

Sierra Christian Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Norm Pobanz

November 4, 1934 - September 21, 2026

Norbert (Norm) Pobanz died on September 21 at around 11 pm. His daughters, Christine and Julie, and grandson, Daven, were with him when he took his last breath. He was 91.

Christine, who was up in the Pacific Northwest, got there by 10:00; he passed not long after she arrived, just slid on over to whatever awaits us.

He had a wonderful life—he'd be the first to tell you that. He loved his family. Was proud of his work. Was never shy to tell you how utterly lucky he was to meet Iris, and how astounded he was that she fell in love with him, too. He adopted her two children from a previous marriage, Bud and Cheryl, and together they had two girls, Christine and Julie. He had five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

His passing was a tad sudden, and to be honest, a bit inconvenient; but he was ready. He was tired and wanted to join his beloved Iris. Ram Dass said that death is like slipping out of a pair of shoes you've worn your whole life, that were always just a little too tight. We heard another wise person say that it was like falling asleep on the floor in the living room and waking up in your own bed. I imagine he and Iris are sitting together on a swing listening to birds and marveling together at all the good gifts around them.

Born in Los Angeles in 1934, Norm and his family moved to South Dakota when he was young. Her was a farm boy who grew up to become a big city engineer at Bechtel in San Francisco. In between, he threw a knuckleball nasty enough to draw the interest of the UCLA Bruins baseball program, but he opted to devote himself to his studies instead of the strike zone.

Throughout his professional career, he focused extensively on dynamic simulation, transient data analysis, and industrial process modeling. (Right?) The author of published papers on the subject, he also served as President of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International (SCS) from 1984 to 1986 and was the General Chair for conferences such as the Summer Computer Simulation Conference (SCSC) in Reno.

He was, as we all know, a man of deep faith, a Lutheran, and over the years he held just about every lay position at his church in Sunnyvale, CA, St. Luke Lutheran Church. He probably would have jumped the engineering ship for seminary and taken to the pulpit had his beloved Iris not made it clear—inordinately clear—that she was not cut out to be a pastor's wife.

That instinct people of deep and sincere faith have for knowing where the real beauty of life could be found was evident in Norm, and based on the reactions to the news of his passing, his belief and understanding of this boundless and gallant capacity for wonder was



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NORM

not lost on the people who crossed his path and came to know him.

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We'll keep on crying for a while until the sense of loss subsides, which it will. And we'll keep on doing the next right thing, on whatever spot of light we can find, because he would expect no less.

In the last few years, whenever you would ask him how he was, he would say, without skipping a beat, he would say, "Well, I'm still here."

Norm, because love works this way, "You will always still be here with us."



Norm's Celebration of Life
Saturday, October 24 2026, 3 pm
At Sierra Christian Church and on Zoom

Zoom link to Norm's Celebration of Life

Meeting ID: 421 201 7769
Passcode: 543838

A Conversation Between Pooh & Eeyore

On a pleasant day in the 100 Acre Woods Pooh asked Eeyore, "Do you think there comes a day when we finally forget someone who meant everything to us?"

"I don't think so, Pooh," Eeyore said in his slow, gloomy voice. "Not when they've left so many pieces of themselves behind."

"Pieces?" asked Pooh.

"Memories. Little sayings. Familiar places. Songs that suddenly make you think of them. Even ordinary days can bring them back for a moment."

Pooh looked quietly out into nothing in particular, and wasn't even thinking of honey when he said, "So perhaps remembering isn't something we have to try to do."

"Sometimes it happens when you least expect it."

"And sometimes it hurts," Pooh acknowledged.

"Very much," said Eeyore.

"Would it be better to have no memories at all?"

Eeyore thought for a long moment before saying, slowly, carefully, "No, Pooh. I would rather miss someone for the rest of my days than forget how wonderful it was to have them in my life."

Pooh nodded. "Then maybe the people who give us the most to remember are never completely gone."

"Where do they stay?" Eeyore wondered.

Pooh placed a paw over his heart. "Here. In all the stories we still tell, all the love we still feel, and all the little ways they changed us."

Eeyore turned to Pooh. "So forgetting isn't the way we move forward?"

"Oh bother," said Pooh, who was now thinking about a pot of honey. "Sometimes we move forward by carrying the beautiful things with us. I could sure enjoy some honey about now."



**DISCIPLES
WORSHIP Arts INSTITUTE**
*For Pastors, Worship Leaders,
and Worship Planners*

REGISTER NOW

DECEMBER 8-10, 2026
*Daytona Beach Drive-In Christian Church
Renaissance Oceanfront Hotel*
Early Bird: \$150 thru Aug 31; \$175 after
Group Room Rate: \$189 per night + tax

Speakers:

- Young Lan Kim
- Samuel Robles
- Megan Peglar
- Oscar Banks
- C. Anthony Bryant
- Andra Moran
- Baek Hee Kim
- Rhonda Padilla

Topics:

- Pre-Planning Rituals
- Saturating Themes
- Multi-sensory Design
- Sunrise Hymn Sing

QR Code:

This DHM Christian Education and Faith Formation experience is made possible through a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc.



HONORING THE SACRED PATH
**Indigenous Mindset, Collective Community,
& Creator-Gifted Hope**

An Anti-Racism Workshop presented from an **Indigenous Perspective**. Join us to explore how we can walk together in bravery, honor the Creator's gifts, and build a more just future rooted in collective strength and understanding.

DATE: November 14, 2026
TIME: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Zoom

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- Understanding Indigenous Mindset & Worldview
- The Power of Collective Community
- Bravery in Challenging Racism
- Hope and Resilience gifted by the Creator

Save the date!
Registration opening soon.

Presented in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

Affordable Housing Prop 1 Holds a Strong Lead—Good News

Proposition 1 on the November ballot would authorize \$11.25 billion in state general obligation bonds for affordable housing. This would be the funding stream that fuels the development of senior affordable housing on the Sierra Christian Church property. The latest news (see below) is good, and Sidney Stone is seeking to get the green light to resume work on the project. We don't want to take sides here (like heck we don't!), but below are several links with more details on the polling numbers and access to a Yes On 1 toolkit.

A new poll shows [the affordable housing proposition](#) has strong support among California's voters with just three weeks to go before ballots hit mailboxes.

A [new Public Policy Institute of California survey](#) reveals that 55 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes on the measure, while 43 percent would vote no. 75% of Democrats and 56% of decline-to-state voters support the measure. Support for Proposition 1 varies across partisan groups (75% Democrats, 19% Republicans, 56% independents) and between homeowners and renters (49% to 72%). The poll comes as welcome news a few weeks before October 6, when ballots start landing in voters' mailboxes.

(The survey also found that 44% of Californians say housing costs strain their family's finances — a number that climbs to 67% among those earning under \$40,000 a year. The full release is [here](#) — feel free to share it with friends and neighbors.)

The Yes on Prop 1 Social Toolkit is Here

With three weeks to go, keeping Prop 1 visible online — and growing the coalition of endorsers — matters more than ever. Below is a full social media toolkit with sample content, graphics, and ways to recruit new partner organizations

[View the full social media toolkit here!](#)

A few things you can do right now:

- [Download IG & FB graphics](#)
- [Download LinkedIn graphics](#)
- [Upload your Prop 1 sign photos](#) from events and conferences so we can feature them
- Follow and tag us: [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)
- Haven't endorsed yet? [Add your organization here](#) — and if you already have, help us recruit the next one.

Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Norm Pobanz's Celebration of Life is scheduled for October 24 at 3 pm, It will be held at the barn and on Zoom—<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4212017769?pwd=ZW51UjQ4NHpFQjViUVJqVW5VRmdjUT09&omn=81840467506>
2. October birthday blessings to Steve Kindle, (you remember Steve, right?) born on October 15 a few years ago. Oh, and his wife, Diane Kindle, was born on October 31.
3. And the birthdays keep on coming. Birthday wishes and prayers for all good things to come her way to Sandy Barry, whose birthday is celebrated on Oct 22.
4. Books That Bind next meets October 15. Having just finished the astoundingly readable and positive "Theo of Golden," by Allen Levi, we are now diving into the inspiring and thoughtful novel, "My Friends," by Fredrik Backman, a book of humor and poignancy, and life-affirming friendships. And maybe even a little about the role of art in our lives.
5. Men's Retreat at the Community of the Great Commission, 30303 Chicken Hawk Rd., Foresthill, California October 16 - 18, 2026. "Positive Masculinity for Changing Times, featuring Rev. Ted Firch. The times they are a-changing! Come join us for conversations (in a safe space) about what masculinity really means. This link takes you to... [Registration](#)
6. Speaking of men, Sierra's Men's Fellowship gathers around their respective computers on Saturday morning, October 3 at 9 am to discuss weighty matters like the cracks in the sidewalk and renaming Folsom Lake Lake Pobanz. Or not.

Regional Minister Search Committee Begins its Work

The newly formed Search Committee of the Region will work collaboratively with regional Disciples to find the next Regional Minister. August 29th was the committee's initial meeting, joined by the Regional Minister Search Partner, Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister of the Christian Church in Ohio.

Gratitude and appreciation for Rev. Dr. LaTaunya Bynum and her service and commitment to this region was expressed, and the committee enjoyed a shared confidence that her leadership and wisdom will be felt for many years to come, having created a foundation that will carry the region through this transition.

The committee is committed to confidentiality to uphold the integrity of the process, while simultaneously being transparent about the steps being taken and progress being made in finding the new regional minister. Updates will be forthcoming.

The committee members are:

Janet Chapman (Pastor, FCC Redding).
 Ted Firch (Retired Clergy, FCC Sacramento)
 Shannon Gomez (Pastor, CC Woodland)
 Nick-Choden Kolivas (Associate Pastor, Forest Hill CC)
 Ellie McDougal (Lay Leader, FCC Concord)
 Janice Williams (Lay Leader, Mills Grove CC)

Carl Cordes (Lay Leader, FCC Vallejo)
 Cathy Garza (Lay Leader, CC Pacific Grove)
 Jesse Kearns (Pastor, FCC Chico)
 Hilary Marckx (Senior Pastor, Geyserville CC)
 Hudson Navarro (Lay Leader, FCC Chico)

Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 6:30 pm Books That Bind	16 Men's Retreat through 10/18	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Norm Pobanz. Celebration of Live 3 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween!

List & Links of Regional Events

October 16-18, 2025:
Men's Ministries Retreat

November 5 & 12, 17 & 18:
Boundary Training



Christian Church of Pacific Grove presents

Holiday Bazaar

- Local Vendors
- Decorated Mini Trees
- Local Artists
- Holiday Decor
- Silent Auction
- Homemade Crafts

442 Central Ave @ Carmel Ave
Open @ Fellowship Hall and the Re-Sale Shop on Carmel Avenue in Pacific Grove, California 93950
Vendor Spaces Available
www.pacificgrovechurch.org

24th OCTOBER
10 am - 3 pm



HONORING THE SACRED PATH

Indigenous Mindset, Collective Community, & Creator-Gifted Hope

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Reconciliation Ministry Offering Approaches

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th

2025 Reconciliation Ministry SPECIAL OFFERING



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he committed to us the message of reconciliation.*



*We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
We implore you on Christ's behalf:
Be reconciled to God."*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



Some Significant October Dates in History

October 1, 1888—The first issues of the National Geographic hit the newsstands.

October 2, 1916—San Diego Zoo was founded in Balboa Park. Today it is home to some 3,700 animals of more than 650 species and subspecies. It pioneered open-air, cageless exhibits that re-create natural animal habitats and is one of the few zoos in the world that houses the giant panda.

October 2, 1968—President Lyndon Johnson established the Redwood National Park in northern California, just south of the Oregon border. It covers 106,000 acres and is home to the tallest trees on earth. It also protects prairies, oak woodlands, wild rivers and nearly 40 miles of coastline.

October 3, 1933—The Griffith Park Fire began in Los Angeles. Between 29 and 52 untrained volunteers died fighting the blaze, the deadliest in Los Angeles history.

October 3, 1974—Frank Robinson became the first Black manager in major league baseball when he took the reins of the then Cleveland Indians.

October 3, 1995—O. J. Simpson was acquitted of murdering Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman in Los Angeles.

October 3, 2001—Apple, headquartered in Cupertino, introduced the iPod. The MP3 music player stored up to 1,000 CD-quality songs in a 6.5 ounce design that fit in a pocket. It cost \$399.

October 4, 1880—University of California, now known as University of Southern California, was founded in Los Angeles. Tuition was \$15. There were 53 students and 10 teachers. Today, USC is home to more than 33,000 students and nearly 3,200 full-time faculty.

October 5, 1857—The City of Anaheim in Orange County was founded by 50 German-Americans from San Francisco. After traveling the state looking for a suitable area to grow grapes, they bought land from Rancho San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana for \$2 per acre.

October 5, 1921—For the first time ever, a World Series baseball game is broadcast live on radio.

October 6, 1966—LSD, the psychedelic drug, was declared illegal in California, the first state to do so.

October 6, 2008—Mother's Cookies, an Oakland bakery for 92 years, filed for bankruptcy. It was founded in 1914 when Woodrow Wilson declared that Mother's Day would be a national holiday.

October 7, 1996—A fire in Monterey County that burned 25,000 acres was started by Jeffrey Alan Avila. He tried to make money by leasing fire-fighting equipment to the U.S. Forest Service.

October 8, 1860—A San Francisco to Los Angeles telegraph line was completed. This became the first modern long-distance communication link in the West.

October 8, 1871—The Great Chicago Fire levels 3 1/2 square miles of the city. According to legend, Mrs. O'Leary's cow started the fire. (1871).

October 9, 1936—The Hoover Dam on the Colorado River began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles, 266 miles away. It generates 4.2 million megawatt-hours of electricity yearly for Nevada, Arizona and Southern California.

October 10, 1886—Griswald Lorillard of Tuxedo Park, NY cuts the tails off a tailcoat, creating the first tuxedo.

October 10, 1911—Women's suffrage, the right to vote, passed in California. It was defeated in San Francisco but supported in Los Angeles and won statewide by 3,587 votes. California was the 6th state to recognize women's right to vote.

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HISTORY

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October 11, 1906 –The San Francisco public school board ordered Japanese students be taught in segregated schools, causing Japanese outrage. President Theodore Roosevelt requested the order be reversed and promised to reduce Japanese immigration.

October 12, 1812 — Indians at Mission Santa Cruz revolted and killed Father Andres Quintana. Turns out he was fond of using a metal-tipped whip to punish Indian laborers at the mission.

October 12, 1933 — The Rock opens. Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay transformation to a maximum high-security federal prison to hold prisoners who caused trouble at other federal prisons was completed and opened to its first inmates. It was closed in 1963 when prison incarceration philosophy started embracing the notion of rehabilitation. Today it is a museum that draws some 1.5 million visitors annually. Other than its location, it is a gloomy place.

October 13, 1792 — The cornerstone was laid for the White House. We are pretty sure the current president has not dug it up yet.

October 14, 1848 — Sacramento was founded by Sam Brannan and John Sutter, Jr. at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers.

October 14, 1864 — The Klamath Lake treaty forced Modoc and Northern Paiute people from their traditional homeland, removing them to a reservation on Klamath land, which set the stage for the Modoc War of 1872-73.

October 14, 1947 — “Chuck” Yeager became the first person to travel faster than the speed of sound when he flew the X-1 at Mach 1.07 from Edwards Air Force Base.

October 15, 1966 — Huey Newton and Bobby Seale began the Black Panther Party for Self Defense. Their Ten Point Program called for adequate housing, jobs, education, an end to police brutality and more

October 17, 1989 — The 6.9 Loma Prieta Earthquake struck the San Francisco Bay area during the start to the 3rd game of the World Series: Oakland A's vs San Francisco Giants. 67 people died, 3,000 injured. It caused \$7 billion worth of damage to 28,000 structures and several freeways. 42 people died on the Cypress Freeway.

October 18, 1867 — The United States purchases the territory of Alaska from Russia for \$7.2M. What a deal that was! We don't think the current president has sold it back yet.

October 20, 1603 — The Chinese uprising in the Philippines fails after 23,000 are killed. Known as The Sanglely Rebellion, it was major armed uprising by ethnic Chinese residents against Spanish colonial rule in Manila in October 1603, which ended in the devastating massacre

October 24, 1871 — A mob of white men in Los Angeles killed 18 Chinese immigrants in the largest mass lynching in U.S. history.

October 25, 1849 — The Democratic Party in California formed at a meeting held in Portsmouth Square, which today is in San Francisco's Chinatown.

October 27, 1885 — Fresno was incorporated. Today this city in San Joaquin County is the fifth largest in California.

October 31, 1926 — Magician Harry Houdini dies from complications of a ruptured appendix, Nine days earlier,, a college student named J. Gordon Whitehead visited Houdini in his dressing room in Montreal and asked if he could take hard punches to the stomach. Before Houdini could tighten his muscles, Whitehead punched him several times. He died in a Detroit hospital from the infection caused by his burst appendix.

October 31, 2007 — U.C. Berkeley physicists announced production of the world's smallest radio out of a single carbon nanotube 10,000 times thinner than a human hair. They had it play “Layla” by Derek and the Dominos and said it could also function as a transmitter.