



The Chimes

September 12, 2017
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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher Ministers: Every Person in the Congregation

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

Reflections

Reflections on my First Month (or so) at Modesto COB

Even though I've been serving as your Interim Pastor for a short time, I think I've learned a great deal about the Modesto Church of the Brethren. I'm impressed by the degree to which the membership makes church life central to their relationships. What I mean by that is that participation in church activities seems to be important to everyone and the primary way to maintain these relationships.

I also find that the church is very interested in social justice and desires to find ways to promote these ideals, especially locally. Another thing that I sense is a very strong desire to become a more diverse congregation. Finally, I've been impressed by the involvement in worship. I find it very encouraging that so many people are willing to help out in the Sunday morning worship service and feel that the high quality of the worship here is a result of that significant participation.

On the other side of things I discern a great deal of anxiety, as I speak with many people I think that comes from three things. One is the need for new pastoral leadership. A pastoral search is always an anxiety producing event, but the fact that it's been a long time since the church has needed to go through this process increases that anxiety. The second reason for anxiety is that the church is growing older and smaller which makes it harder and harder to maintain programming that has become very meaningful to the membership. Finally, I think there is concern

that there is no sense of how to accomplish many of the goals that the church would like to move toward.

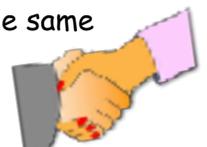
My hope and goal is that my service as Interim Pastor can help to lower this anxiety by helping the congregation to see that an exciting future does exist. Now that future is going to look different than the past looked, but there is more than enough vitality and strengths for this congregation to build a great future upon. I don't know how much longer my service at Modesto will be, but I'm excited to be here and hopeful that together we can lay the groundwork for an exciting future.

-Pastor Michael Fletcher

Invitations to Worship

September 17 - "The Perils of Wealth" Luke 18:18-23

The Cost of Discipleship is an important concept in the heritage of the Church of the Brethren as well as the Christian church as a whole. But what about the cost of non-discipleship? Today we consider the lost opportunity of a lifetime and explore how we might avoid making the same mistake.



September 24

Julia Wheeler, University of La Verne Church Relations Director, will be bringing a message on whole life stewardship.

Children's Church

Youngsters, kindergarten through 6th grade, are invited to Children's Church right after TIME WITH CHILDREN, which is a part of our congregational worship service. Meet at the back of the sanctuary to go with the leader for games, bible study, and sharing. Parents are welcome to accompany their child.

Luminary Walk for Peace

Come celebrate the International Day of Peace at the labyrinth site. Join us at dusk, Thursday, September 21 at 7p. The labyrinth will glow with soft candlelight on this peaceful fall evening as we join in solidarity of common purpose. We will circle together with community prayer followed by walking and praying our own personal prayers of peace and justice for all who walk upon this earth.

New Youth Opportunity

On Sunday, September 24th the Youth leaders will be hosting a pre-worship coffee and connections group. All Youth are encouraged to join us at 9:30a to have an open forum conversation about our faith. We will be meeting in room 11. Our goal is to help young people from 7th to 12th grades explore topics that are relevant to their faith and the times we live in. If you are interested in this event or have any topics you would like us to cover please contact MCOB youth in the following way: call the church office at 209-523-1438 or email tera@modcob.org



Attention, Men!

Two men's groups meeting for the purpose of sharing our lives and faith journeys, will be starting again soon. Open to all; no membership fees! Meetings are held twice a month. For information about time and place for the first and third Tuesday group, check with Bill Johnson. For the first and third Saturday bunch, contact Stephen Reddy.



Hold in the Light

From 1 Peter 5:2a,7

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be... Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Following the admonishments of God as written by Peter, we intentionally pray for those brought to our attention during Sharing of Joys and Concerns:

Those who are suffering from brokenness whether in body or spirit; those learning to adjust to different circumstances and those faced with losses.

We remember and rejoice with others who are healing, regaining strength and reaching goals. We ask for guidance as to how to reach out in loving care and appropriate responses to those who need our support and presence.

In all things let us be grateful for the blessings we daily receive.



Deacon on Call for September:
Lynda Sesser



From the Pastor's Desk:

Interim Pastor Availability

In the office from 9 - noon:
Wednesday 9/13 - Friday 9/15,
Monday 9/18,
Wednesday 9/20 - Friday 9/22

Monday 9/25 - Tuesday 9/26

Pastor Michael is available for appointments at all other times.

Out of town from noon Tuesday 9/26 through Friday 9/29



Faith Bites, that midweek opportunity to get together over a hot meal prepared by our wonderfully skilled kitchen staff, will start up again this Wednesday evening, 13th, at 6p. Be a part of our wider community and enjoy food and fellowship together. Some folks cook and **the rest of us clean up** afterwards. Every fourth Wednesday is Potluck Dinner. For that dinner each family is encouraged to bring a large dish to share so the regular cooks can join us in leisure.

From Fellowship and Recreation

By the time you read this article our latest event, the Ice Cream Social will be history and we will be moving on to our next event. (By the way, thank-you all for coming to the Ice Cream Social, with a special thanks to those who went the extra effort and brought home made ice cream; it was yummy and added to the evening of food, fellowship and games.)

Up next will be hosting the Harvest Festival on Friday, October 28th at 6pm in the Gathering Place.. Our youth are very excited to bring you their version of a haunted house. We will have apple dunking, decorating your very own cupcake, making s'mores, and, of course, there will be hot dogs and chili for all!. Back by popular demand will be Freckles the Clown with her balloon creations and a magic show.

In the past we have had a silent auction of baked goods Last year this wasn't very successful. Only a few baked goods were donated and just a handful of folks bid on those goodies. SOOO this year I'm asking you to consider bringing baked goods **and also** bidding on baked goods brought by someone else, We need this to be a success so we have funds to pay for Freckles the Clown whom the children so enjoy. Please help us make this a great fun evening that we plan primarily for our children. We will try not to be too scary. We encourage you to come in costume, however a costume certainly is not required in order to join us. See you there.-Sue Messamer, Fellowship and Recreation

"All God's creatures gotta place in the choir..."

If you are or ever have been a "choir wannabe," your time is NOW! Choir rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings at 7p in the sanctuary.

"There's a place for you in our august ensemble, singing praise to God and preparing for worship leadership. Any questions, check with me."

-Stephen Reddy, Minister of Music

Some Ladies' Night Out news

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, September 14 at 5p, meeting at Marie Callender's. Please let me know to count you in on the reservation. -Linda Owen

Prospectors' Potluck

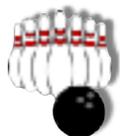
A reminder to the Prospectors' of an after-worship potluck lunch at Bob and Lynda Sesser's home on September 17th. Bring one of your favorite dishes of potluck fare to share. And be ready for good conversation and fellowship! The address is 1901 Lindini Way, Modesto.

Senior Ministries Event

A virtual tour of Wales, Scotland and England. Come for lunch, followed by a virtual a trip to Great Britain by the Johnsons, Costellos and Owens. Sign up on the Senior Ministries board in the narthex for a \$7 lunch on **September 28th at noon in the Gathering Place.**

Young People, this is for YOU!

The MCOB Youth Group would like to invite any youth from 7th thru 12th grade to join us Sunday, September 17th at McHenry Bowl from 12:30 to 2:30p. We are rolling in the fall season and there will be fun to spare. Bring your friends, this is a great time to show your friends fun in faith! Let us know if you will need a ride so arrangements can be made in advance. There will be lunch and bowling shoes provided. Just bring some socks and be ready to have a great time! We will need an RSVP for this event by Friday, the 29th in order to secure the lanes and plan the lunch! To RSVP you can contact MCOB Youth in the following way: call the church office at 209-523-1438 or email tera@modcob.org.



FUN for the Younger Crowd

It's just plain FUN! We will be meeting again for our FUN (Family Unity Night) event on September 22nd from 6-8 pm. We will be exploring "Self-Awareness: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself". We hope to see you all there. As before, FUN is an event designed for kids grades K-5th and their families. Songs, food, games, crafts and FUN! Call the church office at 209-523-1438 or office@modcob.org to reserve a spot at the dinner table for September 22nd. See you there! Thanks! -Joshua (Gilstrap) Katen

Fall All Church Work Day

There are still MANY project slots to be filled on the sign up board in the narthex.. Work commences at 8a and we hope to conclude by noon. There is plenty of work for helpers of all ages and each person's efforts ease the total load. Please check out the jobs board and sign up either alone or with a friend. A very busy fall and winter season for the church is upon us; the campus will get a lot of use. The next work day won't be until the spring of 2018 so let's get some major sprucing done up now! Any questions, please call Bill Johnson 209 522-0746

Items to Note

Remembering

It's been a general tradition in this country to have a burial in a cemetery with a grave marker or tombstone. In recent years more and more people are selecting to have their bodies cremated and scattered or buried or disposed of in a different way. Because of this, the Deacons have established a loose-leaf binder to have a place to remember people from our congregation who have died but do not have a grave marker or permanent identification of their final resting place. Persons in the notebook would have had their ashes scattered in various locations, or might have donated their body to science.

This notebook would be a place of record for former members of this congregation and friends or non-members who have been active in this fellowship.

You are invited to add the names and some information about your loved one or family member who is deceased but does not have a place marked where the body or remains are located. You might like to look at the few that have been entered at this time to get a suggestion what you might like to write and picture. The requirements are what would be



informative and appropriate on an 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper...

The book is located in our church library to be available for perusal. However, it is to be left at this location. If you have questions ask Mary Baucher or Pat Royer.

COB Disaster Services Information

For those of you who are concerned and wondering what you can do through the Church of the Brethren denomination to help provide relief for victims of the recent natural disasters, the Brethren Disaster Ministries staff are sharing this advice for how best to extend aid:

"Disaster survivors often have needs that take priority over donated clothing or food. Your response will have more impact if you check with the local experts and take time to focus on what is most needed. Cash is always preferred over material donations. Cash can purchase goods and services in disaster-stricken communities, boosting the local economy. Inappropriate donations create secondary disasters!"

"For anyone interested in serving in the affected areas, please do not self-deploy and instead find an organization that is accepting volunteers and be in contact with them prior to making any travel arrangements. Contact the Brethren Disaster Ministries office for suggestions and information that is coming from local relief and recovery contacts."

Call the Brethren Disaster Ministries office toll-free at 800-451-4407. To learn more about the work of CDS go to www.brethren.org/cds . To learn more about Brethren Disaster Ministries go to www.brethren.org/bdm .-From **NEWSLINE**, the Church of the Brethren e-mail service



Directory Change

Carole Greenhouse has moved and sent in her new address for the church directory. Please make a note: 1437 Kruger Drive Apt. A, Modesto, 95355 Her phone number remains the same: (209) 529-7298



Announcement Loop Slides

Those wanting a slide made for the announcement loop, please get the information to NancyB, by the Wednesday before you want the slide shown. Include logo or photo, if you wish and tell who, what, when, where. Note SLIDE FOR LOOP in the subject line, then email to: chimes@modcob.org

Articles and photos for the next issue of

Chimes are due by Thursday, September 21, 2017 Use article name in the subject line and email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you. 

The Condensed Calendar

Tuesday- September 12, 2017

Pastor's Sabbath

8:30a-4p The Quiet Place open in Rm. 5

Wednesday-

8:30a-4p The Quiet Place open in Rm. 5

6p First Faith Bites

7p Choir

Thursday-

8:30a-4p The Quiet Place open in Rm. 5

5p Ladies Night Out – Marie Callenders

Friday-

8:30a-4p The Quiet Place open in Rm. 5

Saturday-

Next Sunday – September 17th

9:30a Sunday School – Jr. High-adult
(Infant to 5 years welcome in the nursery with Shaun and Kelly!)

11a Worship

12:15p Prospector Potluck – Sesser's

IN THE NEAR FUTURE

September 21 7:00p Labyrinth Walk

September 24 12:15p Stewardship Luncheon

September 28 12p Senior Ministries – Great Britain

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 1 Worldwide Communion Sunday

October 7 8a All Church work day

October 14 9:30 Coffee & Conversation

October 15 12:15p Prospector Potluck – Johnson's

October 26 Sr. Ministries – Haggin Museum/Stockton

October 28 Harvest Festival

October 29-11/4 Hosting Family Promise

November 11 9:30a Coffee & Conversation

November 19 Prospector Potluck – Daniel's

EVENING
LUMINARY WALK
7:00 PM

Church of the
Brethren

2301 Woodland Ave
Modesto 95358

INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PEACE
EVENT
WALK & PRAY FOR
PEACE

YOU TOO CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE