



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: office@modcob.org ♦ web site: www.modcob.org

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

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



One of the top goals that came out of the Vital Ministry Journey process led by Stan Dueck was better communication at the board and leadership level as well as for the congregation as a whole.

Starting with church leadership at the board level, a commitment was made to be more intentional at board meetings regarding process. Our Covenant for respectful communication is read aloud to remind us of proper behavior while in the meeting and doing the work of the church.

Commissions have always been required to turn in their commission minutes to the board secretary for retention. This was not always done. Recently commissions have been instructed to send their minutes not only to the Board chair and Board secretary, but also to all Board members. This process is done by email to save the trees.

Once a month, about a week before the board meeting, I get a chance to meet with Karen and work out a list of issues that will be on the agenda at the next board meeting. Karen has been asked to submit articles in the Chimes summarizing the high points of our transitional journey in selecting a new pastor.

We have gone through the Vital Ministry Journey process with a follow-up with the VMJ committee. The search committee has finished its gathering of information for our congregational profile and the profile has been sent out to be posted. Recently we have received profiles from several pastoral candidates. The Search Committee is currently performing interviews with prospective applicants. The Search Committee has committed to keeping the congregation informed about the search process. Elaine Forcier is the chair of the Search Committee, and together with Pastor Michael, she gave a summary of the search process during worship on May 13. Other members of the Search Committee are Karen Cosner, our board chair, Felton Daniels, Evan Campbell, Matt Hazen and Rachel Gilstrap-Katen. If you have questions, ask them. They will tell you all that they are allowed by the process. They just can't name names.

During the next 6 months we will probably have a new pastor, possibly a music director and we will say farewell to our much appreciated interim pastor, Michael Fletcher, and give a round of applause as Steve Reddy steps away after 30 years as music minister. For the rest of us, we have a lot to do. Our interim pastor has been intentional in providing bible study classes and round table discussions to give us a chance to grapple with issues from the Bible. He has also been actively involved in the daily life of the church.

There has been a lot done in the area of congregational communication. It has not been something that we were historically good at but we are working on it. BUT the communication process is a two-way street. It is important to read the Chimes, attend church regularly, and to attend council meetings as they are scheduled, and as you are able.

If you have questions, ask. The search for a new pastor has been a longer-than-anticipated journey but our transitional train is rounding the last couple of turns and heading for home. Stay tuned. Winter is gone, spring is here and with it new life and new opportunities. Stay involved and connected to the church. Participate!

Bill Johnson
Board Vice Chair

We asked Tera Jackson to write a short piece about the importance of communication in working with the youth. Below is her response.

Communication is vital in keeping the heart of the youth group alive. As leaders we strive to make sure we are constantly evaluating how we communicate and if it is working. With the world we live in being so busy email and text seems to be the most reliable forms of communication to get meeting times and plans across.

While this is highly important I believe the most beneficial communication we can have with our youth is face to face. Taking the time to ask the youth when you see them how they are doing and where their lives are going is vital to building relationships that will keep the young people we have coming back.

My goal for the congregation is to always encourage open communication and to plant the seeds of the future of the congregation.

Tera Jackson
Children/Youth & Family Coordinator



Living the Questions

Beginning on Sunday, July 22 and continuing through Sunday, September 2 (or my last Sunday, whichever comes first), I'd like to do a series entitled "Living the Questions" in which we consider what it means to be a disciple of Jesus in our contemporary society. I will be seeking volunteers to "ask the question" for each Sunday by raising an issue, defining the challenge to faithful discipleship and sharing a testimony in which they express their own personal challenges as it relates to the specific issue. This could be done on an individual basis or it could be a collaborative effort between several people. I hope people will prayerfully consider this opportunity to struggle with issues of faith.

Pastor's Schedule

May 22-27: Vacation/working from La Quinta

May 29 - ? : Jury Duty in Indio

June 2-July 1: Modesto

July 1 - 8: Annual Conference in Cincinnati



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

Pastor's Roaming Office is an opportunity for anyone to chat in an informal manner about what is happening at the Modesto COB. For serious concerns setting an appointment would probably be better.

Tuesday, June 5, 9:00 am - Panera Bread - 3401 Dale Rd

Study and Fellowship Opportunities

Coffee and Conversation

June 9, 9:30 AM Topic: The Heritage and Values of Modesto Church of the Brethren



Sermon Snippets –



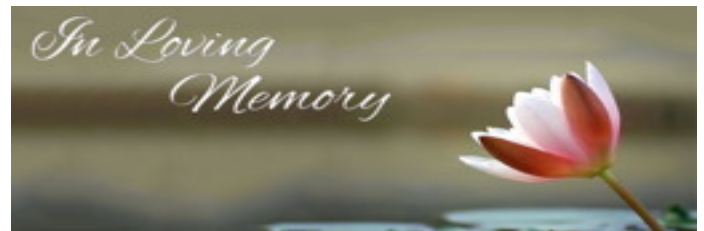
May 27 - Three Wondrous Questions - Matthew 6:25-26 and Romans 12:2 Amy Pederson-Pennock will be bringing the morning message on this Sunday.

June 3 to July 1- Series on the Lord's Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13

June 3 - Our Father, Hallowed be Thy Name - Matthew 25:14-30 - The image of God as Father has great meaning, but also carries with it some baggage, especially for people who didn't experience a close loving relationship with their own father. Jesus'

parable of the talents offers us a way to pray to "Our Father" even if the image of God as father doesn't work for us.

June 10 - Thy Kingdom Come - Various scriptures - One of the primary concepts of much of contemporary religion is an escape mentality. By that I mean that the primary benefit of our faith is an escape from the pain and problems of our earthly life to a heavenly reward. But Jesus taught us to pray the exact opposite of that, asking God to send heaven to earth.



Phyllis Harvey

May 19, 2017

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die".



Thomas Campbell

Chuck Messamer let us know that his stepmother, Roberta Messamer, passed away on Tuesday, May 8th after dealing with many health issues. Chuck's father Homer and Roberta were active members of the Modesto church until Homer's passing. Please keep your thoughts and prayers with the family. Cards can be sent to Roberta Messamer, c/o Walter Nelson, 4512 Gilmers Mill Road, Natural Bridge Station, VA 24579.



Keep in your prayers the family of Doris Heisel following her memorial service.

Also be in prayer for the families of the victims of yet another school shooting, and continue to pray for all students who, like Kim Boardman's, must go through the stressful "active shooter" drills at school. May we continue seek solutions to the violence in our country.

Hold in your thoughts Larry Cole dealing with Peripheral Artery Disease in his legs.

Rejoice with Kelly Gepley in her new job teaching 6th grade at Garrison School!

Rejoice also with Monique Sanders at the college graduation of her son Alex.

Celebrate with Stephen and Jolinda Reddy at his retirement from music ministry at MCOB, and that his son was able to be here for the party.

Rejoice also that Chelsea Feeney was able to be at worship.

Be with Renee Gokey in rejoicing that her son Steven has a job, and help her with her concern that he is not nearby.

Continue in prayer for all whose concerns are too deep for words; all who are in pain, who grieve, who are lonely, who are separated from family, like Nguba Buba in Nigeria.

Items of Note

Ladies Night Out

Join the Prospector Ladies at 5 PM, Thursday, May 24, for a Mediterranean dinner at Papapavlo's, 1320 Standiford Ave. Women of all ages are welcome! Please let Linda Owen (dlo2@sbcglobal.net or 505-3774) know you're coming!

43rd Modesto Peace/Life Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, June 3, 2018, 8 am to 12 noon at MCOB

All time favorite pancakes:
Blueberry, Buttermilk,
Scotch Oaties



Fresh fruit, granola, yogurt, coffee, tea, juice.

Labyrinth Walk

Plan now for a community labyrinth walk for Sunday, June 3, 6:30 pm. If you can't walk, come anyway and sit in the garden area, enjoy others' walking, meditate, and relax, enjoying the beauty of creation.



Women's Retreat 2018

Camp Peaceful Pines

June 8 - 10



Dearest Women Campers, Here it is again. The time of year we start thinking about summer outings and retreats. Once again, Camp Peaceful Pines is hosting the Women's Retreat in early June, and a wonderful, inspiring weekend is being planned. Directing the event again will be Peggy Hoover along with the expert musical talents of Elaine Forcier. A wonderful craft opportunity will be presented using some of our sister Nancy Bupp's beads that can be

fashioned into jewelry and/or to decorate a Bupp's Bag in remembrance of Nancy. If you didn't know Nancy, you will get a chance to hear many loving stories while we work side by side on various projects. The special guest for this year's inspirational presentation is Nita Brady. Trials and tragedies come in all shapes and sizes, and Nita will share how her life and faith have been challenged by adversity. She will explore the concept of Hope and how it needs to be true and lasting to enrich and sustain our lives at times of adversity - which we all experience along life's journey. Come hear her personal story and share what you can of your own for healing and wholeness. Hope is a Choice!

Registration of this camp is due June 6th, but the Early Bird discount will apply if you register by May 15th. Wonderful food, fun and fellowship will be had by all attendees, so take a minute to get signed up for a weekend with your friends at Camp.

Send registrations to Lynda Sesser at 1901 Landini Way, Modesto, CA 95355 along with a check made out to Camp Peaceful Pines. See www.camppeacefulpines.org for deadline and cost details. Contact me with questions or requests for carpooling. Hope to see you in June, Peggy Hoover 209-815-3095



"PEACE WEEK BUILDS PEACEBUILDERS"

Children learning to see themselves as "Peace Builders" is the focus of Peace Week this year. Using Bible stories, songs, games and art, participants will be encouraged to see how they themselves can be peace makers in our community and beyond. Children entering Kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to join in the fun. The setting is the Modesto Church of the Brethren. The dates and times are Monday, June 11th through Friday, June 15th from 9 AM to Noon with dinner and a program Friday night, June 15, at 6 PM for participants and their families. The cost for the week is \$15 per child with a maximum of \$35 per family. The charge includes a hat, all activities and snacks as well as the dinner and program Friday night. Registration forms are attached to the Chimes e-mail and are also available on the table in the church entry. You may also call the church and ask for a registration form to be mailed to you. Advance registration by May 27th is greatly appreciated. If you have questions, please call the church office at (209) 523-1438.

Chimes Deadline

Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by **Thursday, May 31**. Please use the article name in the subject line and email to: chimes@modcob.org

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!

Condensed Calendar



Monday

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday

6pm Faith Bites

Thursday

5pm Ladies Night-Papapavlos

Friday

6pm F.U.N. event

Saturday

Next Sunday-May 27

9:30am Sunday Morning Study

11am Worship



May 25-28 Opening Camp Peaceful Pines

May 28 Memorial Day-Office Closed



June 2 6pm Men's Group Potluck-Daniels

June 3 8am Pancake Breakfast

June 3 6:30pm Labyrinth Walk

June 8-10 Women's Retreat CPP

June 9 9:30am Coffee & Conversation

June 11-15 Peace Week

June 15-17 Gourmet Cooking Camp CPP

June 21 8:30am Sr. Ministries Airport Tour: First, meet for breakfast at Huckleberry's

June 24-July 1 Hosting Family Promise



June 28-July 3 Discovery Camp CPP

July 3-8 Annual Conference-Cincinnati

July 15-20 Jr. High/Youth Camp CPP

July 20-25 Family Camp CPP