
SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



October 21 is the 145th birthday of the Disciples Women's Organization.

An open and Affirming Congregation, Sierra Christian Church is a safe haven, where all are welcome. We are a loving congregation unified in healing and wholeness, committed to growing spiritually, seeking justice, and reaching out to the community God's love and compassion.

October 2019

Paul & the Corinthians Continues

We have begun studying 1 Corinthians, Paul's seminal letter dealing with the problems that arose in Corinth. He reminds them (and us) that all are servants of Jesus and stewards of the mysteries of God.

In our remaining classes, commencing again on **October 13th** following worship, we will look at other factions and divisions within the Christian community in Corinth. The relevancy of the issues Paul addresses back in 51 AD are not lost on us in today's world. Our discussions are honest and the insights revealing. Please join us for this historical, theological and intellectual opportunity.

October's Elders

October 6 – Gary Weatherly

October 13 – Kelly Boutwell

October 20 – Pamela Margo

October 27 – Gary Weatherly

The new website is developing. Its unveiling will be soon

It's October, Which Means It's Trunk Or Treat Time!

On the Sunday before Halloween, October 27th at 3 pm, we will be hosting our Second Annual Trunk or Treat event for kids and their parents (and the rest of us). In our parking lot there will be games, treats, holiday-themed vehicles to haunt and delight. This is open to the community—the more the scarier. We need Sierra Christian families to commit their vehicles and time and frighteningly best energy to make this a successful event. If interested, or curious, please contact Pastor Christine for more information.

Pastor's Pitch: In Praise of Our Women

Recognizing that something was off—something was missing—Caroline Neville Pearre got busy. The 40-year-old wife of a Disciples of Christ pastor felt God calling one morning after prayers and promptly organized a missionary society in her Iowa City church that would be managed solely by women. Friends in nearby churches caught her fire and organized similar societies; before long, they united to become the Christian Women's Board of Missions. Their first meeting on October 21, 1874, 145 years ago, was attended by 25 women. That meeting, and their work, is commemorated this month!

They did not recognize geographic or political boundaries, but instead focused on missionary work both here and abroad. Their original plan was to raise money to spread the Gospel in places they felt were deaf to the word of God, those far flung corners of the globe. But Pearre and her women soon recognized that there was more to missionary work than reading from the Bible and interpreting Scripture.

Two years into its existence, they sent their first missionary to India,

where it became clear that more was needed than passing out Bibles. Functional need formed their mission. Their focus became social services, building schools, hospitals and orphanages. This was not the first time a church organization took up such generous causes, but it was the most pervasive and indefatigable, and women were its sole driving force. They saw the world as one gilded place.

An early chronicler wrote, "their field is the world."

From this came training programs for students, the establishment of four Bible Chairs at state universities, and in 1886, a group of St. Louis women recognized that it was not just in places like India and China that the CWBM needed to turn their attention, but here at home, as well. Led by Mattie Younkin, the CWBM reached out to the poor and orphaned children in St. Louis and formed what would eventually become known as the National Benevolent Association, the church's social service ministry.

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Sierra Christian Church's pastor is the Rev. Christine Pobanz-Hartmire. Her consistent challenge to all of us is to not only remember, but also embrace, the beautiful truth that everyone is always welcomed at Jesus' table.

Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.

--Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Prayers & Thanksgivings

- Tanya Margo and Joe Morgan and their engagement.
- Sandra Barry, who continues her recovery from shoulder surgery.
- Valerie Ridge, who is continuing her chemo treatment.
- Janet Peck, who is home making excellent progress in her recovery from a stroke.
- The children and families in our midst!
- Norma Almeida preparing for upcoming surgery.
- Caleb Knowles-Greene has been promoted to the JV football team.
- Our stalwart congregation.
- Bob Wyrick as he begins his treatment.
- Michelle Barry, daughter of Karen & Phil Steinke, continues in her solid recovery from surgery.

In Praise of...

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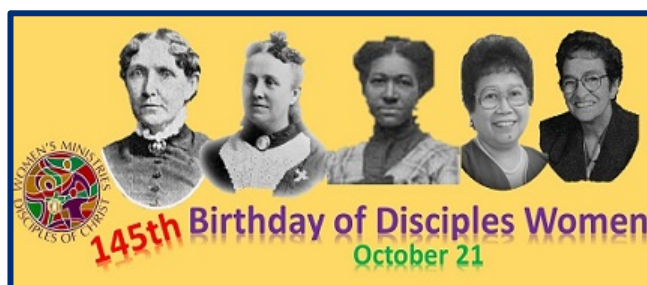
Less than a decade later, in 1895, Nancy E Atkinson, one of the founding members of the CWBM, learned of the death of a pastor who left behind a nearly blind widow and several children with no means of support. She established a fund to support the family. What she also did was kick-start the church's Pension Fund.

Sarah Lue Bostick was a field worker for the Christian Women's Board of Missions and the National Christian Missionary Society and became one of the first African American women to be ordained to Christian Ministry in the late 19th century. In 1913, Canadian women joined in, making it an international organization. About that same time, Hispanic women in Texas began to organize within their congregations and later began networking across the vast state.

The historian Lorraine Lollis notes: "The CWBM became the first women's board to do both home and foreign work, to employ both men and women, to manage their own business, to choose their fields of service, to own property, and to raise and administer their own funds."

CWBM joined with interdenominational churches to provide the first college for women in Central China, and in time, Ginling College in Nanjing became one of the most influential schools for higher learning among women in China.

A Disciples woman, Minnie Vautrin, became a legendary heroine for her efforts to save the



school's women during the Japanese invasion.

Joining Canada and the organized states of the United States in cooperative work, the women formed the International Christian Women's Fellowship in 1953.

Keep in mind, the few women mentioned here are but examples of hundreds upon hundreds of women who helped grow the church in both size and breadth, stretching it from the pews to the streets, making it more relevant and accessible. The website

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/women-in-history/>

offers a list of stories about women who have impacted the Disciples of Christ, having served in their local church, or in the general office, or in the mission field. No matter where these women served, they improved the lives of those around them and raised awareness of the strength and wisdom of the women in our midst.

They make very real Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's declaration: "Women belong in all places where decisions are made."

Jesus would have it no other way.

Again, Some Key Dates to Note:

- Sunday, October 6---World Communion Day
- Sunday, October 20—Sierra Christian heads to **Dave's Pumpkin Patch** in West Sacramento. Corn maze, haystack pyramid, food and great fun for everyone. Let's make a day of it! Contact Pastor Christine for more information.
- Sunday, October 27—**Our Second Annual Trunk Or Treat...** Come participate. Your car can be the stuff of nightmares.... and lots of candy... More details forthcoming.
- Friday, November 17--**John Pavlovitz** will be speaking at First Christian Church in Vallejo, from 7-9 p.m. Tickets available through Eventbrite.com. We can carpool, if interested.

This is the monthly newsletter of Sierra Christian Church. Representing the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville and surrounding areas

We are a member of the Christian Churches of Northern California-Nevada. Our Vision is to *Welcome and Nurture all people as We Become more Faithful Together in a Loving Relationship with God.*

For more information about the church or to contact us, please call 916-624-8733 or 916-771-9933. Our email address is office@sierrachristian.com. Our new web-site is under construction but please visit our Facebook page.

WHERE WE ARE

5645 Rocklin Rd, in Loomis.

DIRECTIONS: Exit I-80 at Rocklin Road and go east past Sierra College. The church is on the left, about ½ mile past Sierra College Blvd. We are on top of a hill. Look for the beautiful red barn overlooking God's wonders.



Sierra Christian Church
5645 Rocklin Rd. 95650

First Class Mail