



The Chimes

Date: March 26, 2019
Volume 19 Number 7

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

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



Almost exactly two years ago, our pastor, Erin Matteson, wrote in the Chimes, "This has all been wonderful, yet now I'm on my way," as she was leaving for a new ministry

This week, we as the congregation of the Modesto Church of the Brethren are about to make a significant decision for our future.

The last two years have been a time of transition. We have enjoyed the ministry of two gifted interim pastors in planning worship and keeping us focused on God's work. We have also learned much about keeping the day-to-day ministries of the church running smoothly without the input of a permanent pastor. In the past two years, new ministries have been birthed in our congregation and new members have been welcomed. In spite of the loss of some long-time members, the congregation has thrived.

Now we are about to embark on a new transition. This week we will meet the pastoral candidate that the Search Committee has interviewed and approved and with God's leading we may call that person as our new permanent pastor next Sunday.

Calling a new pastor brings new ideas, and new adjustments for us as a congregation. With God's grace, we will continue to thrive.

~Luella Cole

"On the spiritual journey...each time a door closes, the rest of the world opens up. All we need to do is to stop pounding on the door just closed, turn around—which puts the door behind us—and welcome the largeness of life that now lies open to our souls." **Parker J. Palmer**, Founder and Senior Partner Emeritus of the Center for Courage & Renewal, and a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker).

COMING SOON: CANDIDATE & FAMILY 'MEET & GREET'

The long-anticipated weekend visit by our Pastoral Candidate and family is almost here!

The Search Committee wants to make sure everyone has an opportunity sometime during that weekend (March 29-31) for informal conversations, so here's a variety of options to 'chew and chat' together. Please check the schedule below and plan to come and connect informally before we take a vote on our recommendation to call him as Pastor.

SCHEDULE for PASTORAL CANDIDATE VISIT

Friday, 3/29, 6:30-8:00: Drop in for Dessert & Dialogue (Gathering Place)

Note: Special invitation to youth & families!!
(Schedule continued on the next page)

Saturday, 3/30, 10:00-12:00: Finger Food & Fellowship for all (Gathering Place)
1:30-3:00: Board & Commissions confer with candidate (Gathering Place)

Sunday 3/31, 9:30 - 10:30: Conversation with candidate (Library) No Sunday school
10:30 - 10:50: Coffee break
11:00 - 12:00: Worship (Sermon & Children's Time by Candidate)
12:05: Brief Council meeting (Sanctuary)
Light lunch following vote (Gathering Place)



Sunday, March 31

Read Matthew 5:1-11.

"Gold Star Sermon" with a focus on the people Jesus specifically mentions to those gathered...not the "in crowd," but those on the periphery. What is our place in society and how might that change the church's mission?

Preaching: Pastoral Candidate

Sunday, April 7

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-13..."A Time for Every Matter." As we continue connecting to "our unhurried God," we often blur the lines between busy and rest, work and play. Where is this frantic pace taking us?

Preaching: Stephen Reddy



Rejoice with Rachel and Josh Gilstrap-Katen at the birth of their daughter, Aria Faith Elizabeth.

Celebrate the diverse crowd of persons who filled the Islamic Center in remembrance of the Muslim worshipers who were killed in New Zealand.

Tammy Firch is celebrating having a new bike to replace the one someone stole.

Keep Al Forcier in your thoughts as he is dealing with a painful health concern.

Keep the Miller family in your prayers as they are with their Pennsylvania family saying goodbye to Sara's mother, packing keepsakes, and helping Sara's brother pack to move to California.

Keep the Young Adult Group in your prayers, and give thanks for those who volunteer to do child care so the parents can get together.

Give thanks that Derek Castle is home safe from his "walkabout" in Mexico. He discovered that Jenni bought another house while he was gone!

Keep Kelly Gepley in your prayers after her terrifying experience with a true lockdown at the school where she teaches.

Al Forcier reported that Michael Fletcher has gone through his first round of chemo for his cancer, and has lost 35 pounds.

Norman Johnson was glad to be able to come to church, and is happy to have his three sons, Neil, Roland, and Norval with him.

From Karen Cosner:

On behalf of John and myself I want to thank our church family for the kind words, cards and prayers that you have shared with us during this difficult time of John's journey into Parkinson's dementia. I am no longer able to care for him at home and he now resides in the memory care section of Hospitality House in Salida. I cannot express to you how much your support has meant during this difficult time.

**Deacon On Call for March:
Marye Martinez**

**Deacon On Call for April
Linda Owen**

From the Deacons:

Reminder! Pick up your 2019 church directory. The deacons have been assigned to the congregation members listed on the various pages. They will try to keep in touch with these folks in various ways. Feel free to contact your Deacon or any other Deacon with concerns, questions or prayer requests. Here are the Deacon assignments.

Adkins to Campbell--Marye Martinez

Canter to Davis, Jason--Linda Owen

Davis, Russ to Flores--Lynda Sesser

Forcier to Greathouse--Bob Sesser

Harty, Maddy to Johnson, Bill--Eddie Hernandez

Johnson, Jacob to McDermott--Gayle Hernandez

Messamer, Chuck to Mueller--Jolinda Reddy

Munson to Royer--Stephen Reddy

Sanders to Wolfe--Jim Martinez

COMING SOON

**25th Annual
Martin Luther King Jr.**

**Commemoration
Saturday, March 30
MJC East Auditorium
6 PM Doors Open
7 PM Free Program**

As part of the 25th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration, **Gene Palsgrove** and **Mary Baucher** will be awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award for their long-time service to the Modesto community on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at Modesto Junior College's main auditorium, 435 College Ave., at 7:00 p.m. Our speaker will be **Dr. Michael Eric Dyson**, well-known sociologist and public intellectual. His topic will be, "Dr. King for the 21st Century." There will be a student reception at the King-Kennedy Center, 601 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Modesto at 4 p.m. that day, and an open reception at 5 p.m. there. Doors at the college open at 6 p.m. You are all invited! Come early. ~James Costello

**YOUNG
adults**

**Young Adult Gathering
Friday, April 12 at 6 pm
Buckhorn BBQ at Vintage Faire Mall
Contact Kim Boardman to RSVP
Contact Anna Hazen for child care at the
church**



Our Lenten Sojourn A Short List of Events

Lenten Theme:
"Connecting to Our Unhurried God"

- ❖ Prayer Time Together, every Tuesday of Lent, 10 AM-10:30 AM in the Sanctuary, Bring your church directory to pray for others.
- ❖ Lenten Book Study, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 6 PM-7:30 PM. Read and discuss "The Last Week" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.
- ❖ Labyrinth Walk, Sun., April 14th 10 AM
- ❖ Love Feast, 6 PM Maundy Thurs., April 18
- ❖ Palm Sunday, April 14
- ❖ Easter Sunday, April 21: Breakfast, Egg Hunt, Worship



at the Modesto Church of the Brethren

Friday, April 19, 6 PM

Come for food, fellowship and FUN! For families with children in elementary school grades. Dinner, crafts, and a lesson for children; a discussion time for parents.



The Witness Commission thanks you for your generosity! We now have 4 Sock Boxes, because the other three are filled! The Sock Boxes will be in the narthex until Good Friday. If all the boxes are full before then, we will deliver the socks to the Shower Shuttle, and put the boxes back to be filled with socks again! Keep those socks coming! Remember, homeless people need new socks!

All Church Work Day



April 13, 8 AM

It's now spring, so it is time for the semi-annual All Church Clean Up (1/2 day), We are getting those April showers that bring May flowers (but also bring weeds to be mown, windows and solar panels to be cleaned etc.). We need those arms, legs and hands to do some work!! April 13th is coming soon. We still need guys with chain saws for downing some trees.

The signup poster is in the narthex. The good jobs go quick!!! We will have the usual enticements, donuts, maple bars and coffee at 8am. Group picture at 8:45. Work from 9 to noon. At noon we look forward to having a nice lunch. We had a great turnout last year and we look for the same this year.
~Bill Johnson, 985-0908.



Fellowship & Recreation is hard at work planning our next event, Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt.

It's only 4 weeks away! There will be a sign up for this event so we can have enough eggs filled for the children at the egg hunt.

We need you to sign up for brunch as well, so we will have enough brunch ready for all. Be thinking now about extended family members and neighborhood children who might like to come and join us both for brunch and egg hunt.

Watch for the signup in the narthex that will go up a few weeks prior to Easter.
~ Sue for Fellowship & Recreation

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 the church office at office@modcob.org by Wednesday evenings.
Thank you!**

*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by **Saturday, April 6.** Email to: chimes@modcob.org
The Editor thanks you.*



The Condensed Calendar



Monday, March 25

Tuesday, March 26

10 am Prayer Time Together - Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 27

6 pm Faith Bites-**POTLUCK!**

7 pm Choir

Thursday, March 28

6 pm Lenten Book Study

Friday, March 29

Pastoral Candidate and Family Visit

6:30 pm-8:00 pm Drop in for Dessert & Dialogue

Saturday, March 30

Pastoral Candidate and Family Visit

10 am - 12:00 noon Finger Food & Fellowship
1:30 pm - 3 pm Board & Commissions confer with Candidate

Sunday, March 31

Pastoral Candidate and Family Visit

9:30 am Conversation with Candidate
11 am Worship (Sermon & Children's time by Candidate)
12:05 pm Brief Council meeting
Light lunch following vote

April 2 6:30 Family Promise Training

April 12 6 pm Young Adult Gathering--
Buckhorn BBQ

April 13 8 am All Church Workday

April 14 Palm Sunday

April 14 10 am Labyrinth Walk

April 18 6 pm Maundy Thursday/Love Feast

April 19 6 pm F.U.N. Event

April 21 Easter-Breakfast, Egg Hunt & Worship

April 22 Earth Day

April 28-May 4 Family Promise Hosting

April 28 2 pm Sr. Ministry event-
"Tuesdays with Morrie"-Gallo Center



May 5 12:30 pm Prospector Potluck -
Forciers' home

May 11 2 pm Mothers' and Friends' Tea

May 12 Mothers' Day

May 17 6 pm F.U. N. Event

May 27 Memorial Day - Office Closed

Please make every effort to be at worship on March 31. We will be deciding the future of our congregation for some time to come. Please come and help us choose a new pastor!