



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.



Transitions

As the Modesto Church of the Brethren moves to the next steps in securing new pastoral leadership I thought it would be a good idea to share what researchers have discovered as the makings of a "perfect pastor".

The Perfect Pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church janitor.

The Perfect Pastor makes \$40 a week, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates \$30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Pastor has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the

senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect Pastor always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organization. And he is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

The Perfect Pastor is always in the next town over!

I hope you've gotten the point that I'm trying to make; there is no such thing as a "perfect pastor". This means that a part of my job as interim pastor is to help prepare the congregation for a flawed pastor. (Some might suggest that I've done an excellent job of demonstrating what that looks like.)

Recently I've been involved in several conversations that indicate there is some diversity of opinion as to what are the most important gifts that the next pastor should bring. This is hardly surprising and I don't believe

this to be a serious problem, but one that people should be aware of.

I see a bright future for the Modesto COB, but that is dependent on selecting pastoral leadership that can cast a compelling vision and then inspire and empower the congregation to journey together into that mission. It's also dependent on the congregation being open to styles of pastoral leadership that differ from past experience, expectation and personal preferences.

A pastoral transition is both an anxious and exciting time for a congregation. I see part of my job to lower the anxiety and ramp up the excitement. Individual or small group conversations that can address specific concerns are my preferred way to do that. So I will be setting up a schedule of times and places where I'll be that people can drop in to discuss this, or any other issue, called the Pastor's Traveling Office. You can also feel free to drop in the office or contact me to make other arrangements.



Pastor's Schedule

Feb. 14-16 - In office 8:30 to 11:30

Feb. 18-23 - Working from La Quinta (ok to contact by phone or email.)

Feb. 28 - In office 8:30 to 11:30

March 1 - Pastor's Sabbath

March 2-4 - 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, Feb. 14 & 21 - 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 John will be our focus on the 14th and the book of Acts on the 21st.

Talk Around the Table (Please note the changes)

Following Faith Bites from 6:45 to 7:30 we will gather in the workroom for a time of conversation for anyone who desires to join in. Topics: February 14 - Love! - February 21 - No Talk

Coffee and Conversation



Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, March 10, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be Healthcare in America.

Pastor's Traveling Office (See Reflection)

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 am - Starbucks at Briggsmore and Prescott

Thursday, Feb. 15, 2:00 pm - Starbucks at Oakdale and Merle

Friday, Feb. 16, 1:00 pm - Panera Bread on McHenry

Saturday, Feb. 17, 9:00 am - Frost Bakery on Carpenter

Sunday, Feb. 18, 7:30 am - Mimi's Cafe on Dale

Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30 am - Mimi's Cafe on Dale

I will be at these locations for at least 30 minutes from the listed time.

Check the church's Facebook page for additional Traveling Offices.

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 18 - The Launch - Mark 1:9-15 - This Sunday is the start of our Lenten series, Exploring the Ministry of Jesus to Discover Our Own. One essential element to discovering our ministry is to examine the purpose for that ministry. Perhaps the clearest statement of Jesus' purpose is found in the opening chapter of Mark. What does this statement say about Jesus' ministry and about our own?

February 25 - Investing in a Start up -
Mark 8:27-38 - Alexander Mack,
who was most prominent among the
founders of the Church of the
Brethren, encouraged those who might
join him on the journey to; "Count well
the cost." Ministry has a cost to it and
while the payback almost always far
exceeds the investment, we still need
to be aware of what the price of
ministry will be.

March 4 - Making a Break with the Past
- John 2:13-22 - Traditions can great
meaning to our ministry, but they can
also become a roadblock toward moving
forward to the new places God is
calling us to in our ministry. Discerning
what to keep and what to discard can
be very challenging.



I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my
help come? My help comes from the Lord, who
made heaven and earth. ~Psalm 121:1-2

Keep in your prayers Sylvan Bupp and
all of Nancy Bupp's family in the days
following her memorial service. Hold in
the light Dan and Trish Galt, preparing
to move to Davis, and supporting their
daughter, Libby, through

chemotherapy. Pray for Terhesa's
friend Robert, struggling with
addiction, Renee Gokey, still feeling the
effects of a bad fall, and Larry Cole, on
the mend from a fractured vertebra.
Send travel mercies to Kim, Jim, and
Kelsey Boardman, as they visit Thailand
together, and pray for quick healing of
Kim's elbow after a fall. Rejoice that
Maryco Graff was able to be in worship
after some health setbacks. Hold in
the light Randy Short, pastor of the
Glendale COB, facing surgery for a
tumor. Keep in your thoughts and
prayers all who are grieving, all who are
in pain, all who suffer in silence, as well
as all those who rejoice.

The Lord will keep your going out and your
coming in from this time on and forevermore.
~Psalm 121:8

In the Days Ahead

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!



Items of Note

The Wing Ding 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!



Our annual CHURCH RETREAT is coming soon...April 27-29, at the Christian Beret Retreat Center. The leader is Dan Poole, Coordinator for Ministry Formation and Director of Educational Technology at Bethany Theological Seminary. He will lead us into the theme, "Still Moving Forward" as we continue to transition into new pastoral leadership, examining who we are as a congregation and developing a specific focus for our future with twelve scriptural connections for our life and ministries. Stay tuned!
~Stephen Reddy and Eddie Hernandez, retreat co-chairs

45 Years of Making Life Better

Forty-five years ago Dr. Bill Forney, a member of our church (now deceased) went to Pastor John Hunter describing Therapeutic Homes, an agency that was working with disturbed children, but that was failing financially and about to close. Because both men wanted to help children, they discussed the possibility of our Modesto Church of the Brethren taking over the project. With approval of our church board, a board of directors was set up for the agency which included several of our church members. Before long, the agency office was set up in the little house that was the annex of our old Sierra Drive church building. Soon the name was changed to Sierra Vista Children's Center. Then came the portable classroom in the small parking lot behind the church as well as a classroom in the building's basement and offices upstairs.

Sierra Vista continued to grow and expand, outgrowing our church building, but not outgrowing the interest and caring support of some of our church members. We can be very proud of this tiny agency that was an infant 45 years ago, but is now known as Sierra Vista Child and Family Services. It has 28 different programs

in 12 locations, working with 19,000 children and families this past year. Sierra Vista now has about 300 employees and a \$17 million dollar budget and has earned top accreditations for agencies working with children and families needing behavioral help.

A few of the many programs are clinics; classes with qualified counselors for parents while their children can be cared for in day care; foster families; non-public kindergarten through eighth grade schools whose staff are all qualified to teach and help behavior problems; adults who work with children in public schools; group homes where children live with adult counselors; and many more. Remember the recent article in our *Chimes* about the many motorcycle club members riding their bikes to our church to bring Christmas toys to children living in two Sierra Vista group homes?

Why this long article about this agency? The Executive Director of Sierra Vista Child and Family Services, Judy Kindle, will be the speaker for our Senior Event on Thursday, March 15. Judy Kindle was one of the very first employees and has risen "in the ranks," taking over when John Hunter retired, to the stage enumerated above where she and an excellent staff are devoting their lives to make life better for

children and families who are struggling. We hope to see you for lunch March 15, then to learn more about this amazing agency in our community, working hard to help many, many people of all ages develop more positive and productive lives.

Senior Ministries

Reminder: Rhapsody and Rhythm: The Gershwin Concert Experience at the Gallo Center February 25, 4 PM

Luncheon with Sierra Vista Child & Family Services Executive Director Judy Kindle providing the program, March 15, 12 noon.

Love Modesto April 21, 2018

"Love Modesto started in 2007 at Big Valley Grace Community Church with two questions: 1) Why is our city on lists of the "worst cities in America"? 2) If our churches were to suddenly disappear from the Modesto area, would anyone even care or notice? We did not know the answers to these questions, but we knew we were called to love Modesto as Jesus would."

~From the LoveModesto.com website

Modesto Church of the Brethren has a reputation throughout Modesto as an active church that has contributed greatly in service to the community. Love Modesto is faith-based community service organization that also contributes to the city. Yet Modesto Church of the Brethren has never participated as a congregation in a Love Modesto project. Your Witness Commission would like to change that this year! Since the first of this year, we have been talking to the youth about signing up for a project, and they are studying the possibilities. Our All Church Workday will be listed as a Love Modesto project! Pastor Michael has challenged us to get out into the community! Let's take him up on that challenge! Let's not let the youth be the only MCOB members to provide a service to the community! Let's join the youth at the Love Modesto rally at 8:45 AM on April 21, and work with them at a project of their choice! Watch for the Love Modesto poster coming soon in the Narthex~Luella Cole for the Witness Commission



Look for the All Church Workday signup in the Narthex-and on the LoveModesto.com list of projects!



Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Thursday, February 22. Use article name in the subject line and email to: luellacole@sbcglobal.net

The Editor thanks you.



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!

The Condensed Calendar

Monday

6:30 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday-Valentine's Day

Ash Wednesday

5 pm Bible Study/Library

6 pm Faith Bites

6:45 pm Talk Around the Table

7 pm Choir Practice

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Next Sunday-February 18th

9:30 am Sunday School-Jr. High-Adult

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

11 am Worship

12:15 pm Wing Ding/Valentine Event

Mark Your Calendar

February 19 Presidents Day-Office Closed

February 22 6pm WW Neighborhood Watch
Mtg.

February 23 6pm Family FUN Night

February 25 12pm Brown Bag Lunch-
Gathering Place

February 25 4pm Sr. Ministries Event
Gallo Center-Rhapsody &
Rhythm: The Gershwin
Experience

March 4 4pm Habitat Concert-Trinity United
Presbyterian Church

March 10 9:30am Coffee & Conversation
Healthcare in America

March 11 12:30pm Prospector Potluck

March 15 12 pm Sr. Ministries Lunch & Sierra
Vista Child & Family Service
program

March 17 5pm Progressive Dinner

March 18-24th Family Promise

March 29 Maundy Thursday

April 1 9am Easter Breakfast/Egg Hunt
11am Worship

April 15 12:30 pm Prospector Potluck

April 21 8am All Church Workday
8:45 Love Modesto Rally/Project
Kickoff

