be admirably "supplied:"

April 14 Rev. Kevin Raidy (Hybrid)

Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Books that Bind now meets every other month. The book club will next meet Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are reading, "Hello Beautiful," by Ann Napolitano
2. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, at 9 am, on Zoom. The invite will be going out on Thursday.
3. The 2024 Annual Gathering will take place at First Christian Church in Concord on April 19-20, 2024. For more information, please contact Leslie Taylor at Leslie@concordfc-c.net.
4. You are invited to the 2024 National Faith + Climate Forum! Register today to join local faith leaders from across the nation as we answer the call to strengthen our congregations as we care for creation.
5. The National Faith & Climate Forum is set for April 16, 2024 from 9 pm - 2:15 pm. There are 3 ways to participate! 1) attend in-person at a location in your area with others and watch the LIVE online program (participation opportunities to be announced), 2) attend virtually live online, or 3) be a host for others. [Click here for more information...](#)
6. Adult Camp at the Community of the Great Commission is on for June 6-9. This year's theme is Survival of the Kindest, with Rev. May Jacobs as the keynote speaker. Register at [Summer Camps](#)
7. The Disciples' Men's Ministry will be having a live Tri-Regional Retreat starting on June 1 and ending on June 2. Location will be Mills Creek Christian Church in Bakersfield, CA. Please mark your calendars and look for registration information shortly. Rev. Dr. Paul Koch is the keynote speaker.

A Palm Sunday Labyrinth Walk



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— Rev. Darrell Goodwin

#motivationmondays
 @Revdgoodwin

CGC Workdays

April 12, 2024 — April 13, 2024

At the Community of the Great Commission

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday	1	2	3	4	5	6 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
7 10:30 am Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 am Worship Rev. Kevin Raidy at the pulpit Hybrid Service	15	16	17	18 Books That Bind 6:30 pm	19	20
21 10:30 am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship	29	30	1	2	3	4

Annual Gathering 2024 Set For This Month

Annual Gathering 2024 will take place at First Christian Church in Concord on April 19-20, 2024, and will be a joint effort from East Bay churches! Volunteers from Lafayette Christian Church, First Christian Church in Vallejo, and First Christian Church in Vacaville will work with members of FCC-Concord to make this Annual Gathering a wonderful experience for all. Any members of other East Bay churches who would like to participate in planning the Annual Gathering, please contact Leslie Taylor (Leslie@concordfcc.net). Planning Team meetings have started.

Some Significant April Dates in History

April 1, 1850— Sacramento's population was estimated to be 150.

April 1, 1859— The SS Oregon arrived in San Francisco from New York. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company ship carried the first mail, freight and about 400 passengers to the Gold Rush. Most of the sailors jumped ship and took the captain two months to rehire a crew.

April 1, 1976— Apple Inc. of Cupertino was formed by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne. They incorporated on January 3, 1977. Wonder what happened to them?

April 2, 1772— Father Juan Crespi found a bay, later named Suisun Bay, that he thought was a shortcut to the Colorado River. Crespi was wrong.

April 2, 1942— The California legislature ordered Japanese Americans fired from state civil service jobs. They feared Japanese Americans would not be loyal to the U.S. after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

April 3, 1848— The first American public school in California opened on Portsmouth Square in San Francisco. Thomas Douglas, a Yale graduate, was the first teacher. His salary; \$1000.

April 4, 1850— Los Angeles incorporated. Today it is the most populous city in California, second most populous in the U.S. after New York City.

April 4, 1850— Fire burned Sacramento. Eight buildings on Front Street were destroyed in 30 minutes. Some \$100,000 in merchandise was lost at a time when the population was around 150.

April 5, 1880— Stockton authorized a tax to establish a public library. It opened in two upstairs rooms at the corner of Main and San Joaquin in 1881. In 1906 2,362 people had library cards and that May they borrowed 4969 items, including 847 children's books.

April 5, 1941— Horse-drawn streetcars on Castro and Fillmore Streets in San Francisco were replaced by buses.

April 6, 1847— Ojai Rancho was deeded. The 17,717-acre Mexican land grant in present day Ventura County included what became Ojai in 1917

April 6, 1969— New baseball statistic: Bill Singer, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher, was credited with the first official save in a game against the Cincinnati Red Sox.

April 7, 1911— The San Francisco Police Board examined nine Mission saloon keepers who were cited for selling liquor to women decoys.

April 9, 1850— Fresno, San Francisco, San Mateo and Tehama counties were established.

April 9, 1981— A last second starter, Fernando Valenzuela, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher, shut out the Houston Astros 2-0 on opening day in his rookie year. In his first 8 starts of his rookie year, he went 8-0, with 7 complete games, 5 shutouts and 4 earned runs surrendered in 72 innings, Fernandomania was born.

April 10, 1878— The California Street Cable Railroad Company started service. On opening day, 11,000 people rode the 1.7 mile line to the top of Nob Hill where the Bonanza Kings were building palatial homes.

April 11, 1976— The original Apple Computer, later known as the Apple I, was released. Designed and hand-built by Steve Wozniak, it was demonstrated in July at the Homebrew Computer Club in Palo Alto.

April 11, 2008— Haight Ashbury Food Program in San Francisco closed their soup kitchen due to reduced grants and donations. It served as many as 450 people a day for some 25 years.

April 15, 1910— San Francisco Police arrested Kitty Plunket, known as Jolly Trixie, for being deformed and exhibiting her deformity in a show house.

April 16, 2005— Marla Ruzicka, 28-year-old founder of Campaign for Innocent Victims of Conflict, died in a car bombing in Iraq. She had been there on and off since the March 2003 invasion be-

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HISTORY

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gan. The California-based group went door-to-door to identify civilian casualties.

April 18, 1906— The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire struck, killing some 3,000 people and destroying more than 80% of the city; one of the largest natural disasters in U.S. history.

April 19, 1847— Mail service began between San Francisco and San Diego. It was provided by two soldiers on horseback.

April 22, 1970— The first Earth Day spawned events at thousands of U.S. colleges, elementary schools and community centers. It “brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform.” Now it is observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the Earth Day Network. It is considered the start of the “environmental movement.”

April 22, 1984— Ansel Adams, photographer, died in Monterey at age 82. He was famous for his photographs of Yosemite Valley. Adams redefined the artistic standards and possibilities of landscape photography.

April 23, 1969— Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968. He has been denied parole 13 times.

April 24, 1908— Mr. and Mrs Jacob Murdock left Los Angeles driving their Packard on the first cross-country car trip. There were no gas stations so, in most cases, the fuel was purchased at department stores or mechanical workshops where it was stored in sealed canisters. They reached New York City in 32 days, 5 hours and 25 minutes.

April 24, 1995— Gilbert Murray, 47-year-old California Forestry Association president, was killed by a mail bomb at his Sacramento headquarters. The bomb was from the Unabomber.

April 25, 1846— Mexican forces defeated U.S. military in a skirmish along the Rio Grande called the Thornton Affair. The ambush and capture of Americans was a reason U.S. President James K. Polk declared war with Mexico.

April 26, 1859— Peter Lassen, for whom the county and mountain were named, was murdered in the Black Rock Mountains in the Nevada Territory. He arrived in Mexican California around the same time as John Sutter and settled on a 22,206-acre rancho north of Sutter’s Fort. As a trail blazer, he established the Lassen Cutoff of the California Trail, which he falsely promoted as a short-cut, which led to much suffering and might have been the reason for his murder.

April 28, 1850— Grace Episcopal Church of San Francisco was organized as a parish by the first regularly appointed Episcopal missionary to California. Today Grace Cathedral is an international pilgrimage center for church-goers and visitors.

April 28, 1973— Thousands of bombs on 18 railroad cars, headed for the Vietnam War, exploded over 18 hours in the town of Antelope. Fifty-five hundred structures were damaged. The accident led to passage of the Transportation Safety Act of 1974.

Books That Bind meets Thursday, April 18, 6:30 pm on Zoom

Men’s Fellowship gathers Sat., April 6, 9:00 am on Zoom