

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Easter Sunday at Sierra Christian



Easter Sunday at Sierra Christian Church featured breakfast and fellowship, bunny ears and puppy dogs. Somehow, in sitting together sharing eggs, sausage, fruit, and pancakes, we were reminded that Easter teaches us life never ends and love never dies."

Easter Sunday 2025, Sierra Christian Church style



On following, Abundance, Scarcity & Value

This has not been an easy one to write. There are five dogs running around the house this week, tree trimming is going on across the street and it is loud, my son's struggles endure as does my ongoing sparring with the insurance company, my husband is suddenly wrestling with his value and place at work and he does not wrestle quietly,, and the weather is feeling a lot like Spring. Sitting down at my desk to write this Pastor's Pitch is not a simple task this month. There are a lot of distractions.

If I do get this in written in time for the newsletter here's a sneak preview of Sunday's scripture reading: John 21: 1-20. In it, Jesus asks Peter three times about his love, and three times Jesus connects that love with feeding or tending his sheep. Knowing what we know about Peter, it is nothing short of compelling and telling that Jesus is encouraging Peter to be bold in his love for God by loving others in word and deed. Jesus knows better than anyone how massively Peter can fail at this task, but Jesus does not let that be the end of the story. He knows where Peter's earthly story will end, and it is one of faithfulness and martyrdom.

Then there are the final words: "Follow me." Jesus's urgency to follow him is a not so veiled command that showing love for others is how you show love for him. Love is, for Jesus at least, the act of feeding and tending his sheep, and his sheep are every one of us. That this love also includes a prophecy of hardship and even death (reminding us that where we may end up is not where we might want to be, but it is where following Jesus and his call to love may lead us) can be a tad daunting is not lost on Jesus. But it is who He was. Look where his incalculable love took him.

I can't help but think that in that process of following, even to places where we do not want to go, we will meet Jesus like the disciples did on that beach. That in these places where we are loving others in order to show our love for God, we will *know* God, even if it feels awkward or peculiar or hard. Maybe that is the point.

Knowing God.

I know I want more than anything for my son to know God. Maybe that will help him know himself and understand in his bones that he is enough. Wonderful and invaluable and enough!. Why else is there only one of him in the universe?

The dogs are settling at my feet, the tree trimmers are taking a break and all I hear is the sweet sound of my wind chimes in the backyard, my husband is wrestling quietly for the time being, and so I want to take a slight turn in wrapping this up.

We understand, yes, that the more scarce a resource is, the higher its value. (Please understand this, Son). The most valued gems and minerals are not the ones you find in your own backyard. The most valued skills are not walking, or the ability to boil water.

But here's what perplexes me. We seem to both value and fear scarcity simultaneously. Jesus, remember, tells a parable about a farmer who had a large harvest and instead of seeing it as more than enough he saw it as not enough. So, the guy builds bigger and bigger barns to store his crops for himself, which is its own hell in a way – treating abundance as scarcity. Because then, regardless of how much there is, it's truly never enough. Never enough money.

Never enough food.

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.

Pitch

(Continued from page 3)

Never enough attention.

Never enough love.

Never enough time.

Never enough good being done.

When we believe that there is a scarce amount of what's most valuable, we grasp so very tightly at what we believe is ours. Remember the toilet paper hoarding in the early days of the pandemic?

In light of all this, what is it that I hoard in fear of scarcity?

My time? Do I hoard my heart? My energy? I'll have to think more about that.

But spiritually, I just don't think that is how things work. I don't think that scarcity is where the value of something originates for God, I mean, come on, God did not create the heavens and the earth by holding back in case s/he ran out.

And I've always love how the sacraments are the stuff of everyday life: Bread, wine, water. Juice. Nothing fancy.

So, in the distractions and noise of my life these days, I'm thinking that maybe the more valuable something is, the more common it is. People. Human love, great dogs, growing trees, air, water, bread, songs, dirt.

Following.

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

@miacarellawriter

It's *believing* they
belong there.

MIA CARELLA, WRITER

CGC WORK DAYS MAY 29-31, 2025

The Disciples's Community of the Great Commission needs work before the summer camp season begins. Volunteers and friends are being asked to prep the Bobbitt & Holland Areas before the kids and adults descend on the camp for all the adventures and peace and possibilities that await them.

Work begins on Thursday, May 29, mid morning, and concludes on Saturday afternoon, May 31.

Meals offered Thursday dinner thru Saturday lunch. The cost is \$5/meal, and there are no lodging fees. Bring your sleeping bag and work gloves. Folks will be staying in Claar House.

Please RSVP to Tina Heck at tinasueheck@uccr.org or 530-265-6636.



Two-week-old Maia Lynne Schweiger sizing up her Great Grandfather, our very own Dick Reed.

Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Continued positive prayers to Daven, as his journey toward health continues.
2. Congratulations to Rev. Shannon Gomez, who on April 27 was called to be the settled pastor for the Christian Church of Woodland. She will begin her ministry at Woodland on July 1. The Woodland congregation is grateful for Evan Stanfill who has served as the interim since July 2024.
3. The Board of Directors meets Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30 pm on Zoom
4. How time flies department: Seem like only yesterday this newsletter was celebrating Cliff's granddaughter Elise's acceptance to the Air Force Academy. Now we tip our metaphorical wings to her (can Cliff) as she has graduated and prepares for her assignment at the Mississippi air-base.
5. Books That Bind, meeting next on Thursday, June 19, at 6:30 pm on Zoom, is reading "Texas Outlaw," by James Patterson.
6. Happy Mother's Day! To one and all!

Adult Camp

AT THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

JUNE 5-8



We are thrilled to welcome
Rev. Leslie Taylor
as our keynote speaker.



Our theme this year is
"Changer & Changed"
We will explore balancing
activism & self-care



Accommodations at Claar House are limited! Rooms will be assigned on a first come-first served basis. Bobbitt & Summer cabins are available. Tent & RV campers are welcome.

RENEW RELAX REJUVENATE

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ONLINE AT
WWW.CCNCN.ORG

Contact Tina Heck at tinasueheck@yahoo.com with questions.

Women's Ministry Council Launching Newsletter

The Regional Women's Ministry Council is looking to restart a quarterly newsletter. CCNC-N Women's Newsletter & More. Anyone and everyone is welcome to sign up for the newsletter - the more the merrier!

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Shannon Kitchens at:

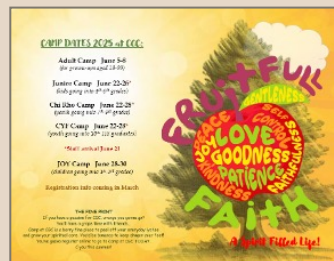
shannonkitchens@gmail.com.

Summer Camp Regis- trations Now Open

Registration
for the

CCNC-N 2025 Summer camps at the
Community of the Great Commission is
now open.

To register, [click here](#).



Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

May 2025

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

List & Links of Regional Events

May 29, 2025 [CGC Workdays May 2025](#)

July 12, 2025: [2025 General Assembly](#)

October 10, 2025: [Men's Ministries Retreat](#)

October 17, 2025: [Women's Fall Retreat](#)

Some Significant May Dates in History

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 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, 1851— Sydney Ducks, a gang of Australian ex-convicts, set fire to a store on San Francisco's Portsmouth Square. It was the fifth fire in 18 months. Two thousand buildings burned. The loss was estimated \$12,000,000. Since there was no police force, the Committee of Vigilance formed, hung some criminals and drove others from the city.

May 4, 1998— A federal judge in Sacramento sentenced Theodore Kaczynski, known as the "Un-abomber," 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 4, 2012— Federal agents in southern California arrested Michael Franks, age 29, suspected in 10 bank robberies. He was dubbed the "Snowboarder Bandit" for wearing snowboarder clothes.

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 7, 1964— Pacific Air Lines Flight 773 crashed near San Ramon, killing all 44 aboard. The FBI later reported that a cockpit recorder tape indicated the pilot and co-pilot were shot by a suicidal passenger.

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 9, 2013— Pamela Marie Devitt, age 63, was fatally mauled by a pack of pit bulls while walking near her home near Palmdale. Alex Jackson, age 29, owner of the dogs, was charged with murder. The dogs guarded his pot-growing operation. Jackson was sentenced to 15 years to life.

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 13, 2007— A mother humpback whale and her calf

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HISTORY

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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 14, 2013—San Francisco prosecutors charged six current and former San Francisco Unified School District employees with 205 felony charges for allegedly misappropriating some \$15 million in public funds.

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, 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 contend 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 22, 1908—William Buwalda, U.S. Army Private, was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison for applauding and shaking hands with anarchist Emma Goldman.

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 27, 1937—President Franklin Roosevelt officially opened the Golden Gate Bridge by pushing a button to signal the start of vehicle traffic.

May 29, 1848—The *Californian* Newspaper reported that everybody was suffering from gold fever and the newspaper was being suspended because its staff was leaving for the gold fields.

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 Niemöller, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer in bold opposition to the Nazi "German Christian" church.