



# The Chimes

November 21, 2017  
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## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor Michael Fletcher Ministers: Everybody in the Congregation

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

## Reflections



### Testimonial for Small Groups

Last week was a banner week for the two men's groups that I attend and I just need to say something about them. The first group was the Tuesday Men's Group meeting at 7am at Perko's on McHenry on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The topic which was brought by our leader for that meeting, Eddie Hernandez, was the article from the latest Messenger of the seven churches that were proposing to leave an existing Michigan district and to form a new one. I read the article and thought I had a feel for the information. Our interim pastor Michael, who is from that neck of the woods, was also in the group. I had made a comment about my perception of the article and Michael added that my perception was not really accurate. Michael went on to talk about the individuals involved and the nuances of district polity. I found the discussion very informative and it made the article even more real and relevant. It was a very good breakfast meeting.

The second men's group is lead by Steve Reddy on first and third Saturdays of the month. The subject of the meeting was a piece Steve had found regarding personal character. During the first half of the meeting we normally just spend time checking in and what we had been up to for the past couple of weeks. One of our members had been back east attending the memorial service for his brother who had just passed.

Pictures of the brother and his art work were shown around and discussed. As time in the discussion went on many of us started to identify with this brother and knew of folks in our own family who had similar characteristics. His brother was in the room. There were laughter and tears and great discussion. We did talk about character and characters. I came away from that morning session thinking, "WOW! What a start for the day."

For those who are involved in a small group, you know that not all meetings are 10's, but enough are close enough and those are the ones that keep us coming back. For those who are not involved in a small group but want to be, my advice is to find one, or start one, that fits your needs and interest. Maybe it is a small group dealing with current events and the Christian church. Maybe it is a small group based from a theological publication. Our interim pastor Michael is proposing several different opportunities for small group study and involvement. (Keep reading this issue to learn about those opportunities.) Coming to church and being fed by the sermon and the music is good, but if you are not taking advantage of being in a small group you are missing dessert. -Bill Johnson





## Invitations to Worship

**November 26**

### **The Grace of Gratitude-Luke 17:11-19**

Our scripture tells the story of Jesus healing ten lepers. Of the ten, only one returns to Jesus to express gratitude. Our message will consider why it's important to express gratitude and what are the best ways to do so.

**December 3**

### **The 1st Sunday of Advent**

#### **"Longing for Home" - Isaiah 64:1-9**

Our Advent theme is "Home for the Holidays," except the concept is not about warm fuzzy feelings, but about the real struggle for people who long for a home, a spiritual home, and about how Jesus can fulfill that longing.

### **Advent Bible Studies**

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) This verse of scripture has been interpreted as a prophesy concerning Jesus. But do we think a lot about what those four titles mean and how Jesus fulfilled them? That's what an Advent Study that will be on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings during the upcoming Advent season. We will spend one session on each of the four titles, first on Wednesday evening at 5:00 and then repeated Sunday morning at 9:30. Participants can move back and forth between sessions and will be able to gain insights into these concepts even if unable to attend sessions for all four titles. The schedule is as follows:

Session 1 - Wonderful Counselor	Wed. Nov. 29 Sun. Dec. 3
Session 2 - Mighty God	Wed. Dec. 6 Sun. Dec. 10
Session 3 - Everlasting Father	Wed. Dec. 13 Sun. Dec. 17
Session 4 - Prince of Peace	Wed. Dec. 20 Sun. Dec. 24

## From the Pastor's Desk:



I will be returning to Modesto on Friday, Nov. 24. Beginning Monday, November 27, I will be in the office Mondays and Wednesdays through Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30. Please feel free to contact me to schedule other times to get together. You can call the church office or email me at [mfletch21625@aol.com](mailto:mfletch21625@aol.com) or call 313-303-1227.

## Hold in the Light



Remembering those who have recently lost loved ones with prayers of comfort: **The Pedersen-Pennock family** mourning the passing of Miles. Amy was able to officiate at the service for Miles in Arizona.

**Mike Breshears**, our retired church custodian has been the main caretaker for his mother for years. Her passing will leave him with a tremendous life change. Those wishing to send a card to Mike, his address is 1625 Galvez Ave. #A, Modesto, 95355. Remembering those facing decisions of all kinds with prayers for clarity and patience: **The Search Committee** as they move through the process of determining the needs of this congregation in regard to a new pastor.

**Renee Gokey** still feeling discomfort from a fall in October and anticipating a doctor appointment with hopes of relief.

**Nancy Bupp** awaiting results of a bone marrow biopsy test.

All who have concerns, worries, stresses which are too private to share aloud.

Remembering those experiencing joy and gratitude as they celebrate milestones of birthdays, anniversaries, challenges met and the changing of the seasons.

**Through all circumstances and at all times, Lord, help us to praise you, trust you and thank you for meeting our daily needs and for your continual love.**

**Deacon on Call for November: Dan Galt**





## In the Days Ahead

### Expanded Wednesday Night Activities

Along with the Fellowship Commission, I'll be working to have a little more opportunity for fellowship and study on Wednesdays. Sue Messamer is making games available for people to increase fellowship opportunities between 5:00 and 6:00. During the season of Advent I'll lead a Bible study on the names for the Messiah from 5:00 to 6:00. (Details can found under the heading INVITATIONS TO WORSHIP in this issue of the Chimes.)

At 6:00 we'll enjoy Faith Bites.

At 7:00 I will lead a discussion time, Talk Around the Table, for those who are not in the choir.

#### The schedule will look like this:

5:00 - Games and fellowship in the Gathering Place or Advent Study in the sanctuary.

6:00 - Faith Bites - (Potluck, Nov. 29)

7:00 - Choir or Talk Around the Table

Nov. 29 - Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays?  
Political correctness

Dec. 6 - What is Worship?

Dec. 13 - Favorite Christmas Traditions, Memories and Stories

Dec. 20 - Christmas Caroling (no Talk Around the Table)

Consider joining us a time or two, or each date.

-Pastor Michael

### Festive Dinner Event

It's hard to believe but the holidays are here again. To begin this season we invite you to an event **Sunday, December 3rd** following morning worship. We will have a wonderful luncheon for you, a short program (since we know you will have already been sitting all morning) and a special early visit from the man with the white beard. We ask that you, **PLEASE sign up that you plan on joining us** so that we can make our plans for table setup and be sure we have enough food for you. RSVP on the board in the narthex.

Thanks in advance for signing up, and we are so happy you will be part of this holiday cheer!

-Fellowship and Recreation

### Notice to Youth

December 3rd: We ask the Youth to join the rest of the congregation in an all church holiday lunch. The lunch will start at 12:15. All church events are a great way for the congregation to get to know us! As this event gets closer there will be more information available in the Chimes, I strongly advise the Youth to stay up to date on the Chimes and how they can get involved in all church events.-Tera

### Take a step back in time.

Senior Ministries has arranged free tours of both **McHenry Museum** and **McHenry Mansion** on Thursday, December 21st. We will meet at the church to carpool leaving at 9 am to be downtown for the 9:30 tour. It is most important to meet the **signup deadline on Sunday, December 17**



as we may have to plan two tours at each

facility. Don't miss Rita's favorite Museum display—the world's largest button collection. Or the kitchen at the Mansion with all the utensils like your grandma used. Or

the Modesto postcards (only ones in town) in the Museum Store. Or the variety of lovely things at the Mansion's Gift Shop. Don't worry, we'll take care of your needs! Following your tours we will meet for no host lunch at Ralston's Goat at 10th and J Streets. Maybe you will learn about the restaurant's name!



An elevator at the Museum is available from the parking lot BEHIND the Museum and the Mansion elevator is available from the basement, which is at ground level.- Rita Matthews for Senior Ministries



### Those Colored Dots

Just an update on the results of those colored dots used at the last Council Meeting. The colored dots were used to find the level of interest in two proposed projects currently before the congregation. The dots represented "interest only," not a vote nor for funding. We had approximately 50 people attend the Council Meeting. The presentation for a new and more powerful sanctuary projector got 25 colored dots or about 50% of the vote. The sound dampening panels in the sanctuary got six colored dots or a little over 10% of the vote. Nineteen or 40% of the dots were not used, for whatever reason.



We will be using colored dots again in the future to try measure the feelings or wishes of the congregation. We hope to do a better job next time with articles first in the Chimes explaining the issue or question on which we will be seeking input. Thanks to the congregation for your ideas, opinions and comments.

-Bill Johnson for Building and Grounds

### Youth Led Advent Project

Tis the season for giving and this year MCOB Youth and the Witness Commission are teaming up to make some teen dreams come true! We need you to help! We have chosen to contribute to Hutton House teens this year.

Hutton House is a local organization ran by Stanislaus County which houses troubled youth

from ages 13 to 17. These children may be runaways, kicked out of their home or sent there by Child Protective Services. Whatever the case may be, they are in need. Hutton House is home to eight children at any time and on average 250 children stay there throughout the course of a year.

The Youth chose this service project because they can relate to their age group. They are themselves grateful for the lives they've been given and the support of this congregation. Now they have the chance to help raise funds for those in need.

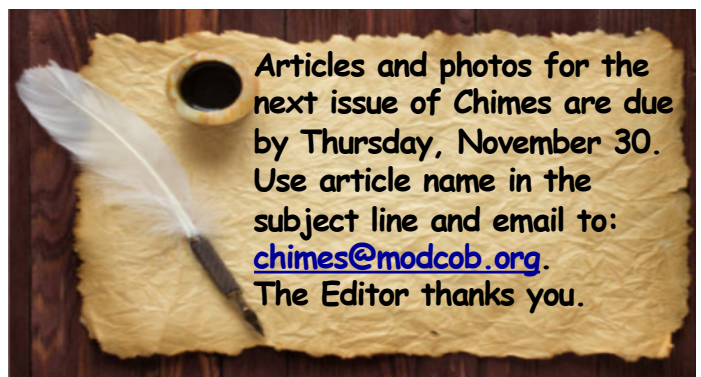
How can you help, you may be asking? We are accepting monetary donations in the office until December 15th. We are also looking for some items: eight twin bed sets, board games, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair straighteners and curling irons and sweat pants. These are current needs at Hutton House.

The Youth built a "house," located in the narthex, where you can place your donations. Thank-you on behalf of the Youth for considering and donating to the Hutton House this Advent season. If you have any questions you may contact Tera by email or phone.

### 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 give all the important information. Note SLIDE FOR LOOP in the subject line, then email to:

[chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)



## **The Condensed Calendar**



**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**

**Pastor's Sabbath**

**Wednesday-**

**5p Advent Bible Study**

**6p Faith Bites - Potluck**

**7p Talk around the table**

**Thursday-**

**Friday-**

**Saturday-**

**Next Sunday - December 3rd**

**9:30a Advent Bible Study**

**9:30a Sunday School - Jr. High-adult**

**(Infant to 5 years welcome in the nursery  
with Shaun and Kelly!)**

**11a Worship**

**12:15p Holiday Dinner**

### **IN THE NEAR FUTURE**

**December 9 Prospectors' Party William's**

**December 16 2p Ladies Christmas Tea**

**Karleen Daniels' home**

**December 17 5p Candles & Carols**

**December 21 9a Sr. Ministry Christmas**

**Visit McHenry Mansion and Museum**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**January 9 7p John McCutcheon Concert**

**January 14-20th Family Promise**