



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher Ministers: Every Person in the Congregation

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

REFLECTION

I love working with the youth of this congregation. It is a privilege for me to be part of a group of young people who are being taught that God loves them for the unique people they are, supported in their growing and evolving spiritual ideas and nurtured through love. I hope I am being a significant part of their faith support here. My more selfish motivation has to do with living vicariously through them.

My formative years were filled with the kind of Christian rigidity that I feel leaves little room for individuality. Before I start blaming my parents for everything, I should probably take a step back. My dad and mom gave me a lot of the foundations that still inform and guide my faith today. Going to church was a large part of my upbringing. I understand the importance of being in fellowship with other likeminded people because of them. My father particularly, has taught me a lot of scripture, and I still appreciate the emphasis they both put on family.

On the other hand, they endorsed a church environment that excluded anything deemed "secular" or "worldly". For a kid who loves metal music, Dungeons and Dragons, Star Trek and MTV, it made me feel shame and hate for "being me". Just for some perspective, I wasn't promiscuous, I rarely

swore, and I didn't even challenge my parent's and the church's rules . . . much. Still, I felt unworthy to be a part of God's family. The image of Christ created for me was more of a hardened lawyer than a loving, compassionate Teacher.

I bounced from church to church, but nothing felt right. What in myself was I so scared and afraid of? Well, I wish it was a simple answer. It took years of counseling and love and acceptance from my true Christian friends before I could set foot again in a church and not feel ashamed.

One thing for certain was the deep realization that Christ loved me and accepted me no matter how bad I thought I was. Because of this, I learned to forgive myself. That is what allows me today to continue unhindered in my walk with God.

Wouldn't it be nice if our youth could have a non-judgmental, non-rigid true look into Christ's life through His love and understanding? That is my goal for our children and youth. They can feel accepted here and loved as Christ loves all of us. That is the environment I want our kids to be raised in, so they know they can be anything they want, and Christ will accept them at their lowest, hardest or most shameful and still forgive them. ~Joshua Gilstrap-Katen

JESUS
♥ ME



Pastor's Schedule

Monday & Wednesday through Friday - In office 8:30 to 11:30
Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath

April 25-May 13 in Modesto
May 14-20 - Attending Church Planting Conference for District
May 21-28 - Vacation
May 29-31 - in La Quinta
June 1 - 17 in Modesto

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



Wednesdays - 5:00 in Library - A Walk Through the New Testament
April 25 - Revelation Pt. 2
May 2 - Revelation Pt. 3
May 9 - Wrap Up



Coffee and Conversation

Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, May 11, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be: TBD

Pastor's Roaming Office (Check church's Facebook page for updates)

Pastor's Roaming Office is an opportunity for anyone to chat in an informal manner about what is happening at the Modesto COB. For serious concerns setting an appointment would probably be better. This is something I've done in previous stops with very mixed results. For the time being I will limit the roaming offices to Mondays and Thursdays when I'm in Modesto.

Thursday, April 26, 5:30 pm - (Men's Night Out) Buffalo Wild Wings - 3401 Dale Rd.

Monday, April 30, 7:00 pm - Starbucks - 1800 Oakdale

Thursday, May 3, 1:00 pm - Frost Bakery - 901 Carpenter Rd

Monday, May 7, 7:00 pm - Panera Bread - 3401 Dale Rd.



Sermon Snippets



April 29 - Church Retreat Final Worship - Still Moving Forward - More info to come.

Finding Our Voices

May 6 - *Giving Voice to the Voiceless* - Mark 9:14-27 - A father brings his son to Jesus because a spirit prevents him from speaking. Jesus casts out the spirit. Who are those today who are unable to speak and how can the church give voice to them?

May 13 - *A Mother's Challenge* - Mark 7:24-30 - When a *Gentile* woman brings her daughter to Jesus for healing, Jesus gives a surprising response. For the sake of her daughter, the woman challenges Jesus. Who are we willing to challenge for the benefit of our daughters (or sons or whomever)?



Dolores Adair
April 29, 2017

I know for certain that we never lose the people we love, even to death they continue to participate in every act, thought and decision we make. Their love leaves an indelible imprint in knowing that our lives have been enriched by having shared their love.

Leo Buscaglia

Rejoice that the All Church Workday brought out 41 persons, including members of the Youth Group, to clean, paint, cook, survey the field and replace light bulbs!

Hold in your prayers Maryco Graff living with a neurological disease that puts her in danger of falling.

Remember Doris Heisel, back at Walnut Grove after a short hospital stay.

Continue to pray for Nguba Buba and other Chibok girls who have not returned to their families.

Rejoice for the five young women who led the congregation in worship with such grace on April 22: Maddy Beth Harty, Gracie Roberts, Londyn Lapora, Darrian Davis, and Raeann Davis, with help from Josh, Rachel and Caleb Gilstrap-Katen.

Rejoice that Laura Hay of the Modesto Church of the Brethren has been called to serve the Church of the Brethren as Youth Peace Advocate by the Youth Peace Travel Team coordinating team. The Youth Peace Travel Team is a cooperative project of several denominational agencies. This summer, Laura will travel to church camps and National Youth Conference to teach about peace, justice, and reconciliation, all core values of the Church of the Brethren. Through the summer, look for updates from her travels at www.brethren.org/youthpeacetravelteam.

We keep in our prayers those anticipating new joys in the near future, those grieving the loss of loved ones, those needing healing of all sorts, and those seeking clarity, wisdom and to be faithful on their journey with Jesus. We are thankful for the caring, sharing, supportive community of this congregation and the mercy and grace of God in our lives each day.



REMINDER: MCOB's annual **church retreat** is ON...however...the venue has changed!

The retreat will be held at church in The Gathering Place. Same dates:

April 27-29; same theme: Still Moving Forward; same leader: Dan Poole from Bethany Seminary. The cost is only \$10! The place and price are right, so hope you're on board to join for a weekend of community, looking forward. Sign up on the board in the narthex.

Prospector Ladies Night Out is at Sizzler on Dale Road, Thursday, April 26 at 5 PM. Let Linda Owen know you're coming!



Come for a traditional Indian vegetarian meal at the Modesto-Hughson Sikh Temple, 5743 Hatch Road, near the Hatch/Santa Fe intersection. Enjoy conversation with members of various faith communities and a dialog between Rabbi Shalom Bochner and Imam Ahmad Kayello. Tickets, \$12.50, are available at PrayerSupper2.bpt.me or by check to SCIC, PO Box 3365 Modesto CA 95353 by April 28. Some tickets will be available at the door.

Piano Recital



Join the students of Barbara Bort and Linda Bustle as they share their accomplishments during an afternoon of music, May 6, 3:00 pm, in the sanctuary. Light refreshments served.



Fellowship and Recreation is planning a lovely Sunday afternoon Baby Shower for Tera and her husband. Come join us Sunday, May 6th at 4pm in our Gathering Place for some fun and light refreshments. The Youth will be planning games and lots of fun for us, and like always we will have some goodies for you to enjoy. Tera had been registered at Babies 'R' Us, but since they are closing, her registry was wiped out. She does have some things registered at Target and of course gift cards would allow her to purchase what is still needed. This will be an event for everyone so please join us. ~Fellowship & Recreation

Senior Ministries-Wonders Down Under!

Flightless birds, glowing worms in caves, towering palms and ferns in lush rainforests, deep fjords cutting into snow-capped peaks, lovely lakes and roaring rivers, gushing geysers and bubbling mud pools, sheep-covered rolling hills, sparkling seashores... Just a few of the many wonders to be found down under in New Zealand.

On **Thursday, May 17**, join us for our Senior Ministries lunch and then a virtual tour of some of the sights that awed travelers Linda & Eldon Williams, Dave & Linda Owen, Loren & Corrine Baker on their visit to New Zealand earlier this spring. Lunch is served at 12:00 Noon for \$7. Please sign up on the board by the drinking fountains to let our

cooks know to count you in. (P.S. Dave promises NOT to show all of his 2,000+ pictures.) But maybe just one or two!

These statues are of moa, flightless birds that once lived in New Zealand, but are now extinct.



Some of the beautiful scenery of New Zealand that you will see at the Senior Ministries event!



Come and see much more!

A selection of Workday pix!





April

Monday

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday

5pm Bible Study

6pm Faith Bites

7pm Choir

Thursday

5pm Ladies' Night Out-Sizzler

Friday

6pm All Church Retreat

Saturday

9am All Church Retreat

Sunday

9:30am All Church Retreat

11am Worship

dates
to Remember

May

May 1 6pm Interfaith Prayer Supper-Sikh
Temple in Hughson

May 6 3pm Piano Recital-Linda Bustle/Barbara
Bort

May 6 4pm Tera's Baby Shower

May 17 12pm Senior Ministry Event: Wonders
Down Under

May 20 12:15 Stephen Reddy's Retirement
Dinner

May 28 Memorial Day-Office Closed

June **JULY**

June 11-15 Peace Week

June 21 Senior Ministry Event

June 24-July 1 Hosting Family Promise

July 3-8 Annual Conference-Cincinnati OH