



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



How many times have you attended a memorial service and, after hearing the life story of the departed one, come away saying, "I wish I had known that before!" We visit, eat, and worship with our church family members weekly, but we may not really *know* them. Around the table at Faith Bites or in the narthex, we share incidental information, but we don't have the time during weekly church events to engage in deeper conversations. Have you ever thought about joining a small group?

I have been a member of a covenant study group for nearly 30 years. The first small group I joined was called a People of the Covenant Group. The Church of the Brethren denomination designed People of the Covenant in the late 1970's or early 1980's as a weekly Bible study for 5 to 8 people with additional time for personal sharing. Most of the several People of the Covenant Groups that formed in our congregation over the years met in members' homes. Each member agreed to meet every week with the group for ten weeks to cover the study material, which was organized into ten lessons, with an introduction and discussion questions.

The covenant group I currently meet with weekly has been in existence for more than 30 years, and three of us have been members of the group for most of that time. Early on, some of the members lived in Stockton, so the Modesto members carpooled there. Now we meet in a Casa de Modesto apartment. We choose our own study material from a variety of Christian writers, but we have maintained the structure of one hour of study and one hour of personal sharing, punctuated by the sharing of dessert!

Our covenant group has lost and gained members over the years, but we remain a support group for each other as well as study and discussion partners. We can share personal joys and concerns in far more depth that we can during worship. Our prayers and care for each other are enriched by the closeness we have developed.

One of our congregation's Vital Ministry Journey goals is to create more small groups within the congregation. Small groups allow us to get to know our fellow congregation members better, and help to create a true church family. ~Luella

INVITATION

The Reflection column in the Chimes is open to any congregation member who would like to share a thought about their faith journey. Please share your reflection just as you would any other article for the Chimes.

Submissions are subject to editing, and the editor may confer with the pastor and/or congregational leadership to decide on the suitability of the subject.

From the Pastor

My Schedule

Jan. 29 - Feb. 3 - Working from La Quinta (ok to contact by phone or email.)
Feb. 5 - In office 8:30 to 11:30
Feb. 6 - Pastor's Sabbath
Feb. 7-9 - In office 8:30 to 11:30
Feb. 11 - In office 8:30 to 11:30

Please feel free to schedule other appointments by contacting me by email at mfletcher21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227. Texting is ok, but please identify yourself when you do text.

Upcoming Study and Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Wednesday, Jan. 31 - No Study

Wednesday, Feb. 7 - 5:00 in Library - A

Walk Through the New Testament - We will be considering some of the key concepts of the various parts of the New Testament looking at the historical background to help deepen our understanding of the New Testament and scripture in general. The Gospel of Luke will be our focus.

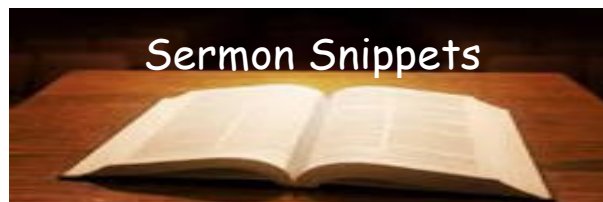
Talk Around the Table: (Please note the changes) Following Faith Bites from 6:45 to 7:30 we will gather in the work room for a time of conversation for anyone who desires

to join in. Topics: January 31 - No Talk; February 7 - True Patriotism.

Coffee and Conversation: Due to the memorial service scheduled Feb. 10, our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, March 10, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be Healthcare in America.

Lenten Brown Bag Luncheon: Beginning on February 25, please consider bringing a brown bag lunch to enjoy in the Gathering Place following worship. In addition to a time of fellowship and a chance to discuss and reflect on the morning's message as well as look at the scripture and topic for the following week. We'll have a special preview on February 18 as part of our Wing Ding Valentine celebration.

In addition I'd welcome suggestions for other gatherings of this type.



February 4 - Luke 10:25-37 - Jesus' Short Stories: Redefining Neighborliness - Who is my neighbor? This is the question Jesus was asked. You might think the question was meant to trap Jesus, but considering the political environment of our present culture, the question is real and Jesus' answer to the question is as important as ever.

February 11 - Matthew 25:31-46 - Jesus' Short Stories: Right or Left? - Where does God stand on the important moral issues of our time? Is he more of a left wing liberal or a right wing conservative? I think Jesus

might respond that we're asking the wrong question. The right question is where do we stand? On the right hand of God or the left?

Some Thoughts about Worship

First let me say that I think the worship experience at the Modesto COB is among the best I've experienced. I think the commitment of a large number of people both in the service and behind the scenes is extraordinary. Of course that doesn't mean we couldn't do better. Here are a few of my thoughts on how to improve our worship experience:

1. The gathering time from 10:45 to 11:00 should be a time for people to enter the sanctuary and prepare themselves for worship. For some that might mean listening to music, others might prefer singing, while still others might enjoy silence. Over the next several months we will experiment with different approaches. In order for any of these approaches to work, I would like to ask that conversations in the sanctuary be kept to a minimum.
2. The sharing of Joys and Concerns can be one of the most meaningful aspects of a worship service, unfortunately it can also be one of the most distracting. Some simple guidelines that will help make the experience as meaningful as possible for everyone. (1) Announcements should not be shared during joys and concerns. If you desire to have an announcements shared, please write it out and hand it to the pastor before the service. (2) Be prepared with what you want to share, a good rule to

consider is to be prepared with what you're going to say before entering the sanctuary on Sunday morning. (3) Be concise; often some details aren't necessary and may be inappropriate; this is especially true when sharing about another person's health issues.

Following these guidelines will help make the experience more meaningful for everyone.



Memorial for Nancy Bupp

Hold in prayer Nancy Bupp's family as they prepare for her memorial on February 10 at 2 PM. We are being advised that "Hats are optional" for Nancy's memorial service, as there will be a tea party reception after the service!

Be in prayer for Sara Miller's extended family, dealing with illness. Remember former members: the family of Kirk Walser, who passed away at Hospice House January 9, and Kate Gandy, daughter of Luella Cole, facing a thyroid biopsy. Be in prayer for the family of Pauline Fillmore of the Live Oak Church of the Brethren, who passed away January 9 in Hawaii, while on vacation. Keep in your prayers Kelsey Boardman, on a study trip to Thailand, and presently in the hospital with food poisoning. Pray for healing for Renee Gokey, recovering after a fall, and Tammy Firch's housemate. Rejoice at the news that Terhesa

Gamboa's friend Robert now has seven months of sobriety and has a job that he loves.

Farewell to the Galts

Edna St. Vincent Millay said, "The presence of that absence is everywhere." That says what is evident in our congregation since Trish and Dan Galt have gone on to a new chapter in their lives. They were such an integral part of us whether in choir, deacons, Worship and Spiritual Life Commission, Interfaith Council, small group, Senior Ministries Committee, or Family Promise. Their dedication and commitment to the vital ministries of the church was wholehearted. We will miss Trish's gentle nature and Dan's sense of humor.

Although they leave a huge hole in our congregational life, we are grateful they have been with us as long as they have and want our blessings to go with them in whatever place they find their niche to serve next.

February Deacon on Call:

Gayle Hernandez



FROM BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Increased Church Security

On Monday January 29th a new floodlight will be installed just off Rm#9 by Family Promise parking lot. This light will operate off a photocell and will operate from dusk to dawn. Family Promise is also looking at putting in a series of security video cameras, both interior and exterior in their facilities in the next couple of months.

Our church Building and Grounds commission is also looking at a system of 6 to 8 video cameras (again both interior and exterior) with a central monitor at Jill's desk. This system would have a DVR that could retain all video for up to 3 months at a time. Additional flood lighting may also be coming soon.

We have a written agreement with the Modesto Police Department that trespassers and unauthorized folks on our property can be arrested. The ability to provide photo proof of trespass aids the authorities in their work.

New Water Heater Tuesday Jan 30th

Our new water heater will be installed Tuesday Jan 30th. Fred Hill Plumbing and Engineering will be doing the installation. The old unit which normally is good for about 15 years lasted for 31 years. Thank you for quality!. Hot water for the church should only be down for the day.

All Church Work Days 2018

We have put on the church calendar our 2 all church workdays for 2018. The Spring event will be Saturday April 21st. The Fall event will be Saturday October 20th. Please mark your calendar and join us for a 1/2 day of fun, work and food.

Bill Johnson
Building and Grounds





Tie-Dye Party!

February the 11th from 12:30 to 2:30 pm youth group will be meeting. In honor of Valentine's Day we will be having a tie-dye party and eating some sweet treats. Bring a white shirt, towel, pillowcase or whatever item you'd like to tie-dye and clothes you're not afraid to get messy in! As always we encourage you to bring a friend and spread the love! Contact Tera by phone or email if you have any questions. 209-596-9737 or tera@modcob.org



It is time to update our congregation on the Baucher Family Designated Fund for Youth/Young Adult Peacemaking and Global Education. This fund, which will be administered by the Christian Education Commission, will be available for high school youth and young adults to age 25 to use to attend conferences or events to learn about promoting peace and about peacemaking around the world. These opportunities might include work camps, Citizenship Seminar, New Community Project Trips, Youth Camp, and National Youth Conference. The idea is to broaden the person's understanding of the world and how she or he could be a part of building a more peaceful world. We invite

anyone who wants to promote peacemaking education to add to this very worthwhile fund that promotes such a core value of the Church of the Brethren. You may do so by writing a check to **Modesto Church of the Brethren with Baucher Family Fund** in the memo line.



Senior Ministries: Rhapsody and Rhythm: The Gershwin Concert Experience at the Gallo Center is SOLD OUT! There are several persons on the waiting list. If you have tickets and for any reason are unable to attend the concert, please notify Margaret Johnson so that someone else can purchase your tickets.

All-Church Wing Ding



The annual All-Church Wing Ding will be held February 18, 2018, at 12:15 following worship. Do you have a favorite, original recipe for wings? Contact Sue Messamer at dsmessamer@att.net to enter the contest! Prizes will be awarded for the wings that get the most votes!

This is also a Valentine's Day event. Valentine cookies will be available to decorate for dessert!

All are invited to this fun family event. Watch for the sign-up board in the narthex!

The Condensed Calendar

Monday Jan.29-

Tuesday-Jan.30

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday-Jan.31

5pm NO Bible Study/Library

6pm Faith Bites

6:45pm NO Talk Around the Table

7pm Choir

Thursday-Feb.1

Friday-Feb. 2

Groundhog Day

Saturday-Feb. 3

Sunday-Feb. 4

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

11am Worship

12:30pm Witness Commission

REMINDER: February 4 is the
deadline to submit your form and
payment to renew your Messenger
subscription.

SEE MORE MESSAGES BELOW!

Mark Your Calendars

February 10 2pm Memorial Service
for Nancy Bupp

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 18 Wing Ding Valentine
Event

February 19 Presidents' Day-Office
closed

February 23 6pm Family F.U.N.
Night

February 25 12pm Brown Bag Lunch
in Gathering Place

February 25 4pm Sr. Ministry Event
Gallo Center-Rhapsody
and Rhythm: The
Gershwin Concert
Experience

March 4 4pm Habitat Concert-Trinity
United Presbyterian
Church

March 15 12pm Sr. Ministries Lunch-
presentation from Judy
Kindle, Sierra Vista
Child and Family
Services

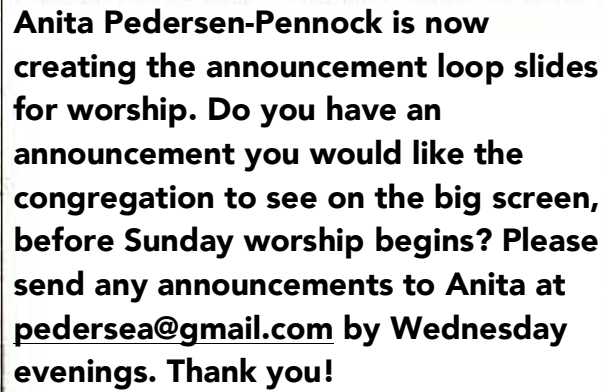
March 17 5pm Progressive Dinner

March 18-24 Family Promise Hosting


April 1 9am Easter Breakfast/Egg
Hunt

11am Worship

April 21 8am All Church Work Day



Anita Pedersen-Pennock is now creating the announcement loop slides for worship. 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 Anita at pedersea@gmail.com by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!



Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Thursday, February 8. Use article name in the subject line and email to: luellacole@sbcglobal.net

The Editor thanks you.