



## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Pastors: Russ & Erin Matteson

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*



*“In that renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free: but Christ is all and in all!” – Colossians 3:11*

### *Sometimes there really is no place like home*

I still love watching *The Wizard of Oz*, seeing Dorothy venture from home to discover the world outside her doors. She discovers that there are adventures and surprises and new friends that are worthwhile to meet and explore there. But she also learns there are scary and not so great things that, in the end, leave her with a new appreciation for home as well.

Each time I go to Annual Conference and venture from our home congregation, I can feel a bit like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. I meet new friends and enjoy reconnecting with old ones. I venture into exhibit booths to see what is set up to represent the ministries we share in. I have to explore the SERRV/A Greater Gift store, of course, to see what might be there and not in our store here! I look forward to navigating *the yellow brick road of business* with friends, even as I am not sure exactly what I might encounter along the way or where it will lead in the end. These are the fun parts of the trip.

Yet although our denomination has come a long way, one of the challenging things I encounter every year at conference is a renewed awareness of the many places yet in the church where women are not accepted or welcomed as leaders. Even after having voted for women to be ordained over 50 years ago, there are still many, many congregations who would never even consider calling a woman as their pastor. And each year, unfortunately, it continues to be apparent how difficult it is to get a woman elected as moderator of the larger church. Currently there has never been a female moderator elected unless there are only two women on the ballot in that category. Sometimes, even when two women are running, a man is still nominated from the floor. This year at conference, out of seven very capable women on the overall church ballot running with men, only one woman was elected. That was greatly disappointing for all three of us who went as delegates from our congregation. For the last two years we have had male moderators, and for the next two more at least, we will again. I love men. I'm married to one. But I need

to see woman role models up on the stage and around all kinds of tables, too. And I desperately want our young women to see and experience them as well. Both are critical because of the different gifts and perspectives they bring.

I celebrate greatly how far we have come as a denomination in respecting and utilizing women in leadership. And I so appreciate the many places where men and women continue to work for this vision. But every year at Annual Conference, like Dorothy in the forest, I have to face the reality that women still sometimes find themselves walking in a friendly place one minute that can quickly change to a dark place the next where someone may begin to throw apples at them. I come home saddened and alarmed to have heard some of my older female colleagues concerned that we may be moving backwards. But, I come home once again, even if we aren't in Kansas, with a heightened appreciation for our congregation and the ways we are leading out in empowering women of all ages, as well as men, to embrace and live into the gifts God has given them. I come home giving thanks for all of you, and proclaiming with Dorothy, "there really is no place like home". And, just as Dorothy and her friends discover in the end that it is important to venture out because she can and does make a difference out there, I come home to keep praying and discerning the ways I and we need to continue to venture out and make a difference in our denomination. Because although I wish this were a dream, it is not. And we continue to be called to not only enjoy the comfort of home and make our witness here in Modesto, but to find ways to venture out and make the call from Colossians a reality in our larger church.

--With you on the journey, Pastor Erin



### *AC DVD's available*

The church office has DVD's with the Annual Conference Review (about 20 minutes) and a DVD with all five sermons from Annual Conference. If you would like to borrow these contact the office to check them out.

### *Going into your room to pray*

By July 25, read Psalm 138 and Matthew 6:5-15. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus warns about "praying in public so all can see" and encourages us to go into our room. Is that our bedroom? Living room? Come explore another possibility with Pastor Erin. We are also invited this week to receive the invitation to connect with God through a special duet and some cello music. Come one, come all...

## More than the Eye Can See...

Come August 1 for what promises to be a moving time as the 16 youth and 3 advisors give us a flavor of the energy and witness of National Youth Conference where 3,000 youth met in Estes Park Colorado just a week ago. Come be transformed as they share about how NYC transformed them. The conference theme was based on 2 Corinthians 4:6-10 and 16-18.



Waiting to board bus; one last hug  
Those attending National Youth Conference

## Come to The Quiet Place

Monday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m., you are invited to Room 5 to join others for a time of silence, reflection and sharing. (Sharing is always optional.) Our theme for the evening will be *Personal Peace*. Peace has many dimensions: personal, family, between self and others, in a community, global. Many believe that we have to have peace within first and foremost to be able to move in and through the other dimensions of peace. Scripture and poetry with time for reflection will give us a chance to explore and seek *personal peace*. If you have any questions about these gatherings, contact me. All are welcome. --Pastor Erin

## Bring your Garage Sale items...

Start bringing items in good condition to support our Church Garage Sale on Sunday July 25! All funds raised will support our community outreach efforts. We will be accepting items before and after church from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Please remember to bring only 20 working or wearable items per person. We also still need help and trucks on Saturday July 31st! Please sign up in the narthex or with me. Thanks. --Leah Knipe

## Come, cool off in my pool

I would like to invite everybody to my house Tuesday, July 27, for swimming and socializing at 4:30 or earlier 'til? Please bring salads or snacks. I live at 2641 Riverbend Road, Modesto, 95351.--Lana Royer, 531-9893

## Last call

Remember the Senior Ministry Bus Trip to San Francisco on August 11. Last day to sign up is July 30. \$60 includes the bus ride, bay cruise on the Blue & Gold Fleet, and a delicious lunch at the Fog Harbor Fish House. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. sharp and will return at approximately 4:30 p.m. There are flyers and signup sheets in the narthex or call Bob Sesser at 209-517-8613.

## Beginner's Camp

This is a new camp at Camp Peaceful Pines for those who have finished Kindergarten through grade 3 to come with a parent, grandparent, or adult friend and get a feel for age-level camping. The camp begins at noon on August 7 and ends after lunch on August 8. Registrations are due in to Peggy Castaneda, camp registrar, by July 31.

## The Picnic is coming!

The Annual Church Picnic/Ice Cream event is soon to be here. Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> all are invited to gather at the Martinez home off of route 132 for lunch and dessert **at noon**. Bring a simple dish to share and meat and drinks will be provided. *We need volunteers to make homemade ice cream, so if you can, look for a sign-up at church, or call the church office in the weeks ahead!* Our commission will also provide cake again this year to go with the ice cream to celebrate our summer birthdays. This is a great event to invite a friend or neighbor to. All are welcome. Children and Youth are welcome to enjoy Jim and Marye's pool – (Bring a towel and your suit) See you there! – Fellowship & Recreation Commission

## Men's Retreat Weekend

On August 20, 21, and 22 we will hold our Men's Retreat Weekend at Camp Peaceful Pines. Mark your calendar. Don't miss out!!! This event is open to all men of the church and their friends. It is one of the last scheduled events for the camping season at Camp Peaceful Pines. Dr. Don Booz our District Executive Minister will be our featured keynote speaker on Saturday morning. We hope to also have separate breakout sessions for Peace Life, Men's small groups (what works ). We will have a session on Camp Peaceful Pines itself and the work that has been done at camp over the last year and what we see for its immediate future. We will also discuss how churches can use Camp Peaceful Pines for their own ministry needs. Along with other topics we will also have plenty of time for fishing, hikes and general fellowship, getting caught up with old friends and making new ones. This is a great end of summer chance to re-gather as men as we head into the fall season.

Registration forms can be found at the church and must be sent to the registrar Peggy Castaneda before August 11 to avoid the late charge. Cost is \$65. For any further questions please call Bill Johnson at 522-0746.

## Don't forget

Save the date for "An Outreach Affaire" being held at the Modesto Church of the Brethren on Saturday, September 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This semi formal fundraiser will support our community outreach efforts. Expect ticket sales and information on reserving a table soon! --Leah Knipe

## Grant receives preliminary OK

Our congregation's request to the District for \$50,000 towards the Community Outreach Coordinator position in 2011 has received preliminary approval. There are steps in "The Side Door Ministries" process we need to complete. District Conference in November needs to approve the 2011 budget that includes grant requests. The grant will not fund everything and we are in the process of beginning to carry a portion of the costs for the position. Your support of the Yard Sale and the Outreach Affair will help make this a reality!

## *How's it going?*

More than half way through the summer, we want to ask you, "How's it going with having folks over for dinner during the week while Wednesday Night faith Bites is on hiatus?" Have you had anyone over yet? Been invited over somewhere? Don't forget about this great opportunity to keep the meal fellowship alive the next six weeks until fall. Make an invitation list today!

--Fellowship and Recreation Commission

## *Changes for your directory*

Evan and Jaimie Campbell are now at 6661 East Keyes Rd., Hughson, 95326.

Also Ken & Elaine Wolff are moving to 1133 Yellowstone, 95358, very near the church. Ken's cell phone is 916-704-9238, Elaine's is 916-662-0624.

## *SSSSSSh! This is a surprise*

Keep this a secret for now! Helen Sesser's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday is July 28. Her family would like to surprise her with birthday cards, notes, and memories as she celebrates this event! Send your cards, letters, greetings to Helen Sesser 1745 Eldena Way, Modesto 965350.

## *Remember in prayer. . .*

. . . the children, extended family, and friends of Emma Heaston who passed away July 7.

Alice Watson, who some of you may remember, is living in Oklahoma with her daughter, Janet Leshko. Alice has been having small strokes for some time now. Janet appreciates prayers for her mother. Alice had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday July 6.

Remember, too, Jeremy Fiddes who will turn 16 on July 26<sup>th</sup>. He is attending NYC as part of the Modesto youth group. Please acknowledge this milestone for him.

There is a great article about my sister, Myrna Wheeler, in the La Verne Magazine. There is a copy at the church. We and the family thank our church friends for your loving expressions of support during Myrna's diagnosis, illness, and death...and as our family journeys through grief.

--Bob and Phyllis Bordona

## **JOIN IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES! CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION EACH SUNDAY**

No Classes during the summer  
9:30a Worship 9:30  
7p Worship at Casa de Modesto

### **WEEKLY**

Office hours – Mon thru Fri 8:30-11:30a & 12:30-4p  
Quiet Place open: Mon-Wed: 7a-4p; Fri 8:30a-4p; Sat 9-12  
Sun 7a-12:30p  
Yoga class: Mon 7-8p  
Pastors' usual Sabbath Day out of office: Tuesday  
Senior Fitness: Tue & Thu 11-12a  
Agape Satyagraha at Maddux Youth Center  
Skate Night 3:30p each Wed  
SERRV shop open: 10a-noon Sat & Sun after worship

Articles for next <i>Chimes</i> by Fri Jul 30 Next <i>Chimes</i> mailed Aug 3 & 17
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### **IN THE DAYS AHEAD**

Thu Jul 22 & Aug 12 Knitting Ministry at Baucher home 2p  
Jul 25-29 Garage Sale drop off  
Jul 7-8 Beginners Camp  
Jul 23-30 Late Family Camp  
Sat Jul 31 Yard/Garage Sale at our church  
Sun Aug 8 Grieving conversations following worship  
Sun Aug 15 All-church picnic at Martinez home  
Fri Aug 20 Family movie night  
Aug 20-22 Men's Weekend at Camp  
Sat Aug 21 Kitchen clean-up work day  
Sep 1-3 Closing Camp  
Sun Sep 1 Tickets available for "An Outreach Affaire"  
Tue Sep 10 Taizé worship 7p  
Sat Sep 11 Graffiti Clean-up  
Wed Sep 15 "An Outreach Affaire"  
Sun Oct 3 World Wide Communion Sunday  
Sat Oct 23 Harvest Festival  
Nov 12-14 District Conference at Hillcrest in La Verne

Coffee makers: volunteers; Deacon on call: Barbara Switzer