



The Chimes

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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.

From the Board Chair



The search for a new permanent pastor is taking longer than the Search Committee had hoped, and Interim Pastor Michael Fletcher has notified the Board that November 18 will be his last Sunday at MCOB. Therefore, at last night's meeting, the Board approved requesting the District Executive seek another Interim Pastor for this congregation, to serve into the new year.

Since Pastor Michael will be leaving in November, and with no immediate prospect of calling a permanent Pastor at this time, at last night's Board meeting, Stephen Reddy graciously offered to resume being our Minister of Music, beginning September 1. Stephen is offering to provide leadership and continuity to our music ministry through the Holidays and beyond.

With all these changes taking place and knowing that there may be some questions and concerns from the congregation, I have scheduled a meeting after church on August 26, to be available to answer questions.

Karen Cosner, Board Chair

You may have noticed that the church will soon have a new neighbor on Dan West Court. A new house is being built on the lot at the end of the court. For years, we have had several neighbors along Dan West Court, ever since Habitat for Humanity built five houses across the street from the church. (There is one more non-Habitat house toward the end of the court, and two more privately built houses at the intersection with Woodland Avenue, but that's another story.)

The owner of one of those Habitat houses is a member of our congregation, but I wonder if any of us know or have had any conversations with the residents of the other four (or five) houses? I wonder if any of us know anything about the families who live there? I admit that I don't.

For that matter, I wonder how many of us know any of the neighbors around the church property? We are insulated from most of our neighbors by the acreage between the church building and the surrounding homes. In addition to the six houses (soon to be seven) across Dan West Court, there are nine more properties that share fences with the church property. How many of those folks have we met? Speaking for myself, just one!

I wonder how the folks who live in those homes see us? Are we good neighbors to them? Are they good neighbors to us? How would we know?

For several months, the members of the church Board have been reading a book called *To Alter Your World*, which challenges us to think about where the church is located, what the needs of the neighborhood around the church are, and how the church can discern what kind of neighbors God is calling us to be, as members of the community. To learn the answers to these questions, we need to get to know our neighbors.

Some of us have begun to take steps in that direction. Just before Peace Week, Karleen and Felton Daniels attended a Woodland West event and took Peace Week flyers. Talking to some of the families who were at the event resulted in the Dueña family coming to Peace Week, and continuing to come to worship nearly every Sunday since. I've contacted the principal of Martone Elementary School, and I also went to the office and chatted with the secretaries. We have had a good relationship with Martone in the past and I'm hoping we can rekindle it in some way.

Another way to connect with the community around the church could be for members of the church, even those who don't live in the neighborhood, to attend Woodland West events.

Terhesa Gamboa came to the church through getting to know Leah, the outreach coordinator that the church employed for several years. Through their efforts, they organized the Woodland West community around events that take place several times a year. During the Vital Ministry Journey process, as part of fulfilling one of our VMJ goals, members of MCoB partnered with

Woodland West to organize a neighborhood forum, including a panel of community leaders who addressed some local concerns. Most of those who attended, said, "Let's do this again!" Let's do it!

Do you have any other ideas for connecting with our neighbors? The Witness Commission is working on this Vital Ministry Journey Goal! ~Luella



Pastor's Schedule

(When in Modesto) Monday & Wednesday through Friday - In office 8:30 to 11:30
Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath. Other times by appointment, contact me by email at mfletch21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227.

July 31 - Aug. 19 - in Modesto
Aug. 20-25 - Working from Southern Cal
Aug. 25 - Sept 9 - in Modesto
Sept. 10 - 16 - vacation
Sept. 17 - 18 - Working from Southern Cal
Sept. 19-

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.

I would welcome suggestions as to locations and times to conduct these gatherings.

Friday, August 17, 1:00 pm - Ralston's Goat, 1001 10th St.

Note: The Roaming Office scheduled for Saturday, August 18, has been cancelled.



July and August Sermon Series - What We're Talking About When We Talk About _____.

We are in a period of time that some are calling post-Christian. What is meant by that is that the culture around us no longer maintains a Christian ethic as a defining characteristic. Therefore, we can no longer assume that certain Christian doctrine will be understood and accepted simply because the church says so. This requires us to be able to talk about things at a much deeper level than when our society was Christian in nature, which is what I hope to be doing in the morning messages through the end of August.

Here are the topics that I presently plan to speak on.

August 19 - Peace

August 26 - The Soul

I want to emphasize that these are not at all set in stone and changes might occur. My reason for emphasizing that is that you are invited to suggest a topic that you might be interested in hearing about.

**SUNDAY
STUDY**

Sunday Morning Study

We are meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the church library for a time of thought-provoking conversation based on a 10-12 minute video that takes a look at a spiritual

issue from what is often a very unique perspective. Some of our conversations have been quite interesting as we consider these various topics. Each week is a unique topic and so anyone can just drop in for a session and join in the discussion. This series will continue through Sept. 2.



Young Adult Gathering

One of the things that I would like to see happen before leaving in November is for the groundwork to be laid for a Modesto Church of the Brethren Young Adult Ministry. To that end I'd like to invite the young adults of the congregation to join me Thursday, August 30 at Buckhorn Bar B Q in the Vintage Fair Mall anytime between 5:30 and 8:00 to socialize and discuss next steps in organizing a group.

Childcare at the church will be provided and a MODCOB Happy Meal will be served to the children who are there. If you will be using the childcare, please RSVP so we know how many meals we need.

If you're not sure if you qualify as a young adult and you haven't yet cashed a Social Security check, come on out and join us. It never hurts to have a few "wiser" persons to provide some insight and help organize.

Hope to see a lot of you there on the 30th.





Give thanks for Pastor Michael Fletcher's year of service and leadership as our interim pastor.

Keep Linda Bustle in your prayers as she is seriously ill and is at Stanford for surgery.

Be grateful that Stephen Reddy has recovered from his bad cold.

Rejoice that Josh Gilstrap-Katen's aunt and uncle's house was spared from fire although their neighborhood was burned. And pray for his extended family going through some estate issues.

Pat Royer is rejoicing that her daughter Kathy and son-in-law Rudy are here visiting.

Be with Kelly Gepley as she begins her first full year of teaching at Garrison Elementary.

Renee Gokey is concerned about her mother, who needs housing.

Be with the family of Gayle Hernandez' daughter's family in the sudden loss of her father-in-law.

Pray for Margie Berumen, co-pastor of the new Church of the Brethren fellowship in Los Banos, receiving treatment at Stanford for cancer.

Rejoice with Kim and Jim Boardman, who will celebrate the 35th anniversary of their marriage next week in Disneyland.

Continue to pray for all those who grieve, all who live with pain, all who are lonely, ill, or troubled, and those whose troubles are too deep for words.

Greeters for August

Sunday, August 19th:

David F. Messamer & Donna Heiny

Sunday, August 26th

Joann Ewert & Bev Jefferies

Deacon on Call for August" Bob Sesser

Add to Your Directory:

David F. Messamer
4220 Kindred Court
Modesto, CA 95356

Gail Kristaponis Phone: 0015213312192764

Items of Note

Office Help Needed

Occasionally, Jill is not able to be in the office, so we need volunteers to make sure the phones are being answered, and someone is there to receive packages. If you have some free time, and are willing to spend a morning or afternoon in the church office, please contact Jill, either by calling the church office, or emailing Jill at office@modcob.org, and let her know that you're available. The Personnel Committee thanks you!





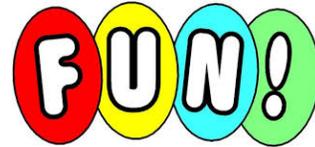
Our next Family Promise hosting week begins this Sunday, August 19 and ends Sunday morning, August 26. We still need evening hosts for Sunday night, 5:30 to 8:30, and several overnight hosts. We can also use help with set up and cleanup. Please call Luella Cole at 209-402-2915 and let us know that you can help fill those volunteer spots! Thank you!



From Fellowship and Recreation--WOW, what a turnout to our Birthday Event last Wednesday! Thank you SOOO much to all who came! Special thanks to those of you who baked those beautiful and very tasty cakes. We had fun discovering it's not easy to identify pictures of most of us who are over 70. Our last summer potluck is coming on August 22. Then, after a short break, we will begin Faith Bites on Wednesday, September 12th. Our special guest chef will be Deborah Gowans, so you know it will be delicious.

Upcoming event: our annual All Church Picnic and Ice Cream Social on September 16th. Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

Again thank you for making our Birthday Event tonight a huge success. ~Sue



Family FUN Night, 6 PM Friday, August 17.
Come for Food, Friends and FUN!



Don't forget!
Potluck supper at 6 pm Aug. 19
Bill and Margaret Johnson's house
(It's grape pie time!)

[3504 Sagewood Ct. Modesto](#)

Come for great food and talk.

It will be warm, so you are welcome to swim
or wade, if you'd like.



*Articles and photos for
the next issue of Chimes
are due by Thursday,
Sept. 6. Use article name
in the subject line and
email to:*

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.

The Condensed Calendar



August

Monday
6pm Board meeting

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday
12pm Sr. Ministry Event: Adventures in the Snow

Friday
1pm Pastor's Roaming Office/Ralston's Goat
6pm FUN Night

Saturday
NO Roaming Office--Cancelled

Next Sunday--August 19
19th-26th Hosting Family Promise
9:30am Sunday Morning Study
11am Worship
6pm Prospectors' Potluck--Johnson's

August 30 5:30pm Young Adult Gathering-
Buckhorn BBQ in Vintage Faire Mall



September 3 Labor Day--Office Closed
September 8 Walk to End Alzheimers-
Graceada Park
September 9 10:42am Annual Conference
Wrap-up Video and Report
September 16 12:30pm Church Picnic/Ice
Cream Social
September 20 12noon Sr. Ministries Event-
Forcier's trip to Zion, Bryce, Arches &
Grand Canyon
September 22 First Day of Autumn
September 28 6pm FUN Night



October 20 All Church Work Day
October 25 Sr. Ministry Event--Trip to
Knights Ferry & Oakdale Cheese Factory

Do you have an announcement you would like to see on the big screen, before Sunday worship begins? Please send any announcements to the church: office@modcob.org by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!