



The Chimes

January 16, 2018
Volume 18 Number 2

Modesto Church of the Brethren

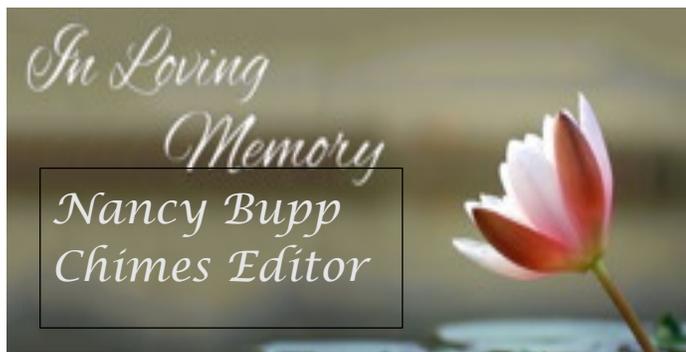
2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: office@modcob.org ♦ web site: www.modcob.org

Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher

Ministers: Every Person in the Congregation

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



REFLECTION

Immigration

Like almost all Americans, I am a child of immigrants. Some of my ancestors came from England to Jamestown in 1619. Another, because he fought England for Scottish independence, was considered a criminal when he came to America in 1745. Many of my ancestors came much later, during the great waves of immigration from European countries in the 1800's. My paternal great-grandparents came from Sweden, lured by the huge expanses of land suitable for farming that could be acquired for free, just by living on it and tilling it.

All of my ancestors came to America because they believed they could have a better life in this new country. America has for generations been a haven for people whose native lands were too crowded, too violent, or too deficient in economic opportunities to support all their inhabitants.

Like my ancestors, each wave of immigrants to America became citizens,

voters, and contributors to the culture and economy of their adopted country.

It is a truism that the United States of America was built by immigrants. The framers of the Constitution were determined to create a country governed by its people, a revolutionary change from the idea that all rights belonged to the monarch. As the new country grew, immigrants from many countries seeking a better life with the freedom the founders established have contributed greatly to its culture and economy, and continue to do so.

Many who have come to this country in ways not sanctioned by the U. S. government are indispensable to the economies of the places where they have settled. Just as the immigrants who came before them, they have been displaced from the countries of their birth by war, corruption, and poverty, and they come seeking a better life. They and especially their children assimilate into the American way of life, but also contribute new foods to our diet, new words to our language, and new ideas to our culture. They may look and dress differently from us, speak languages other than English, or worship differently, but they are contributing to the melting pot that is America.

To demean and deport people who are seeking a better life in this country belies the values that America was built upon, denies our own heritage and makes this a poorer country.
~Luella

From the Pastor

My Schedule

January 16 - Pastor's Sabbath
January 17-19 - In office 8:30 to 11:30
January 22 - In office 8:30 to 11:30
January 23 - Pastor's Sabbath
January 24-26 - In office 8:30 to 11:30
January 29 - In office 8:30 to 11:30

Please feel free to schedule other appointments by contacting me by email at mfletch21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227. Texting is ok, but please identify yourself when you do text.

Upcoming Study and Fellowship Opportunities



Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Please join in a Bible study overview of the New Testament as a Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 5:00 in the library.

Talk Around the Table: (Please note the changes) Following Faith Bites from 6:45 to 7:30 we will gather in the work room for a time of conversation for anyone who desires to join in. Topics: January 17 - Taking the Bible Seriously & January 24 - Defining Racism

Coffee and Conversation: Due to the memorial service scheduled Feb. 10, our February Coffee and Conversation will be rescheduled.

Lenten Brown Bag

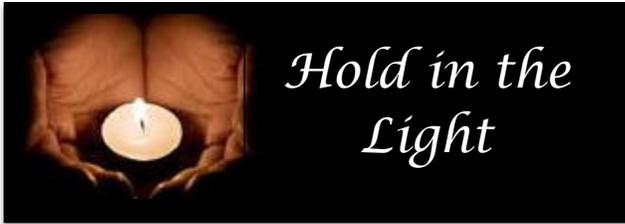
Luncheon: Beginning on February 25, please consider bringing a brown bag lunch to enjoy in the Gathering Place following worship. In addition to a time of fellowship and a chance to discuss and reflect on the morning's message as well as look at the scripture and topic for the following week. We'll have a special preview on February 18 as part of our Wing Ding Valentine celebration. In addition I'd welcome suggestions for other gatherings of this type.



Sermon Snippets

January 21 - Luke 16:19-31 - Jesus' Short Stories: Taking Notice - In the world we live in it's the rich and powerful who are named on buildings, magazines and television. No one ever does a list of the 500 poorest people in the world or the most vulnerable. But in all the stories Jesus tells, only person ever gets named, a beggar by the name of Lazarus.

January 28 - Matthew 20:1-16 - Jesus' Short Stories: The Economy of Justice - We hear much today about the economy and related issues such as income inequality and the minimum wage. If you've ever wondered what Jesus would say about issues like that, you might be interested to know what he did say about the economy and justice.



Keep in your prayers the families of Sarah Glass and Nancy Bupp as they prepare for celebrations of life, Sarah's on January 27th at 1 PM, and Nancy's on February 10th at 2 PM.

Hold in the light the Martinez family as they have two family members facing surgery; Ruth Garrison with health issues, and Libby, daughter of Dan and Trish Galt, facing chemotherapy. Be mindful of those who have lost loved ones in the past year, and be with any who are experiencing illness or pain.



A BIG THANKS to all who took the time and energy during the crazy busy month of December to complete the recent Congregational Survey form! The Search Committee has just finished compiling and summarizing all the information needed to complete our Congregational Profile. This data has now been entered into the appropriate website where it can be viewed by prospective pastoral applicants. Soon we will be able to view available pastoral profiles and consider those candidates who might be a good fit for our congregation. Stay tuned for further updates as needed.



Adult Sunday School

"First Love, Community and Faith in 1, 2, 3 John"

The adult Sunday School class meets each Sunday in the library from 9:30-10:30. We are using the "Good Ground" material that is published by Brethren Press.

Our current study is entitled "First Love, Community and Faith". We will explore: What does it mean to be a community of faith? How do we keep each other accountable to a standard of Christian conduct? What do we consider to be basic beliefs? How does a church community handle dissension? We will use the three letters of John as the base of our study in answering these questions and others. Our congregation, like the churches of the times when the letters of John were written is involved in change. We want to keep what is proven and true but still grow in faith. Some new ideas contradict what we have learned about the gospel while others provide a different view of the same truths and help to understand discipleship in a new and deeper way.

Through this study of the Letters of John members of this class will look at our own church as it continues to transition, looking for a new pastor and making changes that will allow our church to continue its work and be pertinent to the need of all church members.

We invite any and all to come join us in this study. ~Jim Martinez



National Youth Conference is coming up! It will be July 21st to the 26th in Colorado. NYC is for youth who have completed 9th grade through freshman year of college. This is a once every four year event and we don't want our youth to miss out! Registration starts January 18th. As the date gets closer we will be sending out more information but we're encouraging our youth or anyone who would like to accompany them as a volunteer to reach out to Tera by call, email or text for more information.



If you haven't experienced or heard about FUN, it is an awesome event series that combines games, crafts, and music centered around a theme which is the topic of discussion around our dinner tables, in prayer, and in circle time. Kids will relax and have fun after a week of school, while parents can jump-start their weekend, socialize, and offer their families a nourishing dinner without having to cook it themselves (of course, this excludes when the planned activity is creating a communal dinner dish!)

FUN is designed for children in Kindergarten to 5th grade and at least one of their parents and/or guardians. All age siblings and grandparents are welcome, also. We are continuing monthly on Friday evenings 6:00-8:00 PM.

January 26 "Sociability: Friends and Faith" We will be considering good and better ways to make and keep friends. Jesus made friends generously but carefully . . . we will take a quick look at some of those great Bible stories, and play some "getting to know you" games.

February 23 "Love and Empathy". Having just experienced Valentine's Day, who and what gives us a sense of Tender Loving Care (TLC)? Can we find or feel ways that God's love is showing in our lives? Expect XOXO, love notes, love songs, and most definitely chocolate and flowers!

Senior Ministries



Reminder: Native Plants!

Be sure to mark January 25th at 12 pm on your calendars for a delicious lunch prepared by Karen Cosner for just \$7.00 a person and a wonderful presentation by native plant specialist Jim Brugger. His presentation will educate us on why it is important for us to use native plants in our own landscaping. He will also explain why using some non-native plants can be a problem. Jim says that Modesto should be very proud of a prime example of our very own native plant project, located along a walking path and native garden across from the La Loma Jr. High School on Encina Ave. **Sign up by January 21** to let Karen know you'll be there for lunch, come and enjoy!

Remember! Instead of an easel in the narthex, we are using the bulletin board near the drinking fountain for information, sign-ups and pictures.



The Gershwin Concert Experience

"This is the official, Gershwin-Family authorized multimedia concert event, celebrating the ingenious music and legacy of brothers George and Ira. Three incredible singers and musicians, including celebrated pianist Richard Glazier, will remind you of why the Gershwins will forever be the most beloved and respected songwriting team in history." **Gallo Center for the Arts**
Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 4 p.m.
Tickets are \$23 per person. Give cash or check (made to Modesto Church of the Brethren, Senior Ministry on the memo line) to Margaret Johnson by January 21.

MESSENGER renewal time is here. This is our denominational magazine and an important resource for information, spiritual study and inspiration. It also keeps us aware of happenings throughout the country - at home and abroad.

I will be at a table in the Narthex with renewal forms etc. for **one more Sunday: 1/28**. Or send your check to the church office marked *MESSENGER* renewal in the Memo line. The price remains the same: \$14.50 - one year. (\$27 for two years). Thank you and 'happy reading'.

Romy Mueller, Messenger agent
209 526-5999

The Condensed Calendar

January 14-21 Family Promise Hosting

Monday-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Office Closed

Tuesday-Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday-

5 pm Bible Study-Library

6 pm Faith Bites

7 pm Choir

7 pm Talk around the table-workroom

Thursday-

Friday-

Saturday-Martin Luther King Jr.
Commemoration MJC East Campus

Sunday January 21st

9:30 am Sunday School -Jr. Hi-adult
(*Infant to 5 years welcome in the nursery
with Shaun and Kelly*)

11 am Worship

In the Days Ahead

January 25 12 pm Sr. Ministries event
Presentation by Jim Brugger

January 25 5 pm Ladies Night Out-
Johnny Carino's

January 26 6 pm Family FUN Night

January 27 1 pm Memorial Service for
Sarah Glass

January 28 Council Meeting following
worship

Mark Your Calendar

February 10 2 pm Memorial Service for
Nancy Bupp

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 18 12:15 pm Wing Ding
Valentine Event

February 19 Presidents' Day-
Office Closed

February 25 4 pm Sr. Ministries Event
Gallo Center - Rhapsody
and Rhythm: The Gershwin
Concert Experience

March 4 4pm Habitat Concert -Trinity
United Presbyterian
Church