



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Pastor: Andrew Sampson Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



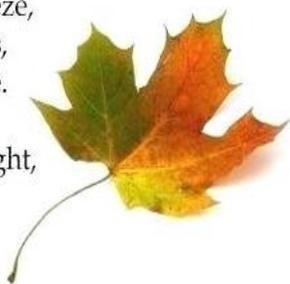
WE THANK THEE

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For tender grass so fresh, so sweet,
Father, we thank Thee.
For the song of bird and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,
Father, we thank Thee.
For pleasant shade of branches high,
Father, we thank Thee.
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light,
Father, we thank Thee.
For rest and shelter of the night,
Father, we thank Thee
For health and food, for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.



Invitations to Worship

November 24

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46

Title: "A Time for Resolutions"

Summary: Here are two reassuring and encouraging texts as we celebrate the end of the church year. As we prepare for entry into a new (church) year next Sunday with the start of Advent, let us consider what resolutions we would make for the church in 2020. What hopes and dreams do we have? What do we want to accomplish? What seeds do we want to plant and harvest 5, 10, or 25 years down the road?

December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Please turn to page 2 for a preview of Advent worship with the theme: **Kindle a Flame.**





We will celebrate Advent around the theme, "Kindle a Flame," as we prepare ourselves for Jesus' birth. During worship we will have special elements added to the worship services such as celebrating the 300th anniversary of, "Joy to the World," a popular Christmas song (that is not located in the Christmas section of our *Hymnal*). Additionally, the children will sing on December 15, the handbell choir will perform, those wishing to sing Christmas carols can come fifteen minutes early, and a whole host of other specials!

The Jewish prophets spoke for centuries of how one day a Messiah would come, and for Christians we celebrate that person as Jesus. The sermon texts will look at these prophets with Jeremiah (33:14-18) on December 1, Isaiah (40:1-11) on December 8, Ezra (1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13) on December 15, December 22 is Zechariah (Luke 1:5-13, 57-80), and Christmas Eve is Luke's telling of the birth in Luke 2.

Quiz Question: Which Gospels tell of Jesus' birth?

In addition, on **December 8**, the worship service will begin at **10:45** for the purpose of singing some ADVENT CAROLS! So, come early so we can sing some carols we don't often sing for worship.



Larry Cole is glad to be back at worship and gave thanks for all the cards, prayers and good wishes.

Allison Sampson is grateful for prayers for her friend's daughter who had cardiac arrest, and was on a ventilator, but now is up, talking and walking!.

Elaine Forcier gave thanks for the beautiful leaves on Rumble Road.

Shaun Gepley is enjoying fatherhood.

Luella Cole came down with a cold 2 weeks ago and thought it was gone, but last night it came back with a vengeance! Pray that it goes away again.

Joann Ewert asks for prayers for her 90-year-old sister who is in the hospital. She is thankful that her daughter Jeannine's husband Chuck's body scan showed tumor shrinkage.

Linda Owen asks for prayers for the grandmother of Kristy and Shawn Wood (former attendees) who is in failing health.

Items of Note

Council Meeting November 17, 2019

Thanks to Kim Boardman's efficiency, the minutes of the Council meeting are available to include in this week's Chimes!

One piece of information that was related to this writer in addition to the minutes was that there were *barely* enough persons in attendance to constitute a quorum. Unfortunately, that has been true for the last few Council meetings.

The agenda, the minutes of the last two Council meetings, and the Treasurer's report were all approved, with only some questions regarding funds available and the payment of the solar loans.

The Deacons were affirmed, and the ballot for 2020 was approved. No discussion regarding the ballot was recorded.

The proposed 2020 budget was amended to increase the budget for the nursery care. The Witness Commission budget for denominational outreach was significantly modified from past year, but the proposed budget passed as printed with little discussion.

A committee tasked with studying the treasurer/bookkeeper position to improve reporting and reduce errors recommended a list of changes in handling the Church's finances, but did not recommend splitting the position.

Some concerns were raised regarding our Family Promise ministry and serving dinner at the 9th and D shelter. It has become

increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers to help host the Family Promise Families, especially for those who spend the night at the church. After the meeting, several people signed up to stay overnight during the current Family Promise hosting week. Hopefully, that will continue.

The expansion of the Salvation Army's 9th and D Street shelter creates concern for those who cook and serve the evening meal for the emergency shelter one Wednesday a month. There has been much publicity regarding the additional 180 persons who will stay at 9th and D, but we have had no information about how that increase in population will affect the churches who have been providing meals to those who use the emergency winter shelter. Our cooks would not be able to provide food for an additional 180 persons. The question raised at the Council meeting was "Is it time to let go of serving at the shelter?" More information will be needed to answer that question.



End of Year Budget Concerns

Yes. It is that time of year again. The Stewardship Commission has reviewed our church budget, looking at year-to-date budgeted amounts and year-to-date expenditures. We encourage your continued giving for these last two months. We still need over \$17,000 to meet our Witness budget. This account involves our giving to the following Church of the Brethren ministries: Pacific Southwest District, Mission and Ministry-Elgin, Bethany Theological, and On Earth Peace Assembly, along with our local giving to Inter-Faith ministries, the 9th Street Shelter, Family Promise and Camp Peaceful Pines, to mention a few.

Faith Bites Reminders

Our Outreach budget is one place where we put our faith into action, first by supporting the larger Church of the Brethren denomination and second by supporting local organizations that need our support (helping our fellow man). ~Stewardship Commission

Donations Delivered to the Church



Recently we have received several items dropped off at the church, such as a very large book case that was left in room # 3, and an avalanche of walkers and wheelchairs left in the coat closet.

Pastor Andrew and Administrative Assistant Jill were unaware that these items had been left at the church.

Donating items to the church that can possibly be used by others is a good thing. However, we must ask that before you bring your items to the church that you call first to see if there is a need for that item

Sometimes the item or items could be delivered directly to the party in need. A "heads up" phone call to Pastor Andrew and/or Jill could help direct items to those who could use them.

If no one at the church has a need, we may very well be able to redirect the donor to take items to Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity Re-Store, Salvation Army, or Community Hospice Hope Chest. Thanks to all for your generosity

Potluck



This week, Wednesday, November 20, Faith Bites is a **POTLUCK!** This week we are also hosting Family Promise. We are hosting 5 adults, 7 teens/preteens, and 2 toddlers. So, please bring lots of food to the potluck!

Next week is Thanksgiving. As is our custom, there will be **no Faith Bites** on Wednesday, November 27, because most of us will be preparing for Thanksgiving.

Announcement! Announcement!!

New book study title for the Advent season:

Light of the World,

by Amy-Jill Levine.

The group will be meeting on

Thursdays,

November 21,

December 5,

December 12,

December 19

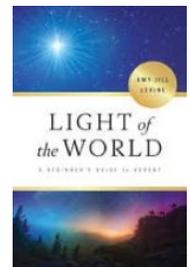
from 6:00-7:30 Call or e-mail Jolinda and

Steve 527-7354 or email

jostreddy@sbcglobal.net to sign up.

Books are available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Hope to see you there.

~Jolinda and Steve





SENIORS TO TOUR WORLD OF NATIVITIES - Friday, Dec. 6

"Away in the Manger" ~What captures the beauty & wonder of Christmas better than the scene at the manger? People of countless cultures have shared their visions of that holy place and moment for centuries. A local woman has made it possible for us to be awed and inspired by some 800 nativities from all around the world - without leaving Modesto! On **Friday, December 6**, you are welcome to join our Senior Ministries group as we visit Toni Conway's House of Nativities on Carpenter Road in Modesto. We'll gather at the church at 10:00 to travel together to visit this amazing display.

After touring the free, heart-warming exhibit, we will continue to fellowship over lunch at the Black Bear Diner. You'll find a poster for this event in the narthex. Please sign-up & note whether you'll be joining us for lunch as well as the tour.

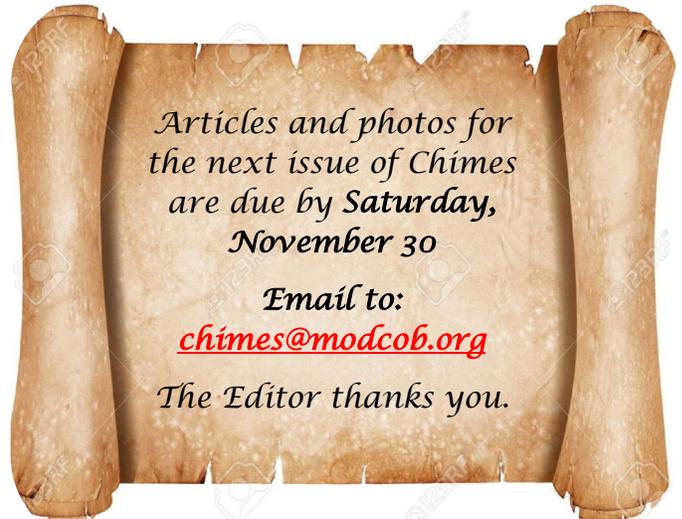
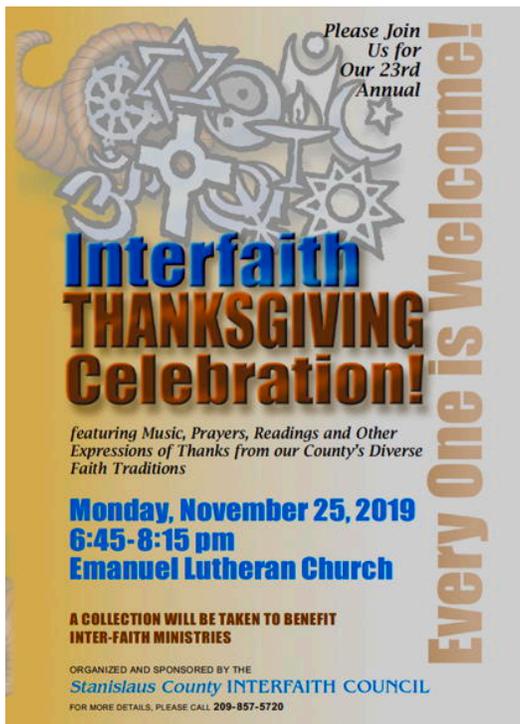


HELP!!!!!!

We have children! Thank the Lord! However, it's something like "The Old Woman in the Shoe" going on at our church. Karleen, the old woman, doesn't know what to do! She has more kids than she has teachers.

We desperately need teachers and helpers, NOW! The lessons are all planned for the teachers. The helpers just help the kids maintain attention, provide safety, serve snacks when we have them, and are a second set of eyes. We accept men, women, husband and wife teams, elderly and youth who are willing to miss the sermon and give 45 minutes of their time for a month of Sundays.

Don't wait for someone else to step up and answer this important call! We need you. **Please ask Karleen how you can help as soon as possible. Call 484-3163**



The 23rd Stanislaus County Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Celebration is Monday, November 25 at Emanuel Lutheran Church on College Avenue. Members of our choir will sing, and there will be several performances by the faith communities represented in SCIC. Please come! And if you can, please provide some cookies or other finger food for refreshments. If you attend you can bring your refreshments to the event. If you're not going, you can put your goodies in the kitchen by Sunday, November 24, labeled SCIC and Luella will get them to the event



Welcome Statement
Believing that God's unbounded love and grace, as taught by Jesus, are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we embrace persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, ethnic and religious background, physical and mental ability, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. As an Open and Affirming congregation we welcome everyone to participate in the life and worship of our church.



The Condensed Calendar



Monday, November 18
Family Promise Hosting

Tuesday, November 19
Family Promise Hosting
11am Young at Heart exercise group
1pm Bible Study
5:30pm Public Meeting on SR132
Bypass project-Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 20
Family Promise Hosting
Caffeinated Church-Pho Bac Noodle
Palace 1100 McHenry Ave.
6pm Faith Bites **POTLUCK**
7pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, November 21
Family Promise Hosting
11am Young at Heart exercise group
5:30pm Ladies Night-Sizzler
5:30pm Men's Night Creamery on Dale
6pm Book Study: *Light of the World*

Friday, November 22
Family Promise Hosting
6pm FUN Night

Saturday, November 23
Family Promise Hosting

Sunday, November 24
8:30am Deacon meeting
9:30 Sunday School
11am Worship
12:15 Youth Meeting

November 25 6:45pm Interfaith Council
Thanksgiving Celebration Emanuel Lutheran
November 27 NO FAITH BITES!
November 28 Thanksgiving-Office Closed



December 2 5:30 Bldg & Grounds Mtg.
December 2 Personnel Meeting
December 5 Book Study
December 6 10am Sr. Ministries-House of
Nativities
December 9 6pm Board Meeting
December 12 6pm Book Study
December 14 6pm Prospector Christmas
Party-Williams Home
December 15 5pm Candles & Carols
December 18 6pm Christmas Caroling
December 19 6pm Book study
December 20 6pm FUN Night
December 22 6pm Young Adult Christmas
Gathering at Boardman home
December 24 7:30pm Christmas Eve
Service
December 24 Christmas Eve-Office closed
December 25 Christmas Day-Office closed
December 31 New Year's Eve-NO FAITH
BITES
December 31 New Year's Eve-Office Closed