

# Sierra Christian Church

## *An Open and Affirming Congregation*

## Janet Peck, 1934-2024

When Janet Peck died peacefully in her bed Saturday afternoon, Sierra Christian Church lost one of its pillars. For years she was responsible for the church's newsletter and weekly bulletin, tracked special offerings and kept the church apprised of regional events of note, and it is rumored, though never substantiated, that she single-handedly re-shingled the barn's roof after painting it one afternoon while her crock pot cooked the evening meal.

Okay, the last part may have been a bit apocryphal, but there is nothing but truth to her significance at Sierra Christian Church. Her place in our community is only part of her story, of course. Being married to Edgar Peck was an adventure in itself, and it drew out the best parts of Janet, a seemingly indefatigable willingness to be a support, an organizational wizard, someone who when seeing something that needed to be done did not hesitate to stand up and do it. She was also the mother of three children, and anyone who has raised three children knows to tip a cap to her success in raising her three.

Janet had a very secured seat in our beloved barn, but don't be fooled. Her place stretched from corner to corner, from ceiling to floor, across our grounds and into our lives and grateful memories.



Janet was a quiet but strong presence always present. I feel so blessed to have had the recent lunches with her

— Liz Throne

I remember how Edgar could make her laugh, which was often. She had the greatest laugh.

— Pam Margo

I probably knew her the least of any of you. But I think of her, showing Grace, kindness, and serenity. And I'm also glad I got to celebrate her birthday and visit with her when her room at Eskaton was new. A very gentle, sweet soul.

— Beth Murphy

Janet will be missed for all the giving and caring she blessed upon Sierra Christian Church. She was a huge support to the Sacred Space Retreat Ministry led by her husband Edgar and myself. We held weekly (and special) events at Sierra, and she was there. She was present! We offered many retreats and workshops to the region, to various congregations, and for clergy in, and Janet was always there with her insight and support, her crockpot full of yummy meals, and/or fresh baked communion bread – whatever was needed. She was an Angel on Earth, and now she's with her Beloved Edgar in Heaven.

— Diane Wilson

I first met Janet when I led the adult bible study at camp in 1998 (or so). She brought most of her family with her. Her quiet, sweet demeanor stood out, exuding with love. Her presence in the church and region was always as a servant. She never failed to let us forget the wider church offerings, no doubt because her commitment was worldwide.

Thank you all for sharing your fondness for her. She is missed, yet her influence remains.

— Steve Kindle

I shared this memory with Christine the other day, upon hearing the news of Janet's passing. It was before church, maybe 5 or 6 years ago, and Daven, probably 9 at the time, was clowning around near the piano and Janet snapped at him, with a tad too much urgency in her admonition. She immediately took on a stricken look recognizing her overreaction and apologized to Daven without missing a beat, telling him what he had been doing did not merit her response and she was upset at her herself for it and wanted to tell him how wrong she was.

All this took about 15 seconds. Janet was like that. Ripe with humility, and honest with herself and others. Feet on the ground; head square on her shoulders.

--John Hartmire

## Listening to stories about Janet you can't help but be struck at

how well or how little we knew her. There are so many facets to our lives, aspects to our personalities, interests passions, the adjectives that can be used to describe life well lived abound. It is certainly true of Janet Peck. Her son, Gary, shared a most telling story about Janet's optimism and forward against the current spirit.

It was November 1965 and the Peck family was living on the East Coast. Edgar was out of town on business when the great blackout hit, plunging most of the eastern seaboard into darkness.

Home with her young children, Janet popped up from where she was sitting and said, "Well, I'm going to make a fire in the fireplace and roast hot dogs. Who's with me?" What Gary, who was five at the time, remembers about the great 1965 Blackout that left an estimated 30 million people without electricity for more than 12 hours was "laughing with my mom roasting hot dogs on the end of coat hangers."

It is an epitaph we could all be proud of.



## Prayers & Celebrations

- We missed Liz Throne's birthday last month. Balloons, cake and candles for Liz, born on April 26.
- We also missed Norm and Iris Pobanz's wedding anniversary, which was April 28. They've been married 662 years. Wait... Our bad... It's 62 years! Congratulations!
- Prayers and appreciation for Sandy Barry. Her Sunday reports, her minute taking at board meetings, are tasks that do not get lauded enough. But, boy, are they ever appreciated!
- Continued healing prayers for Jack Rollins, Maurine's husband. She reports that he is able to dress himself now and take on some light tasks. His hand is healing. Maurine's MS has not been helping her handle the added responsibilities around the house. She reminds us, however, everyday, that while she may be slowed she is far from stopped.
- Celebrations with Joy Reed, having become a great grandmother for the 8th time. Hello Adalyn! And stay tuned, number 9 will be here very soon!

Inclusion isn't  
just *inviting*  
someone to sit at  
your table.

@miacarellawriter

It's *believing* they  
belong there.

MIA CARELLA, WRITER

## Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Books that Bind now meets every other month. The book club will next meet Thursday, June 20 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are reading the immensely popular and intriguing 2007 novel, "The Shack," by William P. Young. The book was self-published in 2007 but became a best seller, having sold a million copies by June 2008. (Sierra Christian screened the 2017 movie in the barn one fine Sunday afternoon)
2. Our Men's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, at 9 am, on Zoom. The invite will be going out on Thursday.
3. The Sierra Christian Church Board of Directors meets Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 pm on Zoom.
4. MAY 17-18 are the workday dates at CGC. Raking pine needles, cleaning cabins, & tidying up the recreation areas for our youth and adults who will be at camp in June. We will begin on Friday morning and end Saturday afternoon. You are welcome to come up Thursday night. We only ask for \$5/meal, No lodging fees. Bring your sleeping bag and work gloves! Please RSVP to Tina Heck at [tinasueheck@yahoo.com](mailto:tinasueheck@yahoo.com) or 530-575-5196
5. The Disciples' Men's Ministries is taking a leap of faith and 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. Registration information coming soon.
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](#).

# Earth's population is approximately 7.8 billion, and...

11% are in Europe; 5% is in North America; 9% - in South America; 15% - in Africa; 60% are in Asia; 49% live in villages.; 51% - in cities

12% speak Chinese

5% in Spanish

5% in English

3% speak Arabic

3% in hindi

3% in bengali

3% in Portuguese

2% in Russian

2% in Japanese

62% in their own language

77% have housing

23% have nowhere to live.

21% of people eat in excess

63% can eat as much as they want

15% of the people are malnourished

The daily cost of living for 48% of people is less than \$2.

87% of people have clean drinking water

13% either do not have clean drinking water or have access to a contaminated water source.

30% have internet access

70% do not have internet access

7% receive a higher education

93% of people never went to college or university.

83% can read

17% of people are illiterate.

33% are Christians

22% are Muslims.

14% are Hindus

7% are Buddhists

12% - Other Religions

12% have no religious beliefs.

26% live for less than 14 years

66% have died between the ages of 15 and 64.

8% of people are over 65 years of age.

**JUST WOMEN**  
EMBRACING LIFE  
2024 JUST WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

**PRE-ORDERS**  
FOR  
*Just Women*  
2024  
**BEGIN TODAY!!!**

**\$21**

12 LESSONS | AMAZING WRITERS | FEATURE ARTICLES

PRE-ORDERS RECEIVE FREE SHIPPING

\*\*ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED IN OFFICE BY DECEMBER 20TH TO QUALIFY FOR FREE SHIPPING\*\*

Visit the Disciples Women Online Store  
at  
[www.discipleswomen.org](http://www.discipleswomen.org)

**THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS:**  
SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH  
MATTHEW 13:16 - 17

## Ubuntu Everyone!

An anthropologist proposed a game to children in an African tribe.

He put a basket of fruit near a tree and told the children whoever got there first won the sweet fruits.

When he told them to run they all took each others hands and ran together, then sat together enjoying their treats.

When he asked them why they had run together like that as one could have had all the fruits for himself they said: 'Ubuntu, how can one of us be happy if all the other ones are sad?'

Ubuntu in their civilization means: "I am because we are."

They recognize that the key to happiness and prosperity is not all that complicated, though it seems to have been lost or dismissed by much of the industrialized, uncivil world.

**OUT OF 100% OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE, ONLY 8% LIVE TO BE 65.**

## Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

# May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
5 10:30 am Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <b>Mother's Day</b> 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15 6:30 pm Board of Directors	16	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

## Camp Questions Answered at New Website

Have you ever been talking to parents about sending their kids to camp and they told you they didn't know enough about the camp, had never seen pictures, didn't know where it was, etc.?

Have you ever talked to kids about going to camp and had them ask to see what the cabins looked like or what kind of things they might do at camp? Have you ever thought about attending Adult Camp, but wondered what a typical day's schedule was?

We have a website for that! <https://www.campatcgc.info>

## Historical May Dates in California and Elsewhere

**May 1, 1841:** The first wagon train left Independence, Missouri for Oregon. The 70 farmers followed a fur traders route to the Columbia River. That became the Oregon Trail.

**May 1, 1860:** The first school in California for blind children opened in a small wood frame building in San Francisco. Forty-eight students enrolled in 1866. It became the California School for the Blind.

**May 1, 1992:** The Los Angeles Dodgers postponed three games due to the riots over the Rodney King beating.

**May 2, 1925:** Kezar Stadium opened in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. It was home to the 49ers and Raiders and a concert venue for Led Zeppelin, Jefferson Starship, Grateful Dead, Carlos Santana, Crunchees and other bands. Bleacher planks were sold to fans before the place was demolished.

**May 3, 1942:** President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. It called for evacuating Japanese-Americans from Los Angeles. Some 110,000 Japanese-Americans living on the West Coast were eventually forcibly held in 10 relocation camps through much of World War II.

**May 4, 1998:** A federal judge in Sacramento sentenced Theodore Kaczynski, known as the "Unabomber," to four life sentences plus 30 years after Kaczynski accepted a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty.

**May 4, 1999:** Manuel Babbitt, a 50-year-old Vietnam veteran, was executed at San Quentin Federal Prison for murdering an elderly woman in Sacramento. He refused his last meal but asked that the \$50 allotted be given to homeless Vietnam veterans. Babbitt was buried with full military honors in Massachusetts.

**May 5, 1907:** Streetcar workers in the Carmen's Union, demanding a \$3 per day for an 8-hour day, went on strike in San Francisco. Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railroads, hired James Farley to break the union. Thirty-one people died from shootings and streetcar accidents and 1100 were injured.

**May 6, 1907:** President Theodore Roosevelt declared Lassen Peak and Cinder Cone as U.S. National Monuments. Today the area is Lassen Volcanic National Park. The peak is the largest plug dome volcano in the world and the southern-most volcano in the Cascade Range.

**May 9, 1926:** A bomb exploded in front of the main entrance of Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in San Francisco. It was targeted by anti-Catholic anarchists, who made five bomb attacks against the building in a year.

**May 11, 1854:** Amador County was established in the Sierra Nevada. It is "The Heart of the Mother Lode" in Gold Rush country. The county was split into Amador, Calaveras and El Dorado counties and part of its territory was also given to Alpine County.

**May 11, 1880:** A U.S. Marshal and deputies faced a group of San Joaquin Valley farmers over a land dispute with the Southern Pacific Railroad. They had developed an irrigation system that turned the land into an agricultural area. The Railroad claimed the land and won a suit to that effect. Seven men were killed in what became known as the Battle of Mussel Slough.

**May 11, 1908:** The Hetch Hetchy Dam was approved. The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire made it clear that the city needed a large, reliable source of water. Hetch Hetchy Valley, northwestern of Yosemite, drained by the Tuolumne River, was selected for development.

**May 12, 1928:** Joe and Tom Longs, brothers, opened their first store in Oakland. They bought Bill's Drugs, a 20 store chain in northern California, in 1993. Then CVS Caremark bought Longs Drugs for \$2.9 billion in 2008.

**May 13, 1846:** The U.S. declared war on Mexico. U.S. forces occupied Alta California and New Mexico then invaded Mexico. Combat lasted to the fall of 1847. In the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico surrendered those territories to the United States.

*History continues on the next page*

## HISTORY

**May 13, 2007:** A mother humpback whale and her calf were spotted swimming up the Sacramento River. On May 29 they returned to San Francisco Bay and were spotted outside the Golden Gate the next day.

**May 14, 1856:** James Casey shot and killed James King of William. King, a San Francisco newspaper editor, printed articles accusing Casey of being a corrupt politician and an ex-con from New York.

**May 15, 1841:** The Bartleson-Bidwell Party left Independence, Missouri. Seventy men, women and children headed west with 15 wagons and two solid-wheel carts. John Bidwell, one the first overland travelers into Nevada and California, kept a journal. He described landmarks and the surrounding countryside, which guided later Overland Trail travelers.

**May 15, 1856:** The second San Francisco Vigilance Committee was organized in response to James Casey's murder of James King of William (see May 14, 1856). They took Casey from the sheriff's custody, gave him a short trial then hanged him.

**May 15, 2008:** California became the second state to legalize same-sex marriage. Under the direction of Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco in 2004, marriage licenses were issued to approximately 4,000 same-sex couples. Newsom's authority was challenged but upheld by the state Supreme Court. A 2008 ballot measure Proposition 8, however, stopped same-sex marriages until the court decided the ban was unconstitutional.

**May 17, 1924:** The Giant Dipper roller coaster opened in Santa Cruz. It was built by local resident Arthur Looff in 47 days for \$50,000. It was declared a Historic Landmark in 1987 and by 2012, some 60 million people had ridden it. Check it out: <https://youtu.be/Rn3gFZaaKJk>

**May 17, 1971:** The musical Godspell, based on Matthew's gospel, opens at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York.

**May 18, 1926:** Aimee Semple McPherson disappeared. She vanished soon after arriving near Venice Beach where she went with her secretary to swim then stumbled from the Mexican desert on June 23rd. The event remains a mystery in the life of the evangelist-media celebrity, founder of the Foursquare Church. Many contended it was a staged kidnapping. Others argued she had run off with a former employee for a tryst. It was never really solved to anyone's satisfaction.

**May 23, 1971:** Lou Welch, Beat poet born in 1926, walked away from Gary Snider's home in the Sierra foothills after leaving a suicide note. He had a Smith & Wesson .22 caliber revolver. His body was never found.

**May 25, 1977:** "Star Wars," re-titled "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope" premiered in theaters, inspiring the Jediism religion and Geek Pride Day holiday. The original Star Wars trilogy is considered one of the best film trilogies in history. It was produced at Skywalker Ranch in Marin County. Six years later to the date, the third movie of the trilogy, "Return of the Jedi," premiered.

**May 26, 1958:** San Francisco's Union Square became a state historical landmark. It was named for pro-Union rallies held there on the eve of the Civil War.

**May 30, 1934:** The first synod of the Confessing Church at Barmen ends. Influenced by Karl Barth, the synod produced the Barmen Declaration and marks the formal establishment of the "Confessing Church," led by Karl Barth, Martin Niemoeller, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in opposition to the Nazi "German Christian" church.