



The Chimes

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Volume 18 Number 5

Modesto Church of the Brethren

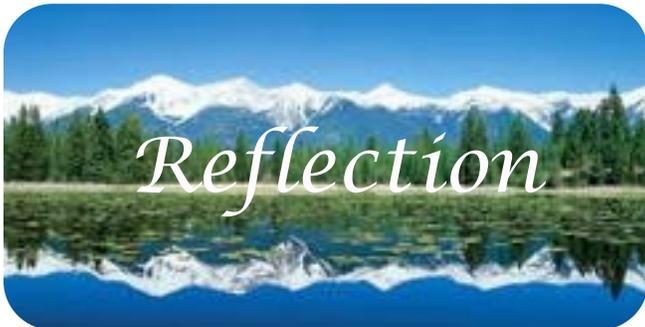
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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



In light of the most recent school shooting, one of the things I've heard stated as the problem is that we've taken God out of the schools. Maybe I'm wrong about this, but I think what they are mainly referring to is the 1962 Supreme Court ruling that stated that school or state sponsored prayer was a violation of the 1st amendment. The provision does not prevent students from saying a silent prayer, which I believe happens quite often when a teacher announces a pop quiz.

What I find interesting is that in the Gospels, Jesus' teachings about prayer would be consistent with this policy. For example in Matthew 6:5-6 Jesus teaches that we should not pray in public, but go into our room and close the door and pray. In various places throughout the Gospels, Jesus models this concept by going off by himself to pray.

I think this is one example of something that I believe is huge problem in our culture today, the creation of an American civil religion that claims Jesus as

its leader with a very limited concept of what Jesus taught and/or modeled in his life. In its most extreme form this civil religion allows people to cherry pick scripture to support almost anything. Scripture, Jesus and faith become instruments to justify greed, nationalism, racism and misogyny among other forms of hatred.

Unfortunately it seems to me that many people who disagree with the worst of these positions have simply abandoned scripture and choose to base their stance on other principles. While these principles are usually solid approaches, scripture, properly understood, provides the best foundation for a hopeful and meaningful life.

However, making sure we understand scripture properly is a lot of hard work. We need to read it, study it and wrestle with it and allow it to penetrate our lives. If only there was an organization that can assist us in that enormous task...maybe there already is one.



Pastor's Corner



Pastor's Schedule

March 18-24 - Working from La Quinta (ok to contact by phone or email.)

Please feel free to schedule other appointments by contacting me by email at mfletcher21625@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

February 28 & March 7 at 5:00 pm in the Library - A Walk Through the New Testament - We will be considering some of the key concepts of the various parts of the New Testament, looking at the historical background to help deepen our understanding of the New Testament and scripture in general.

Talk Around the Table

Following Faith Bites from 6:45 to 7:30 we will gather in the workroom for a time of conversation for anyone who desires to join in.

Coffee and Conversation

Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, March 10, 9:30 in the Gathering Place. Our topic will be Healthcare in America.



Pastor's Roaming Office

(Check church's Facebook page for updates)



Thursday, March 1, 1:30 pm - Starbucks, Oakdale & Merle

Friday, March 2, 1:30 pm - Starbucks, 2045 Briggsmore

Saturday, March 3, 11:00 am - Panera Bread, 2103 McHenry

Sunday, March 4, 7:30 am - Mimi's Cafe, 3401 Dale

Monday, March 5, 6:00 pm - Starbucks, 3801 Pelandale

Thursday, March 8, 1:00 pm - Ralston's Goat, 1001 10th St

Sunday, March 11, 7:30 am - Mimi's Cafe, 3401 Dale

Tuesday, March 13, 9:30 am - Mr. T's, Tully & Standiford

Lenten Brown Bag Luncheons



Beginning on February 25 and continuing through March 18, please consider bringing a brown bag lunch to enjoy in the Gathering Place following worship. In addition to a time of fellowship we'll have a chance to discuss and reflect on the morning's message as well as look at the scripture and topic for the following week.

In addition I'd welcome suggestions for other gatherings of this type.

Sermon Snippets - Our Lenten Journey Continues: Exploring Jesus' Ministry to Help Us Find Our Own

March 4 - Making a Break with the Past - John 2:13-22 - Traditions can give great meaning to our ministry, but they can also become a roadblock toward moving forward to the new places God is calling us to in our ministry. Discerning what to keep and what to discard can be very challenging.

March 11 - Now What? - Ephesians 2:1-10 - The last verse of the passage we'll be using states that we were "created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." So what are those good works? How specific should we make this calling? How do we determine which good works that God has prepared for us as individuals and as a church? These are difficult questions to answer, but maybe it's not finding the answer that makes them important, but the strength we gain from wrestling with the question.

March 18 - The Way Up is Down - John 12:20-26 - Most times the ways of ministry lead us in a very different direction from the ways of the world. As we consider what our ministry is to look like, let us be aware of how radical this calling is, and answer the question, "Is it worth it?"

From the Board Chair

From the Board Chair:

Some of the highlights of our February Board meeting:

After some discussion regarding having a designated fund for raising money to purchase a new projector and screen for the sanctuary it was decided that because the new bulb in the projector has helped the visibility of the picture on the screen, the Board moved to table the project for now.

The Love Modesto project was discussed and the Board agreed to support this project more fully next year and encourage the youth and others who would like to participate this year to do so while encouraging members to support the work day at the church on the same day.

Sadly the Board accepted the resignation of Theresa Gamboa as the Moderator, effective immediately. Linda Hunter, who is the Assistant Moderator, will take over leading the meetings. We thanked Theresa for her skillful leading of the Council meetings and her dedication to our congregation and know that she will continue to be involved.

Sincerely, Karen Cosner, Board Chair



Since mid-January when our Congregational Profile was submitted, we've had some good responses from prospective pastoral candidates. Two

candidates with interest in our congregation recently submitted their profiles for viewing by our Search Committee. David Shetler, the District Executive of Southern Ohio, who is helping us with our search, has assured us that as we approach spring, there are usually more profiles entering the system. He will continue to keep our committee informed as additional profiles are made available to us. Patience is the operative word. ~Search Committee



Keep in your prayers Dan and Trish Galt's daughter Libby as she continues with chemotherapy treatments.

Rejoice with Terhesa Gamboa as her friend Robert was welcomed back to his recovery program as well as to his job.

Welcome back home Jim and Kim Boardman as they return from visiting their daughter Kelsey in Thailand.

Congratulations to Shaun Gepley on passing his Praxis exam for Professional Educational Counseling.

Rejoice with Renee Gokey feeling much better after a fall, and happy that the neighbor's dog that caused her fall is safe in its backyard.

Rejoice also that several new people have joined us in worship, and be sure to wear nametags to help them get to know us.

**New Phone Number for Tim Shaw:
209-585-8181**

The Galts in Transition

While we are physically moving to Davis, mainly to be nearer immediate family (our youngest son's family that includes our youngest granddaughter), our spirits will remain with the wonderful members of MCOB. We do not plan to change churches rapidly (or perhaps ever), so we request your thoughts and prayers, as well as "normal" contact, to continue. With extended family in Modesto and Hughson, likewise our doctors, we foresee several trips a year back here. At the very least, we hope to attend the occasional service, small group meeting, and, of course, what is very important to us both, the annual Church Retreat.

Rather than making this a "goodbye", we see this as a transitional time in our lives. A time to say, instead, "see you later." More than anything, we both wish for all of you to know how much we'll miss MCOB and how much we value all of your friendships. Thanks to one and all for making us feel such a part of your wonderful fellowship.

Finally, we'd love to see any of you if you travel up to Davis. To facilitate that, we'll keep our current cell phones (Trish 209-484-3050; Dan 209-484-4116), and our new address is:

2550 Sycamore Lane, Unit 1D
Davis, CA 95616

Hoping to "see you later," we remain,
Dan and Trish Galt

In the Days Ahead



March 4, 2018, an important date! It's the Twenty-Sixth Annual Ecumenical Choral Concert to benefit Habitat

For Humanity, Stanislaus, at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 1600 Carver Road, 4:00 pm. Our choir is one of about ten church choirs singing individual anthems, followed by 100 voices in a combined choir of glorious music! Twenty-six years? Wow! Stephen Reddy will conduct the combined choir. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Prospectors' Potluck Lunch

After church on **March 11, 2018**

At the home of Chuck and Diana Messamer
1182 Miel St., Manteca

Bring a dish to share.

Join us for a time of delicious food and friendly conversation.

Senior Ministries

Luncheon with Judy Kindle, Sierra Vista Child & Family Services Executive Director providing the program, **March 15, 12 noon**. Lunch by Karen, \$7 Sign up by Sunday, March 11th

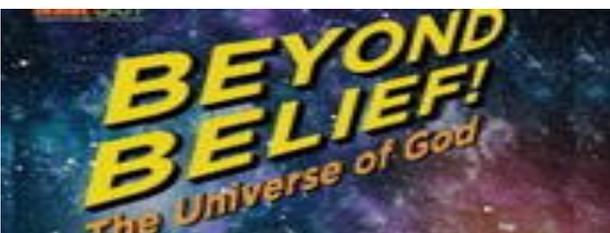


Fellowship and Recreation would like to invite you to our next event on Saturday, **March 17th at 5pm**. The only thing I'll tell you is you must be signed up (watch for signup sheet) and you can expect to be well fed. That's all we are revealing for now. SOOO mark the date and signup!

~Fellowship and Recreation



Our next Family Promise hosting week is March 18-24, 2018. Look for the signup board in the narthex! Thanks to those who have already signed up to provide dinner, act as evening hosts and as overnight hosts. We still need a few more overnight hosts to sign up!



PEACEFUL PINES 2018 SCHEDULE
Theme: **Beyond Belief! The Universe of God**

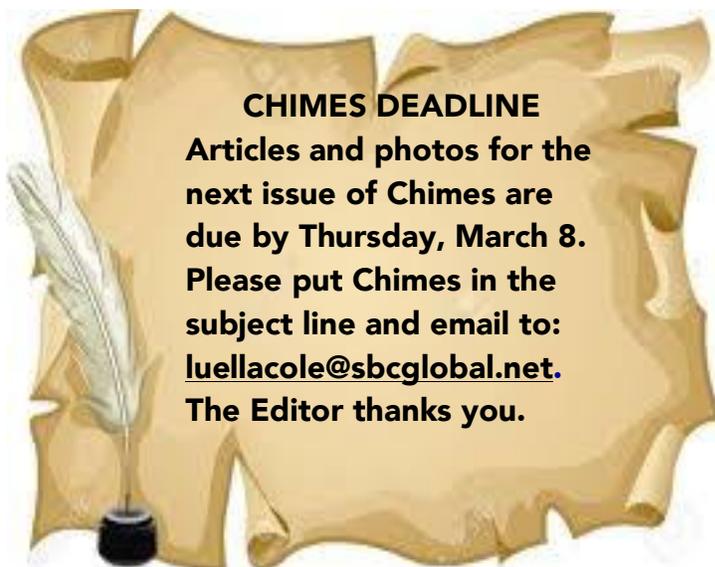
Summer 2018 Camping Dates -

Opening Camp	May 25 - 28
Women's Retreat	June 8 - 10
Gourmet Cooking Camp	June 15 - 17
Discovery Camp	June 28 - July 3
Jr/ Jr High/ Youth Camp	July 15 - 20
Family Camp	July 20 - 25
Closing Camp	Sept 7 - 9

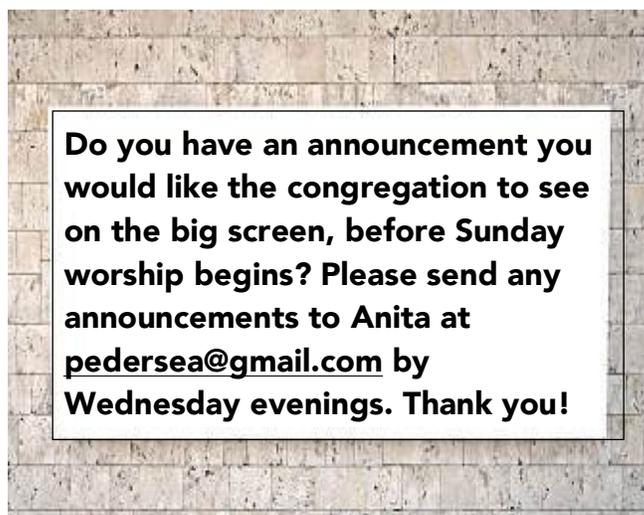
Make plans now to spend some quality, inspirational time at Camp this summer!

Love Modesto

Our church workday was not accepted as project for the Love Modesto program. However, there are many Love Modesto projects available for signup on LoveModesto.com. Any and all MCOB members are encouraged to choose a project, go to the rally at 8:00 AM on April 21, 2018, and show our love for the Modesto community. Youth must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.



CHIMES DEADLINE
Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by **Thursday, March 8**. Please put Chimes in the subject line and email to: luellacole@sbcglobal.net. The Editor thanks you.



Do you have an announcement you would like the congregation to see on the big screen, before Sunday worship begins? Please send any announcements to Anita at pedersea@gmail.com by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!

The Condensed Calendar

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27

Pastor's Sabbath

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

5pm Bible Study-Library

6pm Faith Bites

Talk Around the Table

7pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

FRIDAY, MARCH 2

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 4

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

11am Worship

4pm Habitat Concert-Trinity United
Presbyterian Church

In The Near Future

March 10 9:30am Coffee & Conversation
Healthcare in America

March 11 12:30pm Prospector Potluck -
Chuck and Diana
Messamer's

March 11 Daylight Savings Time

March 15 12 N Sr. Ministries - Sierra
Vista Presentation

March 17 5pm Progressive Dinner

March 18-24 Family Promise

March 29 Maundy Thursday
Love Feast

April 1 9am Easter Breakfast/Egg Hunt
11am Worship

April 14 CROP Walk

April 15 Prospector Potluck-
Forcier's

April 21 8am All Church Workday
Love Modesto

April 27-29 Church Retreat

