



The Chimes

Date May 8, 2018
Volume 18 Number 10

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 Member of the Congregation

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



Sharing My Call by Amy Pennock

When I was a junior in high school I had to take an aptitude test to see what jobs would best suit my interests and skill levels. I remember answering question like "Do you like working with people?" Do you faint at the sight of blood? That kind of stuff. At the end of the test I got one career match: Clergy. Now, I was a practicing Catholic at the time, so unless I wanted to be a nun, that career wasn't gonna work out for me. Plus, I knew since I was twelve that I wanted to be involved in some kind of music career. I took the test a couple more times, changed my answers and finally got what I really wanted to be: a music teacher. It's only now that I realize that so much of what I do as a music teacher is ministry. Maybe that aptitude test wasn't so far off base.

Music opens us up to something that is bigger than us. You can call it God or the Holy Spirit. You can call it the universe or even magic, but whatever name you give it, it is something powerful. When I am performing music I feel present and peaceful. I also feel like I'm my highest self. Making music for me is very much a holistic experience involving mind, body and spirit. I want my students to

experience this, because there are so few spaces left in our schools for them to have a holistic experience. I want to give them a place where they can develop their little spirits in a healthy, positive way.

There is a certain openness that is required in community music making. Unfortunately, our world encourages us to be very guarded from a young age. My youngest students will come to me with so many walls up, afraid to be children, afraid to dance and sing, and afraid to be silly. My older students will come in thinking that they don't have enough talent to make music. One of my biggest challenges is creating a safe space where children feel like they can be vulnerable enough to participate and tear down some of the walls they have. My class is a place to sing, dance, play instruments and be creative. I know the Spirit is working when I see these children singing and dancing together. I know the Spirit is working when I see their looks of pride and accomplishment as they perform for their peers, teachers and parents. I know the Spirit is working when I overhear students say how much fun they are having and that they want to do "that song again". Some of you might be saying to yourself "Hey, that sounds a little like church" (maybe slightly more fun), but definitely church-like.

Community music making is a sacred practice where healing of the spirit can occur. If music class is done right (similarly, if church is done right) everyone should feel safe and welcome to participate. Everyone can be moved by the Spirit, and I am so blessed to hold this space at my three schools. To me, it's not only teaching music but it's also ministering as well.

I know it sounds cliché, but after almost 15 years and thousands of students later, I still love teaching, I want to learn more, and I want to be a better teacher every day. I think that's how I know I am doing what I was meant to do. Experts and researchers will say we should keep music programs because of the academic benefits. But, I am in this because of the spiritual benefits. I truly believe music makes our lives better and brings us together. I hope to always be doing this work in my life.

There's been some debate in the field of teaching about whether we should call teaching a "calling" mostly because people in helping/nurturing professions are usually not paid as well, because we get the "satisfaction" of making a difference in the world. That should make up for fair compensation, right? I struggled with writing this testimony, because I have seen how pervasive that philosophy is. I cannot deny that I have a strong pull toward teaching music, but that does not make me an expert. I wasn't born knowing how to do this. It's not always sunshine and rainbows. There are attitudinal kids and parents. There are uninformed higher ups and policy makers, that make our job that much harder, but I will take the rain and fog sometimes if it allows me to do the thing that I love. I think that's how I know I am doing what I was meant to do.

After almost 15 years, I still love it, I want to learn more, and I want to be a better teacher every day.



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 Michael

Pastor's Schedule

(When in Modesto)

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

Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath

May 6 -May 13 - in Modesto

May 14-20 - Attending Church Planting Conference for District

May 21-28 - Vacation

May 29 - ? - Jury duty in Indio

June 1 - July 1- in Modesto

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



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

Wednesday, May 9 will be our final session and we'll discuss any questions or thoughts anyone might have on the New Testament. Feel free to join us, even if you haven't attended before.



Coffee and Conversation

Our next Coffee and Conversation, originally scheduled for Saturday, May 12, has been cancelled.

The next one will be June 9.

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.

Monday, May 7, 7:00 pm - Panera Bread - 3401 Dale Rd.

Thursday, May 10, 1:00 pm - Starbucks, Briggsmore and Prescott

Sunday Morning Study

We're starting a new study series on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the church library. We'll begin each session with a 10-12 minute video that takes a look at a spiritual issue from what is often a very unique perspective. A time of discussion will follow to help us ponder the message of the video, ask questions that arise from it and consider how the ideas can, or perhaps cannot, impact our lives. Each week will be a separate topic, so even if you can only attend sporadically, please join us.



Sermon Snippets -

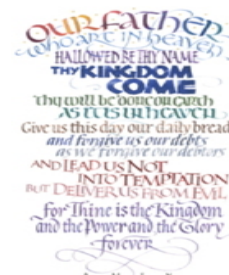


May 13 - A Mother's Challenge - Mark 7:24-30 - When a Gentile woman brings her daughter to Jesus for healing, Jesus gives a surprising response. For the sake of her daughter, the woman challenges Jesus. Who are we willing to challenge for the benefit of our daughters (or sons or whomever)?

May 20 - Choral Concert

May 27 - Amy Pederson-Pennock bringing the morning message - Three Wondrous Questions - Matthew 6:25-26 and Romans 12:2

June 3 to July 1- Series on the Lord's Prayer





Hold in the Light

Keep in your prayers the family of Doris Heisel as they prepare for her memorial on May 11 at 10 am.

Be with a friend of Kim Boardman's, who is a member of the Carlson family of Patterson, in the death of the family's matriarch.

We rejoice that Shaun and Kelly Gepley have agreed to head up Peace Week this year.

We hold in our thoughts any who have illness, pain, and troubles too deep for words.

Items of Note



The search committee asks for your prayers as we continue to interview and discern who will be the best fit to serve as our pastor/s. Members are Elaine Forcier, Felton Daniels, Karen Cosner, Evan Campbell, Matt Hazen and Rachel Gilstrap-Katen.

"WONDERS DOWN UNDER"



Flightless birds, glowing worms in caves, towering palms and ferns in lush rainforests, deep fjords cutting into snow-capped peaks, lovely lakes and roaring rivers, gushing geysers and bubbling mud pools, sheep-covered rolling hills, sparkling seashores...Just a few of the many wonders to be found down under in New Zealand. On Thursday, May 17, join us for our Senior Ministries lunch and then a virtual tour of some of the sights that awed travelers Linda & Eldon Williams, Dave & Linda Owen, Loren & Corrine Baker on their visit to New Zealand earlier this spring. Lunch is served at

12:00 Noon for \$7. **Please sign up by May 13** on the board by the drinking fountains to let our cooks know to count you in.

From Worship and Spiritual Life:

Hymn Sing

Everyone please be in the sanctuary at 10:45 on May 13 for fabulous hymn singing which will begin at 10:[48.am](#). This is a time to sing some old favorites...some that bring back great memories of our youth, young adult years...hymns with which we've grown up!

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.



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.



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

Peaceful Pines Gourmet Cooking Camp June 15-17

Gary House, gourmet chef extraordinaire, will lead this weekend of preparing, cooking, and serving amazing meals that campers help create. Learn how to make bread, sumptuous entrees, amazing salads and side dishes. Also, kitchen food prep tips and shortcuts will be shared. Don't miss out!



Action Item

From the Church of the Brethren May 4, 2018 Newline: A series of hearings is continuing at sites around the country, held by the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. These hearings are on the future of the military draft, draft registration, and compulsory service including compulsory military or national service for women, health care workers, and people with language, IT, or STEM skills. The Commission is scheduled to report its findings to Congress in 2020. It held its first public meeting in Harrisburg, PA on February 23, 2018. Upcoming hearings are announced for Boston, Mass., on Wednesday, May 9; in Nashua, N.H., on Thursday, May 10; and in Jacksonville, Fla., on May 17. There will eventually be meetings across the country, including in **Tennessee, Florida, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, and California.** Peace church members are encouraged to attend and express support for alternative, non-military service in place of a military draft. Written comments are being received by the commission by email to info@inspire2serve.gov with "Docket No. 05-2018-01A" in the subject line of the e-mail message, or use this online form: <http://www.inspire2serve.gov/content/share-your-thoughts>. The deadline to submit written comments has been extended through Sept. 30.



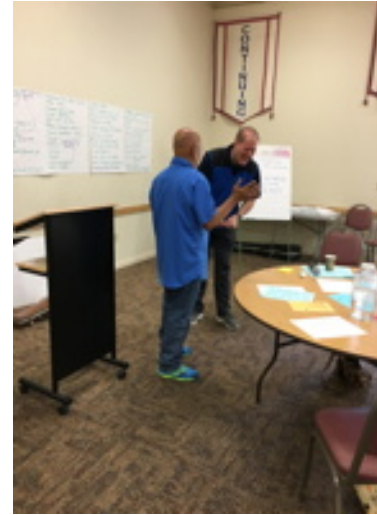
Photo Gallery

The Back 40 has been mowed!

A big thank you to Bill Strohm for the timely work of mowing our back 40. We are good to go for another year!



Eddie entertaining our Retreat leader, Dan Poole, from Bethany Seminary:



Golfers' Picnic at the Johnson's



All Church Retreat

We spent the weekend in conversation, Bible study, and discernment of what our congregation's values are. Here is what we distilled many pages of notes to:

- Love & Acceptance
- pushing the boundaries
- Faith
- Service \ Discipleship
- centrality of worship
 - spirituality
 - Worship & Life integrated



The Condensed Calendar

Monday

7pm Pastor's Roaming Office-Panera Bread,
Dale Road

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday May 17 12pm Sr. Ministries Event
Wonders Down Under
May 20 12:15 Stephen Reddy's Retirement
Dinner

5pm Bible Study
6pm Faith Bites
7pm Choir

Thursday

1pm Pastor's Roaming Office-Starbucks,
Briggsmore/Prescott

Friday

10am Doris Heisel Memorial Service

Saturday

Next Sunday-May 13

Mother's Day

9:30am Sunday Morning Study
11am Worship

Chimes Deadline

Articles and photos for the next
issue of Chimes are due by

Thursday, May 17.

Please use the article name in
the subject line and email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.



May 17 12pm Sr. Ministries Event

May 20 12:16pm Stephen Reddy's
Retirement Dinner

May 25-28 Opening Camp CPP

May 28 Memorial Day-Office Closed



June 3-8am-12noon Peace/Life Center
Pancake Breakfast

June 8-10 Women's Retreat CPP

June 11-15 Peace Week

June 15-17 Gourmet Cooking Camp CPP

June 21 Sr. Ministry Event

June 24-July 3 Hosting Family Promise

June 28-July 3 Annual Conference-Cincinnati



July 15-20 Junior Hi/Youth Camp CPP

July 20-25 Family Camp CPP

Pastor Michael will be attending a Church
Planting Conference for the District from
May 14-20th and then will be on vacation
from May 21-28th and working from La
Quinta May 29-31st.

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!