



# The Chimes

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## Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: [office@modcob.org](mailto:office@modcob.org) ♦ web site: [www.modcob.org](http://www.modcob.org)

Pastor: Andrew Sampson Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



### Autumn in Modesto

By Luella Cole

It is officially autumn in Modesto. No, we don't have colorful leaves on the many trees lining the streets-not yet. The color will come, probably in November. We don't have frosty nights-not yet. There are still roses on our bushes; our tomato vines still give us fruit. My tropical hibiscuses are still blooming. We still need to mow the lawn. Afternoons are still warm enough for shorts and sandals.

But we can no longer go for walks after dinner unless we take a jacket and a flashlight. It's too chilly in the evening to enjoy sitting out on the patio. It's dark in the morning when it's time to get up, and dark soon after dinner. Many of our waking hours are in the dark.

Autumn's growing darkness used to bring on darkness in my mood. I never looked forward to the months between October to the middle of January. Foggy, sunless days would depress me so much that I needed to drive up into the mountains, above the blanket of gray that covered the valley, to Sunshine Road, just north of Sonora, where the sun would break through the fog. I needed to see a little bit of sun.

Even the winter holidays didn't give me any joy. It wasn't until around my birthday in January that the gloom would lift--both from the weather and from my frame of mind.

Sometime in the last decade I learned about seasonal affective disorder, and recognized the symptoms in myself. Sitting under bright light first thing in the morning has helped. I now don't dread autumn. I can now enjoy the crisp, chilly air in the morning, the beautiful leaves on the ginkgo and Chinese pistache trees in my neighborhood, and look forward to winter holidays. Autumn's beauty is now a joy to me, as are the many Bible verses that speak of light in the darkness, such as John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."



October 13

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Title: "Desperate Times Call For..."

Summary: If we grew up in church the chance that we heard today's text is pretty good. But this story is more complex than many of us learned about when we were younger.

(And if you don't know the story that is okay, too!) Let's look at the complexities of a story that some of us think we might know well, but there might be some surprises in store.

October 20

Scriptures: Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121

Title: "What Have You Been Called?"

Summary: Sticks and stones are not the only things that hurt. Throughout our lives we are called many things by many people, and not all of them are complimentary! The sting of those names and comments can last for a long time and create an identity that we don't wish to have. In Genesis, we encounter an unusual story that results in Jacob being renamed Israel. It also means a change in the way Israel lives his new life instead of following his old ways of doing things. For this week let us recall the old names that we've been called, want to leave behind, and the ways that we want to live and be!



### October Greeters

13th-Donna Heiny and Sue Singh

20th-Jacob Johnson and Eli Sampson

27th-Tim Smart and Leslie Wilkinson



Be in prayer for Karen Cosner and the Cosner family at the passing of John Cosner on September 27. His memorial service will be on November 2 at 3 PM at the church.

Keep Ginny Hollis in your prayers as she recovers from a stroke.

Eddie Hernandez asks for prayer for his brother, who has Parkinson's.

Jeannie Canter asked for travel mercies as she and Dean go to Louisiana for a reunion.

Keep Allison Sampson in your prayers as she presents a talk at a conference, and also keep her mother in your prayers as she undergoes surgery.

Chelsea Feeney is rejoicing 4 weeks after successful heart surgery.

Jim Martinez is facing cataract surgery.

Fran Adkins introduced Eda, a neighbor, who attended worship for the first time.

Larry Cole has had the staples out of his back, but still has considerable pain after his back surgery.

Family Promise staff are hoping that someone in the congregations that host Family Promise families can help with car repairs. Erika and her family have been having car issues for the past week. Without repairs, this family will be having issues with getting to work, getting children to school, and getting one of the adults to school. The family would greatly appreciate if they could have any assistance with car repairs. If anyone can assist, please call Family Promise at 209-549-9454



### COME AND SEE!!

"There is a quiet place, far from the rapid pace, where God can soothe my troubled mind..."

This Ralph Carmichael song snippet, aptly describes our new & improved 'Quiet Place',

conveniently **RE-LOCATED** by the church office, (through the workroom to the left). Best of all, it's accessible whenever the church is open.

Come on in for a sneak peek and you may end up staying awhile to enjoy the autumn ambience....

**NEW QUIET PLACE!**



Big thanks go to Chuck Messamer for nudging us in this direction!

We have been setting aside approximately \$20,000 per year from funds that formerly paid the electric bill, to repay the loans from church members that funded the installation of the solar panels. In 4 more years, the solar loans will be paid off and the \$20,000 per year set aside to pay the loans will drop out of the building and grounds budget.

In a little more than 4 years we will be looking at monthly electrical bills of \$150 or less per month vs. \$1500 per month in the past. These savings should continue for the life of our solar panels, which have a life expectancy of 30 to 40 years. Installing solar panels and converting to LED lights have had a major impact on the church budget.

By Bill Johnson, for Building & Grounds

## Terrific Fall Workday!

Our fall All Church Work Day was terrific. Good weather, good turnout and good food to end the work day. A lot was done. We again got the chance to clean and shine the solar panels, and spruce up the lines and arrows in the parking lot. Some interior lights got changed and trash cans in the kitchen got scrubbed. Toys in the nursery got their biannual cleaning. Some windows got a spot cleaning. The rain gutters were blown out getting ready for the rain to come. The stumps from our spring work day were ground down and loose logs that were still remaining were picked up and moved so that the city could pick them up. The large green weeds—those trying to become trees—were pruned at the ground level in anticipation of the field being mowed in December/January.



## DOES SOLAR POWER WORK FOR THE CHURCH?

In the process of working on the 2020 church budget a few numbers came jumping off the page that I would like to share.

Almost 6 years ago we installed our solar panels and locked in our electrical expense as well as taking advantage of generous rebates available at the time. Our pre-solar monthly electrical bill ran about \$1500 a month. Doing the budget for 2020 I found that in 2019 our average actual monthly electrical payment to MID has been about \$152 per month, due to the move to solar panels, as well as the conversion of our church lighting to LED.

After mowing we are going to have a preemergent (that prevents weed seeds from sprouting) applied to the field and sometime in April or May have a post-emergent weed killer applied by our landscaping company. We anticipate that this process will be done annually. Now that the old mistletoe ridden trees have been taken out, new holes were dug for a new variety of trees to be planted in the next week or so.

These were a lot of "little projects" that could not be done without a bunch of helpful arms and legs from our volunteers. Thanks again to this super group. ~Bill Johnson



## MESSENGER

Look for your November Messenger magazine later this month. The November issue is featuring teaching as a ministry, and one of our own members is one of the teachers featured in the article. Read your Messenger carefully and you will see **Kim Boardman** describing her call to the ministry of teaching!

COMING SOON

*Sing to the Lord a New Song!*  
Craig Courtney  
Combined Choir Concert

**October 12, 2019**

**4:00 PM**

Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue—Modesto



The *Craig Courtney Choral Festival* is a gathering of six Modesto area church choirs presenting a choral concert of ten of Craig Courtney's sacred choral anthems. An exciting part of this event is that **Craig Courtney will be with us to direct his anthems.** The concert is Saturday, October 12, 4:00 pm, in the MCOB sanctuary. And you're invited!

The participating choirs have sung his music over the years and we have come to love and appreciate his careful union of music and text that continue to "sing praise to the Lord." As we hear and sing his music, we are entranced by fine sacred choral music. We're all aware of the power of music in our lives, and, especially, sacred choral music that speaks to our hearts and spirits and helps lead us into God's presence.



Family Promise of Greater Modesto will be hosting our first ever *A Night Out for the Journey Home* event on **October 25 - 26, 2019** at **Free Will Baptist Church, 225 E. Orangeburg Ave., Modesto**. The purpose for this event is to host a fun family event that will raise funds, promote awareness of family homelessness and show how our Family Promise community is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors facing homelessness.

**Thank you in advance for your support. We hope to see you at *A Night Out for the Journey Home!* We hope that you will join us as we *Share the Promise* with our community!**

There are several ways that your congregation can get involved:

1. Attend the event and/or register a fundraising team. Registration and details are on our event site:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/a-night-out-for-the-journey-home>

or you can contact our office for tickets and sponsor forms.

2. Volunteer to help out at the event: Help with set-up, open house activities, clean-up, parking, etc.

Contact the Family Promise office at 209-549-9454 or email our volunteer leads for the event:

Cecilia Rosales [ceciliarosales2@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliarosales2@gmail.com) or  
Brandye Diaz de la Cuesta  
[bdiazdelacuesta@gmail.com](mailto:bdiazdelacuesta@gmail.com).

3. Donate continental breakfast items: bagels, cream cheese, pastries, yogurt, fruit, juices, etc.

If your congregation would like more information, a member of the Family Promise Board or staff will be happy to come speak to your group about the event and Family Promise. Call 209-549-9454.

### 2nd Annual Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Game

On October 26th, Modesto Peace/Life Center will hold the 2nd Annual Golden State Road Warriors Wheelchair Basketball Game, a fundraiser for the community radio project KCBP 95.5 FM. You can get tickets by going to our website:

[www.kcbpradio.org](http://www.kcbpradio.org). It will be lots of fun for all ages. In addition, there will be several raffles. See flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.





The Woodland West Community Neighborhood will be holding a Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6 p.m. Location is our church, and everyone is welcome to attend. Special guests so far are Sheriff Jeff Dirkse, MPD Area Commander Lt. Martha Delgado, the MPD Crime Prevention Unit, someone from CHP Modesto. We will be discussing recent crimes in our neighborhood. Lately speeding, vehicle theft and petty theft have been the biggest problems. ~Terhesa Gamboa



Janeen Studley wrote a poem, "Diamonds and Gold" which was reprinted in the last Chimes. She wrote this in memory of her Mom on her last Mother's Day before her death. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

However, the only way to conclusively determine if it was Alzheimer's is an autopsy. Dementia is the loss of intellectual abilities interfering with a person's social and occupational functions. Other causes are brain injuries, brain tumors, and vascular disorders. Any form of dementia could lead into Alzheimer's.

In Janeen's case, the neurologist believes that her cognitive impairment is due to concussions. Just like many others, she is walking the journey even though the path is unknown.

Janeen will be discussing more on the topic on **October 17th at 12 pm**. She will be talking about her experiences and journey thus far. This discussion is a way to show you, your loved ones, and friends that you are not alone on your journey.

Lunch will be served before the program at a cost of \$7. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex to let the cooks know how many to prepare for.

**Prospectors' Potluck for November has been canceled** since it was scheduled for the same day as the Council Meeting. The next Prospectors event is the Christmas Party at the home of Linda and Eldon Williams, December 14, at 6 PM. More on this later!



The Woodland West Community Neighborhood will be holding a Public Meeting on the SR 132 Bypass Project, which will greatly affect our neighborhood. The meeting will be at Modesto Church of the Brethren on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Many of our elected officials will be with us. Everyone interested is welcome to come to this meeting. We do not have flyers yet but will post one when they are released.



## The Condensed Calendar



Monday, October 7

Tuesday, October 8

11am Young at Heart Exercise Group  
1pm Bible Study

Wednesday, October 9

1pm Caffeinated Church-The Village Butcher  
McHenry Village

6pm Faith Bites  
7pm Choir

Thursday, October 10

11am Young at Heart Exercise Group  
6pm Fall Book Club

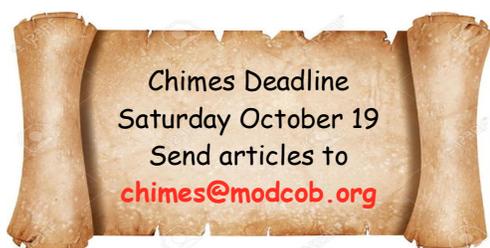
Friday, October 11

Saturday, October 12

4pm Craig Courtney Choir Concert

Sunday, October 13

9:30am Sunday School  
11am Worship  
12:15pm Witness Mtg. Library



October 14 Columbus Day

October 14 6:30pm Board Meeting

October 16 1pm Caffeinated Church  
Food Fix, 938 11th St.

October 17 12pm Sr. Ministry event  
Walking the Journey

October 17 6pm Woodland West  
Neighborhood Watch Meeting

October 23 1pm Caffeinated Church-  
Bauhaus, 405 Downey Ave

October 25-26 Family Promise Night Out  
Free Will Baptist Church

October 26 5:30pm Harvest Festival

October 30 1pm Caffeinated Church  
Pit Stop Deli 4742 McHenry Ave

October 31 Halloween



November 2 3 pm Memorial Service for  
John Cosner

November 3 Daylight Savings Time Ends-  
Turn Clocks Back One Hour

November 5 District Election

November 8-10 PSWDistrict Conference

November 11 Veteran's Day

November 15 6pm F.U.N. Night

November 17 12:15 pm Council Meeting

November 17-23 Hosting Family Promise

November 27 **NO** Faith Bites

November 28 Thanksgiving-Office closed.

November 29 Office closed