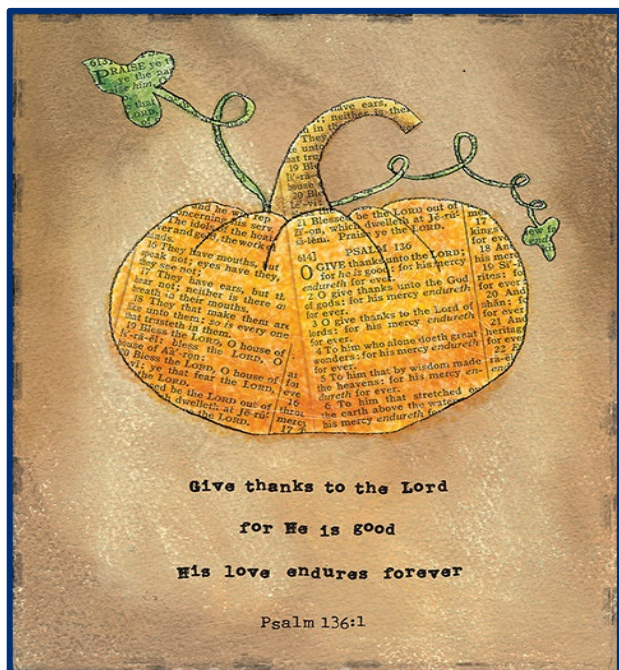


# SIERRA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



*November 17 will be our Thanksgiving potluck following our worship service and Congregational meeting to elect new board officers*

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.

**November 2019**

### Re-Start Ministries

Our friend, Wayne Worden, of Re-Start Ministries, has released the third quarter report of his agency's work with families and individuals "restarting" their lives.

In brief, during August & September 2019, they helped 67 families in Nevada and Placer counties with items donated to their warehouse in Auburn. Wayne reports that 127 individuals made the assistance possible through their donation of household goods, furniture and small appliances.

The emotional growth and healing provided by Re-Start changes lives in these specific areas:

- \* Physical needs met
- \* Realizing that someone cares
- \* Emotional barriers breached

Re-Start Ministries will pick up items you wish to donate. Please contact Wayne Worden at 530-906-9120.

### November's Elders

November 3 – Gary Weatherly  
November 10 – Liz Throne  
November 17 – Cliff Cole  
November 24 – Karen Steinke

### A Brief—Very Brief—History of the Disciples of Christ Church

The Disciples of Christ rose from the American Restoration Movement of the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century that sought to reform the Christian Church from within, to, really, unify all Christians into a single church inspired by the New Testament. An 1832 handshake in Lexington, Kentucky, between Barton W. Stone and Thomas and Alexander Campbell essentially created the Disciples of Christ, whose raison d'être is that Christianity should not be divided. "No creed but Christ." Or, as the hymn goes, "There is no north or south in Him. no east or west..." In 1968, the Disciples officially adopted a denominational structure, prompting a group of churches to part ways in order to remain nondenominational. Today, congregationally governed, there are about 411,000 members, with about 140,000 attending worship each Sunday. Not all at Sierra Christian.

# Pastor's Pitch: Pausing to Give Thanks

Somehow, amid the 1863 ugliness and national splintering of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln found the time and compassion to proclaim the last Thursday of November as a national "Thanksgiving Day." In 1939, as the Great Depression strangled the country, Franklin Roosevelt tweaked things a little and declared the next-to-last Thursday of the month as Thanksgiving, creating a slightly longer holiday season. A little more than two years later, a scant 19 days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he signed into law the legislation making the fourth Thursday of November Thanksgiving.

What fascinates me even more keenly than the historical anecdotes surrounding Thanksgiving, from the first three-day-long meal in 1621 to George Washington's "national days of prayer, humiliation and thanksgiving," to Thomas Jefferson putting the kibosh on the whole notion while he was president, to the spectacle of family and food it is today—what is most astounding to me is that in the midst of two of the darkest times in our nation's history we are reminded that it is never a wrong or bad time to give thanks and be grateful. Lincoln found

In his abundant heart reasons to give thanks and praise God despite the Civil War tearing us apart. It was as if he understood that no war, no matter its evil, can truly rip us asunder if we don't allow it. And Roosevelt, as committed to rescuing this country from the economic calamity as he was, also recognized that no material recovery comes without a spiritual renaissance, individually and collectively. It lets God in.

Our country is in no way in as calamitous a condition as it was in 1863 or 1939; but as a nation we are not okay. So, I want to take the time to pause and give thanks, and I urge you to make the time to do the same. Gratitude and change begins inside each one of us. It is where the "okay" gets launched.

So, with the chaos in D.C. showing no signs of waning, I give thanks to the Placer Water Agency, back flow restrictors and water pumps. I give thanks to the commitment of Dick Reed and the talents of Brian Ridge. I give thanks for the privilege and right to vote in the upcoming elections, and I give thanks to teenage girls calling the world's leaders



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.

**What if, today, we were grateful for everything?**

**--Charlie Brown**

*Continued next page*

## Prayers & Thanksgivings

### ➤ November Birthdays

- 4<sup>th</sup> Norm & Iris Pobanz
  - 5<sup>th</sup> John Hartmire
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Tanya Kilpatrick
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sonny and Samantha (who celebrate #6)
  - 28<sup>th</sup> Karen Steinke
- Sandra Barry, who continues her recovery from shoulder surgery.
- Valerie Ridge, who is continuing her chemo treatment.
- Janet Peck preparing for an upcoming medical procedure
- Norma Almeida recovering from surgery and pancreatitis is home
- Dick Reed, whose heartbeat is regular again.
- Bob Wyrick as he prepares for his treatment and meeting with surgeon

## In Praise of...

*Continued from the previous page*

on the carpet for endangering our climate, and, while I am at it, thank you to the homeless woman on the corner who smiles and nods even when I don't have spare change to give her, because she reminds me of our shared humanity.

I am thankful I get to mow my father's lawn and hear the appreciation in his voice when I do. I am thankful for firefighters and police officers, to bank clerks and crossing guards, to airplane pilots and Toyota mechanics. I am thankful for the presence in our world of people of all shapes and colors, who speak languages I do not understand and have customs I am not familiar with. I am thankful for our dogs and cat, for the fire I get to sit around with my family when camping and stare up at the stirring canopy of stars and believe for a fleeting moment that I get it. I am thankful I get to kid myself in thinking that I get it.

I am especially thankful for my son, and the mother-child bond that never ceases to amaze me with its life-giving force, and I am thankful for the involuntary strength we get to tap into at critical times even if we don't always understand its source. I am thankful for my sobriety and the people who love me. I am thankful for the people I love and for the cashiers at our grocery store who never fail to ask how our family is doing. I am thankful for my understanding of things almost as much as I am thankful for life's bountiful mysteries that somehow make the world more beautiful and gracious.

I am thankful for John, for all his flaws and strengths and love. I am thankful for my calling and the calling of men and women everywhere. Passion



*And we give thanks to our children, always...*

and commitment fuels the world.

I am thankful for my home and its comfort and safety, and I am thankful for the amazing grounds Sierra Christian inhabits, the garden, the labyrinth, our sanctuary and the stillness you can experience if you are patient enough. I am thankful to recognize that as we make our slow pilgrimage through the world a certain sense of beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow and make Thanksgiving declarations like this possible.

I am thankful for my health, for the health of those I love. I am thankful for the courage shown by people who stand up to cruelty and for justice.

I am thankful that there is a day designated each year expressly for giving thanks even though I know it is something we should do 365 days a year because there is so much thanks to be given no matter the state of our country and planet—certainly more than can fit in this newsletter.

A very blessed Thanksgiving to every one of you.

## Again, Some Key Dates to Note:

- **Sunday, November 3**—following worship, our final class in our Bible Study of Paul's letters to Corinthians.
- **Friday, November 17**—**Sierra Families** Cultivating and Expressing Gratitude. *Families are invited to join in on some fun exercises aimed at helping to identify and embrace our blessings.*
- **Sunday, November 17**—Following worship and preceding our potluck, we will host our congregational meeting to elect church officers and get a quick preview of our new and improved web page.
- **Sunday, November 17**—Our monthly potluck. Check with Karen Steinke as to what dishes we will need.

Sierra Christian Church...



# November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 SDA 9 am to Noon
3 Worship Begins at 10:30	4 6:30 pm Women's AA Mtg.	5 6:30 pm Men's AA Mtg.	6	7 6:30 pm Open AA Mtg.	8	9 SDA 9 am to Noon
10 Worship Begins at 10:30	11 6:30 pm Women's AA Mtg.	12 6:30 pm Men's AA Mtg.	13	14 6:30 pm Open AA Mtg.	15	16 SDA 9 am to Noon
17 Worship at 10:30 Sierra Family Expressing Gratitude Congregational Meeting & Potluck	18 6:30 pm Women's AA Mtg.	19 6:30 pm Men's AA Mtg.	20	21 6:30 pm Open AA Mtg.	22	23 SDA 9 am to Noon
24 Worship Begins at 10:30	25 6:30 pm Women's AA Mtg.	26 6:30 pm Men's AA Mtg.	27	28 Thanksgiving 6:30 pm Open AA Mtg.	29	30 SDA 9 am to Noon
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

## A SIERRA FAMILIES EVENT

“Expressing & Cultivating Gratitude”

A fun exercise to embrace our joys & blessings as we prepare for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 17

Following our monthly potluck

# November's Thanksgiving Offering

*Received in many congregations on Nov. 17 and 24, 2019*

Higher education has always mattered to the Disciples of Christ, and never is that more evident than in November, the month for the Disciples' Thanksgiving Offering, which directly benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Throughout its history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate and develop leaders who can make a difference in the world, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remains committed to higher education

to this day. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at the Disciples' fifteen colleges and universities, as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education at some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate schools, campuses that are state-of-the-art, offering diverse degree programs, dynamic student life activities, exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are helping the church invest in the next generation of leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for the Disciples' theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social change have been educated at these schools, leaving to flourish and make a difference in the world—thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please consider giving generously this month. Your gift makes a difference in lives and makes a difference in the world.



**John Pavlovitz, the Christian pastor, writer, and activist will be speaking at the First Christian Church in Vallejo at 7 pm on Friday, November 15. An erudite and compassionate man, his blog, "Stuff That Needs To Be Said," has gained an immense following. Tickets for his speaking engagement can be purchased at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). Carpooling is available .**

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](mailto:office@sierrachristian.com). Our new website is under construction but please visit our Facebook page. Our worship service begins at 10:30 every Sunday morning. Please join us!

#### 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