



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



AWAKENING TO GOD'S MIRACLES: A CRASH COURSE ~Linda Bustle

Over several months, early this year, I became aware that my belly had become distended, making me look as though I was 2 or 3 months pregnant-not the way I have ever appeared! I remembered that when I was 11, I visited my Grandma Wahling, my mom's mom, in the hospital with pancreatic cancer, which caused her death. That memory persuaded me to call my doctor.

On July 25, I saw my primary care doctor, Dr. McGrew. After a finger-tip exam of my belly, he said, "You have a rather large tumor there." He immediately ordered blood work and a CT scan and referred me to Dr. Elizabeth Diver, a gynecologic oncologist at Stanford. Getting an appointment with her wouldn't happen until August 20. At this point I prayed to my Savior to show me how to trust the time factor and realized that He was reminding me that I am on His calendar.

Miracle #1 came quickly, after my appointment with Dr. McGrew, through a series of calls with the results of the lab testing. The first test showed me to be very anemic, and Dr. McGrew recommended that I take iron to build up my blood.

Miracle #2 was the result of the CT scan: the tumor was a pelvic/ovarian one. Dr. McGrew told me directly that most ovarian cancers are malignant. I thanked him for his directness. But the good news was that the CT scan showed no evidence that the tumor had metastasized. I hung up from that conversation and immediately prayed to my Savior to guide me in dealing with this situation; how to trust Him to handle the outcome of my condition and to allow me to show his love and caring to those with whom I would deal in the appointment and treatment on August 20th.

Over the three weeks span before my appointment at Stanford, Dr. McGrew checked in with me, letting me know he was praying for me and wishing me well. I had more lab tests, which confirmed the anemia and ovarian cancer, but also showed no internal bleeding. I continued with the iron pills. My main symptoms were low energy, from the anemia, and weight loss.

Miracle #3 came via Rosie, my angel, friend and sister, who came to be with me at Stanford during my appointment and the ensuing surgery. At my appointment with Dr. Diver, she was allowed to go to the exam room with me. Both Dr. Diver and a German doctor, who took my family history, were concerned about the 3-week wait for this appointment, and then scheduled surgery as early as possible, on August 22.

Dr. Diver then described every step of the surgery in detail and ordered more lab tests and another CT scan.

Miracle #4 came as Rosie and I went for lunch and received a call verifying that surgery would FOR SURE be on August 22.

Miracle #5 took place during counseling with the anesthesiologist, who double-checked the date and time of my surgery. I repeated again and again, "Thank You, God, for being with me during this time. Thank You for Your Peace."

Miracle #6 came about the night before the surgery when God blessed me with a dream. I had slept fitfully and prayed during the night. Just before I awoke I was shown an amazing vision. In my dream, I was standing in an area where I could begin to see into Heaven and I noticed two people moving toward me bearing a tray with a glistening, bright white, shining substance on it. I realized I was watching my Mom and Daddy. They stopped in front of me and both looked at me with great love and smiled at me...then I awoke. It was their message to me via God's great love that they would be with me in the events to come.

Miracle #7 came as the anesthetics were about to be administered. As I was lying on the gurney in my hospital gown, Rosie, Herb, my former husband, and Maryhelen, his wife, came to keep me company. Right before I was wheeled into the surgery suite, Herb and Rosie prayed for me. At that point Maryhelen bent down to me and said, "I just want you to know that I love you." I cried and was finally able to say to her, "I love you and have always cared about you." Not only had God blessed me with physical healing, but now he was also touching me with mental/spiritual healing.

After a week in the hospital I was allowed to return home with Rosie's care. Miracles #8, #9 and #10 have been that my God oversaw my surgery and continues to oversee my chemotherapy treatments. You see, the malignant tumor that Dr. Diver removed weighed 5 ½ pounds and was the size of a basketball, but it was TOTALLY self-contained, with no tears or holes in the skin and no runners attempting to metastasize, which is an ABSOLUTE MIRACLE. The only other cancer was a small spot on one ovary. During the chemotherapy treatments, God has blessed me with normal blood test results, no nausea after the treatments, and kind and caring chemo nurses to administer the treatments.

Our God is a God of Love, Miracles, and Healing. He loves us unconditionally, however stubborn we may have been. You see, His healing of me has not only been physical. He has shown me mental/spiritual family healings also. He also sent me a comfort verse from Philippians 4:6: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (New Revised Standard)



You're invited to the sanctuary next Sunday, November 25, at 10:45 am, for a rehearsal of Advent carols for December. Be in your places with smiles on your faces! Thanks.

We worship on November 25 around "Living With Gratitude," featuring four of our fine speakers...Jeannie Canter, Felton Daniels, Eddie Hernandez, and Bill Johnson. For preparation, read Psalms 95:1-7.

December 2nd Worship: Amy Pennock will bring the message: "We Need a Little Christmas". (Isaiah 11:1-9)

The Christmas season seems to be creeping up earlier and earlier every year, and it can get exhausting just trying to keep up with all the festivities. Learn to reframe this time into one of renewal and promise. God uses the mystery and magic of Advent to uplift our spirits for the coming year.



Be in prayer with Nancy Deal and family after the death of her sister.

Rejoice that Carol Greathouse was able to attend worship after a time in the hospital, even though she must wear a mask for protection

Evan Campbell reported that his wife Jaimie's family had to evacuate last week due to the wildfires in Butte County.

Jolie Lapora is concerned for her firefighter husband Rick as he had to be on duty 8 days in a row due to the fires.

Shaun and Kelly rejoiced at the return of their lost dog. Also, Kelly is returned to health after a bout with the flu.

Renee Gokey is continuing to care for her granddaughter, but her son Steven will be home for Thanksgiving. Renee's mom is still seeking housing.

Please pray for Luella's grandson Will, who has pneumonia.



Greeters for the Month

Nov. 25 - Gary & Sandy Lawrence

Dec. 2 - Bob & Lynda Sesser

Dec. 9 - Russ Davis & Raeann

Dec. 16 - Children from Children's Church

Dec. 23 - Terhesa Gamboa & Gayle Hernandez

Dec. 30 - Joan Ewert & Bev Jefferies

Thanks to all who extend a warm greeting at the door each Sunday.



CALIFORNIA FIRES: HOW TO HELP

Some of you have been asking what Modesto Church of the Brethren can do to help the victims of the California wildfires, especially the Camp Fire, which destroyed the town of Paradise. The Witness Commission has been advised that the church cannot collect money to be sent to the agencies who are assisting those who have lost everything. The best way for you to help is to choose a reputable charity that is working to help the fire victims. Below is a list of charities that are already at work in the Butte County area and beyond. You may contact any of these agencies individually to donate as you are able.

ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR WILDFIRE RELIEF:

The Chico-based nonprofit [North Valley Community Foundation](#) is accepting online donations to an Evacuation Relief Fund that will support organizations that are sheltering Camp Fire evacuees.

The [Butte County Office of Education](#) has set up a Schools Relief Fund, administered online by the North Valley Community Foundation, to directly benefit Butte County schools. Donors can either specify a district or use for their money (such as textbooks or clothes) or make an open donation.

The [United Way of Northern California](#) has established a NorCal Fire Relief Fund to benefit Camp Fire relief efforts, including "direct cash assistance for survivors, assistance to partner agencies in their provision of direct services to survivors, and United Way operations that directly assist survivors." [Donate online](#) or by texting BUTTEFIRE to 91999. Businesses and organizations interested in helping contribute to the fund can call Jacob Peterson at 530-241-7521 or 916-218-5424. You can also email him at jpeterson@norcalunitedway.org.

The [Salvation Army](#) is accepting monetary donations to support their immediate response efforts. You can [give online](#) or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769). Donations by mail may be designated "Camp Fire" and sent to:

The Salvation Army
PO Box 348000
Sacramento, CA 95834

The Chico-based [Enloe Medical Center Foundation](#) has set up a relief fund to help patients, families and caregivers who have lost their homes or been displaced due to the fire. You can [donate online](#) or text "CampFireRelief" to 91999.

[Tri Counties Bank](#) has set up a fund to help the victims of the Camp Fire. The bank made an initial deposit of \$25,000 in the account, and the bank's [GoFundMe page](#) for the fire fund has raised more than \$86,000 since it opened on Nov. 9. You can donate to the fund on GoFundMe, or at any Tri Counties Bank location.

[GoFundMe](#) created a page with verified campaigns raising money for victims of the [Camp Fire](#) and the [Woolsey and Hill fires](#) in Southern California. The page includes large campaigns like the Tri Counties Bank campaign, as well as campaigns for individual families who have lost their homes.

The [American Red Cross](#) is accepting online donations to help people affected by the California wildfires (select the appropriate option from the dropdown menu). You can also donate by calling 1-800-733-2767 or texting "CAWILDFIRES" to 90999.

The [Veterans Resource Center](#) is accepting monetary donations online (designate "Camp Fire" in the comments field) and items that can be dropped off at the center in Chico (10 Amber Grove Drive, Ste 114, Chico). On Monday, they published a list of needed items — [see it here](#).

The [California Community Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund](#) supports intermediate and long-term recovery efforts for major California wildfires, as well as preparedness efforts. You can donate online or mail checks (noting "Wildfire Relief Fund") to:

California Community Foundation
221 S. Figueroa St., Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The **Yuba/Sutter Habitat for Humanity** is accepting monetary donations (in person or online), gift cards, and donations of unused clothing, blankets, hygiene products, or non-perishable food items. Donations can be dropped off at their ReStore (202 D Street, Marysville, CA 95901) during business hours. **More information can be found here.**

The **New Earth Market in Yuba City** has also been collecting gift cards to distribute to evacuees. Information on their efforts can be found on the market's **Facebook page.**

The **Presbytery of Sacramento** has established a Camp Fire Relief Fund to assist the Chico-based **Bidwell Presbyterian Church** in responding to families affected by the Camp Fire.

Bidwell Presbyterian is also collaborating with the Salvation Army to distribute donated items and holding "pop-up shops" for evacuees. More information on their efforts can be found on **their website** and **Facebook page.**

CAIR-SV has joined with Islamic Centers and mosques to raise money for cash cards for victims, to be distributed by the Islamic Center of Chico. You can donate online to their **LaunchGood fundraiser**, which has raised more than \$20,000 so far.

The **Pacific Southwest District** will be receiving donations to provide direct support to help with the needs of the pastor and members of the Paradise congregation as they seek to recover. *Checks can be sent to the PSWD COB, PO Box 219, La Verne, CA 91750 and marked "Paradise Fire".*

The **Colusa County Farm Bureau** has begun a children's book drive to benefit elementary schools and families in the Paradise area. For information on how to donate new or gently used children's books, contact the Colusa County Farm Bureau at 530-458-5130 or the Butte County Farm Bureau at 530-533-1473.

How to help animals:

Sacramento-based nonprofit **RedRover** has **a list of resources for helping animals affected by the California wildfires here.**

The **Butte Humane Society** has opened a pet food and supply pantry at 2580 Fair Street in Chico. It's open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can donate and find more information on their **Facebook page.** Questions can be directed to Katrina at **katrinawoodcox@buttehumane.org.**

The **Butte County Farm Bureau and Butte Ag Foundation** have created a Camp Fire Animal Agriculture Assistance Fund. The fund will accept monetary donations dedicated to feeding, housing and maintaining livestock displaced by the fire that are being cared for at the Butte County Fairgrounds. For more information, see **www.butteagfoundation.org.**

UC Davis vets are helping rescue animals, treating them for burns and connecting them with their owners. People can make donations to the **Veterinary Catastrophic Need Fund** to help treat the animals or make a gift to the **Veterinary Emergency Response Team** to help their vets in the field. To see unclaimed pets being treated by UC Davis, **visit their Facebook photo album.**

ALL ITEMS PRINTED IN RED ARE COMPUTER LINKS TO THE NAMED AGENCY.

IF YOU GET THE CHIMES ONLINE, YOU CAN CLICK TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH AGENCY. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER OR CAN'T ACCESS THE INFORMATION, A SEPARATE LIST OF AGENCY ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

**COMING SOON**

Ladies' Night Out: November and December
Monday, November 26 at 5:30, Sizzlers on Dale Road

Annual Ladies Christmas Tea

Karleen Daniels extends to the ladies an invitation to Christmas Tea and Gift Exchange on Saturday, December 8th at 2:00 PM. Please RSVP by December 2 to karleenfelton@gmail.com or 209-484-3163 and specify if you are bringing a sweet or savory finger food to share. Traditionally, those with favorite teacups bring them. Each lady brings a gift worth not more than \$5 for the gift exchange. Wearing a hat is appropriate, but not necessary. It just adds to the fun



Don't forget to sign up for the Holiday Luncheon, December 16th at 12:15 after worship. The sign-up board is in the narthex.



MCOB Prospectors' Christmas Party

6 p.m., December 21, 2018

At the home of Eldon and Linda Williams, 3200 Barbera Ln., Modesto (524-2724)

Bring an appetizer, snack, or dessert to share. ("finger-foods")

We will also have our traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange, so wrap up a "treasure," hiding in your closet, shed or garage, for someone else's holiday cheer.

Young Adult Gathering

If you consider yourself a young adult, put on your calendar the next gathering: December 7, 6 PM, at Thai House at 3430 Tully Road, in the Tully Manor Shopping Center. RSVP to the church office if you need child care.



F.U.N. (Family Unity Night) will be Friday, December 14 at 6 PM. Come for Food, fun, and Fellowship! For families with children from 5 to 12 (Kindergarten through 6th grade)



Youth will be helping with the Holiday Dinner, December 16. Donations for dinner will go to the Youth Group. Note! Change of date for the Youth Lock-In, December 22-23! More info in the next Chimes!

The Condensed Calendar



Monday

6:45 PM Stanislaus Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration/Modesto Centre Plaza

Tuesday

Wednesday

NO FAITH BITES!
NO CHOIR PRACTICE!

Thursday-HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Office Closed

Friday

Office Closed

Saturday

Next Sunday-November 25th
9:30 AM Sunday Morning Study
11 AM Worship



November 26 5:30 PM Ladies Night Out
Sizzler
November 29 6PM Advent Book Study



December 6 6 PM Advent Book Study
December 7 6 PM Young Adult gathering
Thai House-Tully Road
December 8 2 PM Ladies Christmas Tea
Daniels' home
December 13 6 PM Advent Book Study
December 15 6 PM F.U.N. Event
December 16 12:30 Holiday Luncheon
December 20 6 PM Advent Book Study
December 21 Prospectors' Christmas Party
Williams' home
December 22-23 Youth Lock-In
December 24 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Service
December 24-25 Christmas-Office Closed



January 5, 2019 8:00 AM Board/Commission
Retreat
January 15 6 PM John McCutcheon Concert
Peace/Life Center Benefit
January 13-19 Family Promise Hosting

