



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.

Reflection

Teaching as a Ministry, February 25, 2018

Way back in my 30's and 40's, almost every time I led worship, our late brother, Milton Ewert, would be sure to approach me with the same comment: "Kim, you should consider going into the ministry". To which I always responded the same way, "Milton, I am in ministry!"

Of course, Milton wanted me to consider attending seminary classes to go into the set apart church ministry and I was referring to the fact that I had already followed a calling into the teaching ministry. I am currently serving in my 30th year!

There is no doubt that teaching is certainly a career choice and a job, but as so many of you have experienced, it definitely has moments of being a true calling and ministry. Working with 11-14-year-old students every day is not easy. I mean, they are 7th and 8th graders! But in this society, so many students come to my classroom hungry, not sure where they will be sleeping when they leave school, afraid of violence or being alone all night. Many are caught between parents who fight over them in court and others have family members in prison. I used to think I was being ridiculous for teaching them things like photosynthesis and respiration. They simply needed survival skills. But, it didn't take me long to realize

that being in school is their way out and often their safety net. My ministry is to make sure that my classroom is as safe and educational as possible. Every 7th and 8th grader that comes into my room and my school, has the right to learn about photosynthesis and respiration, and the US constitution and algebra and how to write a strong persuasive essay.

In addition, and maybe more importantly, every student has the right to be treated with respect and value and to have adults around that can be trusted and counted upon. It has been a long learning curve for me. I have tried my best and some days are definitely better than others. One of the smallest but most significant elements that has been added to my teaching ministry recently is part of a larger program in which many in my district have been trained. For the last 3 years, many of us have greeted our students at our classroom doors everyday to shake their hands. It is our way, my way, to say each student's name, check on their well-being, and simply greet them with respect. On the last day of school last year, one of my students came to speak to me at the very end of the day. She had only been at our school for 3 or 4 months. I knew that the adjustment had not been easy for her. She specifically wanted to thank me. She told me that she struggled with coming to school every day. She would sit in her first class barely coping, but she told herself that she knew that if she could make it through her

first class, I would be there to greet her for her next class with a smile and a handshake. She told me that was how she got through every day.

So, Milton...no, I have never attended seminary, but I still believe I have followed God's call into the ministry of teaching.

~Kim Boardman

Pastor's Corner

Pastor's Schedule

Monday & Wednesday through Friday - In office 8:30 to 11:30

Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath

April 2-6 - Working from La Quinta (ok to contact by phone or email.)

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.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study



Wednesdays - 5:00 in Library - A Walk Through the New Testament

March 28 - Other Voices: Hebrews through Jude

April 4 - No Study

Coffee and Conversation

Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, April 14, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be: The Future of the Church of the Brethren.



Pastor's Roaming Office (Check church's Facebook page for updates)

Monday, March 26, 6:00 pm - Buffalo Wild Wings, Vintage Faire Mall

Tuesday, March 27, 11:00 am - Panera Bread, 2103 McHenry

Monday, April 9



Sermon Snippets - Our Lenten Journey Continues:



Exploring Jesus' Ministry to Help Us Find Our Own

April 1, Easter Sunday - Terror and Amazement - Mark 16:1-8 - Almost all scholars agree that Mark was the first of the four Gospels to have been written and that the evidence is very strong that the original manuscript ended at verse 8. This means that Mark's Gospel includes no post resurrection appearances by Jesus. How would the story be different if Mark was the only Gospel we had? And more importantly how would that impact our faith?

April 8 - Interrupting Silence - Exodus 2:23
- A favorite song of mine from the eighties has the line, "That's just the way it is, some things will never change...Don't you believe it." The first step to change is believing that we can make a difference. One aspect of that is believing that our voices will be heard.

April 15 - The Prophetic Challenge - Amos 7:13 - Speaking for God will be opposed by the powerful who always prefer the status quo. The challenge to those who wish to be faithful is often find ways to be subversive in communicating the message.



Celebrate with Jim and Marye Martinez at the birth of their daughter Justine's baby daughter Addalynn.

Hold in your thoughts Rachel Gilstrap-Katen remembering Liz Smeltzer on her birthday.

Rejoice...with John Heisel that Doris has returned to Walnut Woods from her stay in the hospital...

- † with Kim Boardman looking forward to daughter Kelsey's return from Thailand...
- † with Felton Daniels celebrating many MCOB members joining in the March for Our Lives on March 24...
- † with Ingrid Rupel visiting from Hawaii...
- † with Jeannie Canter reconnecting with a sister-in-law...
- † and with Elaine Forcier rejoicing that Jolinda Reddy is able to attend worship.

Keep in your prayers Louise and Les Roy's friend Jim who passed away last week, and members of Dana Roy's family who suffered minor injuries in a car crash but lost their pet dog, and another family member in the hospital.

Pray for any who grieve, any who are in pain, and any who have troubles too deep for words. May they find peace.

Celebrate with proud mother and new mother-in-law, Peggy Hoover as Vincent Castaneda and Jan Cash will be married at Merritt Lake in Oakland, CA on April 1, 2018. Vincent is the son of Mike Castaneda and Peggy Hoover and grew up in the Modesto COB. Vincent and Jan live at 773 Tehama St., San Francisco, CA 94103. It is an exciting time for them as they begin their married life together.



Just a reminder: Faith Bites this coming Wednesday, March 28 is a **Potluck**! Some of our Family Promise guests from last week may join us at dinner that night, as they are being housed in hotels during Holy Week. Please consider bringing a little extra food for our guests. Thank You from the Witness Commission!



Fellowship and Recreation is getting ready to hop down the bunny trail and we would like to invite you to come along. Sunday morning April 1st @ 9am for breakfast then the children can gather in the narthex to prepare for our annual Easter Egg hunt.

Please sign up for both breakfast and the egg hunt.

Hope to see you then.

Fellowship and Recreation



We are now about a month away from our Spring **All Church Work Day**. Plenty of spots still open. Don't wait until the last moment to get on board! See sign up board in the narthex. Any questions, call Bill Johnson [209 522-0746](tel:209522-0746). Coffee and donuts at 8:00am, work starts at 9am and ends (for most) at noon.



April Youth Schedule

April 1st -

8:45 am - 12:00 pm Easter is here!! The youth will be helping serve breakfast per tradition. This year we are asking for the parents to be on board to help in case we do not have enough youth present.

April 8th -

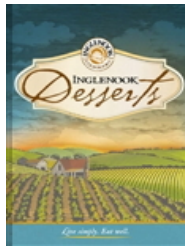
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Youth worship planning. At this meeting we will be finalizing our details for April 22nd's youth worship service. If you were assigned a different task and need any help with it please feel free to reach out to Tera, Rachel or Josh before that day for some help. PARENTS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING TO HELP THEIR YOUTH BE PREPARED FOR THE 22ND.

April 21st - 8 am

This is Earth Day and all church work day. This year we have been asked to participate in the all church work day. This is a great opportunity to be of service to the congregation! Please let Tera know if you can help as the project we will be assigned for this day is based on how many of us will be there.

April 22nd - 10:30 am Youth worship! We will be leading worship on this Sunday. Come prepared and ready to rock. Arrive a little early so we can go over all the last-minute questions and details you may have!

Something Sweet is Coming!



Keep your fork-dessert is about to be served! Following the tradition of Inglénook Cookbooks, Brethren Press is publishing ***Inglénook Desserts*** this summer. The recipes in this cookbook have been passed down through the generations. We can pre-order copies of this cookbook at a pre-publication price of \$18 if we order 10 or more copies before April 9, 2018. The regular price will be \$25. **Order no later than April 7 by phoning the church office (523-1438) or sending an email to chimes@modcob.org with your name and *Inglénook Desserts* in the message. If you want more than one copy, include the number in your message.**

All Church Retreat Coming Soon



April 27-29 is the date for the annual church retreat under the theme **Still Moving Forward** with Dan Poole as retreat leader. Dan is from Bethany Theological Seminary with experience in this topic. We need more people to make this commitment. See the sign-up board in narthex. Thanks!
~Stephen Reddy and Eddie Hernandez

MCOB Prospectors:

Come to a Potluck Lunch, after church on April 15, 2018. at the home of Al and Elaine Forcier, 2820 March Ct. Modesto. Bring a dish to share. Enjoy some good food and visit with friends.



Senior Ministries

San Luis Reservoir Romero Visitor Center April 19, 2018- Getting Started



- Plan to be at the church by **8:45 AM** so we can depart by 9.
- We will be traveling by car and appreciate drivers willing to take those who need a ride. The drive takes a little over an hour.
- If you do not plan to leave from the church, please let Margaret Johnson know so the group will not wait for you.

Arrive: Romero Visitor Center 10:15-noon

- After arriving, we will meet at about 10:30 for a talk, by guide Caitlin Boyer, followed by two short films. One gives the historical background of the dam and water system. The other features an aerial view of the water system put to music. The remainder of the visit will allow time for checking out the exhibits and tremendous views.
- This facility is accessible. It is all on one level, no stairs.

12:30- Lunch at Pea Soup Andersen's in Santa Nella

- The menu can be viewed at their website.
- We will be eating in the dining room.

Cost:

- Lunch at the restaurant
- If you are a passenger, \$5 contribution to your driver for gas.

Be sure to sign up for this event **by April 15** on our Senior Ministry bulletin board in the Narthex.

Questions: Margaret Johnson (209)522-0746 or (209)404-4287



Our March FUN has been derailed by the flu! We had a few key people very ill right at the time we needed to be planning and preparing. We will miss March, but plan to be up and FUNning again on **Friday April 20th**. Mark your calendars now, and look for some friends to bring along.

Until then, there are a couple of other family-oriented activities happening within our church fellowship. The annual **Easter breakfast Sunday April 1st** will include an **Easter egg hunt and prizes** for the young ones.

Red Hills Walk

Then, on **Saturday April 7th**, we are meeting for a walk in the Red Hills east of Modesto to view wildflowers and share a picnic lunch. Watch for emails and bulletins about both of these special events. We look forward to seeing you all in the near future!



Our March Family Promise hosting week is over! Many thanks to all who help to make our hosting weeks run smoothly! Our next hosting week will be June 24-30. Please think about how you can be of service to our guest families. Our Unitarian co-hosts are dedicated to helping us provide wonderful

dinners, but we are always in need of more overnight hosts. It's true that the Family Promise beds are not the best, but those of us who stay overnight regularly-sometimes several times during hosting weeks-manage to get a good night's sleep in spite of the beds. Keep in mind that our Family Promise guests spend sometimes several months sleeping on those beds! If you have questions about any aspect of volunteering for Family Promise, please talk to Linda Williams or Luella Cole-and think about joining us for our next hosting week!

**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
Pedersen-Pennock at
pedersea@gmail.com by
Wednesday evenings.
Thank you!**

*Articles and photos for
the next issue of Chimes
are due by Thursday,
April 5. Use article name
in the subject line and
email to:
chimes@modcob.org*

The Editor thanks you.

The Condensed Calendar

Monday, March 26

6 PM-Pastor's Roaming Office-Buffalo Wild Wings

Tuesday, March 27

Pastor's Sabbath

11 AM Pastor's Roaming Office-Panera Bread on McHenry

Wednesday, March 28

6 PM Faith Bites-**Potluck**

7 PM Choir

Thursday, March 29

6:30 PM Maundy Thursday-Love Feast

Friday, March 30

Good Friday

Saturday, March 31

Next Sunday, April 1

Easter Sunday

9 AM Easter Breakfast

10 AM Egg Hunt

11 AM Worship

Mark Your Calendars

April 4 No Choir practice

April 7 Red Hills Wildflower Hike

April 8 9:30 AM Brethren History class

Room 1

April 14 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation

April 15 9:30 AM Brethren History Class'

Room 1

April 15 12:30 Prospector Potluck-Forcier's

April 19 Sr. Ministry Trip-San Luis Reservoir

April 21 8 AM All Church Work Day

April 27-29 Church Retreat

May 6 4 PM Tera's Baby Shower

May 17 12 PM Sr. Ministry Event-Luncheon-

New Zealand

May 20 12:15 PM Stephen Reddy's Retirement

Dinner

