



# 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.*



*Create Stronger Connections to Community -  
Continue and strengthen existing  
relationships while exploring new ways to  
connect with and serve the greater Modesto  
community.*

The preceding is one of our VMJ Goals. This is both an important and difficult goal. It's important because a healthy relationship with the community is a vital aspect to church growth and even more importantly because our calling to discipleship is a calling to go into the world.

It's difficult because our culture no longer looks at the church as an expected part of our lifestyles. We have more and more options to commit our resources to and even more so our time. The result of this shift is that we are seriously ill equipped to connect to our community. This actually shows itself in Modesto when I talk about the need to connect with the community and people suggest that we *are* connected and note the service projects the church is involved in. While these projects are great things to be involved with and provide a meaningful ministry, they often really don't connect with the community.

The good news for the Modesto COB is that there are likely many people in the community who would be pleasantly surprised to find that there is a progressive church in Modesto that is committed to welcoming all persons, being of service to our fellow human beings and teaching peace, along with the other things we value.

The key to the future is to find where God is moving in our communities and then to join God in ministry there. It's a worthy goal.

Pastor Michael

### 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

June 1 - July 1- in Modesto

July 1-8 - Annual Conference - Cincinnati OH

July 9-16 - Vacation

July 17-18 - Working from So Cal

July 19-Aug. 20 - in Modesto

Please feel free to schedule other appointments by contacting me by email at [mfletcher21625@aol.com](mailto: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**

#### **Coffee and Conversation**



Our next Coffee and Conversation will be Saturday, June 9, 9:30 in the Gathering Place, our topic will be: Our Heritage.

**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.

Monday, June 11, 5:00 pm - Starbucks, Briggsmore & Prescott

Thursday, June 14, 4:00 pm - Starbucks, 1800 Oakdale

Saturday, June 16, 8:00 am - Panera Bread, 2103 McHenry

Monday, June 18, 12:00 noon - Michael's Pizza Bar and Grill, 500 N. Carpenter Rd

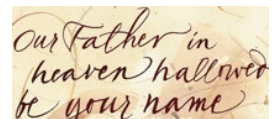
Thursday, June 21, 8:30 am - (Joining the Seniors Group for Breakfast) Huckleberry's 2213 Yosemite

### **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 can only attend sporadically, please join us.

### **Sermon Snippets - The Greatest Prayer Series**



**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.

**June 17 - Give Us Our Daily Bread - Matthew 6:19-34** - Does our quest for long term financial security end up creating (or at least adding to) the economic injustices in our world? Jesus' instruction to ask for our needs for today only should point us to an economic strategy based more on trust and less on

**June 24 - Forgive our Debts as We Forgive - Matthew 6:14-15** - In first grade we recited the Lord's Prayer each morning, there we asked that our trespasses be forgiven, but when we said the same prayer in the Church of the Brethren we asked for our debts to be forgiven. Is there a difference? And if so, is it important or just interesting.

**July 1 - Lead us not into a Time of Trial - Mark 4:1-9 (& v17)** - We live out most days free of serious tests to our faith, but then a tragedy strikes and our faith is challenged, will it strengthen us for the fight or will we fall away? The last line of the prayer that Jesus taught his followers is a difficult one, but surely Jesus intends for an important lesson to be found in it.



Keep in your prayers the family of Alba VerHulst, who passed away May 31. A memorial service is being planned and we will let you know when the plans have been finalized.

Continue to keep the Heisel family in your prayers after Doris' passing.

Be with Chuck and Diana Messamer as she goes in for a breast cancer biopsy.

Congratulations to all the graduates, including Gracie Roberts and Caleb Gilstrap-Katen, graduating from 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Prayers for fortitude for Larry Cole, who has been told by his doctor to walk, to improve the circulation in his legs.

Receive with gratitude the cards of thanks from Family Promise families, posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

*Deacon on Call  
for June  
Eddie Hernandez*

## Items of Note



**Islamic Center of Modesto**  
**Ramadan breaking fast dinner with**  
**your Muslim neighbors.**

Where: Islamic Center of Modesto  
1445 N Carpenter Rd  
Modesto Ca 95351

**When: Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Food will be served at sunset.

All are welcome!

**Please RSVP to:**

[modestoimam@yahoo.com](mailto:modestoimam@yahoo.com)

OR

[dochussain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dochussain@sbcglobal.net)



**REMINDER! PEACE WEEK IS NEXT WEEK!**  
**PLEASE REGISTER! A REGISTRATION**  
**FORM IS INCLUDED WITH THIS**  
**CHIMES.**

## FELLOWSHIP AND RECREATION NOTES

Just wanted to **thank** everyone who came to our last regular potluck on May 23rd. There was plenty of wonderful food and many of you came to thank the folks who have helped Monique serve our meal to the shelter as well as those who have been in the kitchen. Again a big **THANK YOU** ~ Fellowship & Recreation

**Our summer potlucks will be on the**  
**2nd and 4th Wednesday of June,**  
**July and August.**

First potluck June 13th

Our food theme is **Mediterranean!**

You don't have to do the themed food, just thought it might be fun and folks seemed to have enjoyed it last year.

June 27th will be potluck as usual  
(no food theme) Movie title to be announced.

July 11th Christmas in July  
Prepare all your holiday food and bring to share.

July 25th Movie Night (no food theme) Movie title to be announced.

We are planning something special for our August 8th potluck. More information to follow.

Our commission is talking about Faith Bites in the fall. **We need to hear from you and know if this is something you want to be continued.** Sue Messamer ~ Fellowship & Recreation





## SENIORS TOUR: THE MODESTO AIRPORT INSIDE AND OUT

Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> Senior Ministry will tour the Modesto Airport. The event begins with breakfast at Huckleberry's Restaurant, 2213 Yosemite Blvd. at 8:30 AM. Breakfast from the menu will be the only expense. If you do not want breakfast your day begins with the tour of the airport at 10:00 AM. The tour includes Sky Trek, an airport service company, the Stanislaus County Sheriff Helicopter Hanger, an airport museum, the control tower and more.

The tour requires considerable walking. If walking is a concern, don't let it be. A golf cart will be available to take people with limited mobility. If you cannot do stairs you will not be able to go to the top of the control tower, as the building has no elevator. But please don't let that stop you from enjoying the rest of the tour as arrangements will be made for you during the time people are in the tower.

**PLEASE - SIGN UP EARLY - NO LATER THAN JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>** - as coordination is necessary with Huckleberry's, Sky Trek, and the tower.

Questions? Call Felton Daniels - 614-6825. Plan to join this fun adventure and have a look at a very unusual part of our community!



## Gratitude and Thanks



Words cannot begin to express my thanks and

gratitude for the wonderful worship and celebration on May 20! All musicians led us in marvelous music in worship and, then, a zany meal and entertainment. My 30 years as Minister of Music will be a major highlight of my life... a committed ensemble creating music for our souls to rejoice, be inspired, and give thanks. I have grown as a follower of Jesus and as a choral conductor...and MCOB musicians have helped with that process. Thank you for your love, support, and guidance...and the many wonderful gifts received from the "surprise" retirement dinner.

Love, joy, and peace!  
Stephen L. Reddy





### Family Promise Hosting Week!

Family Promise hosting week will be June 24-30. The sign-up board is in the Narthex.

Thanks to the Unitarian cooks, we have almost all the dinners covered, but we are always in need of people to spend the night as overnight hosts. If you are able, the overnight shift is usually very uneventful, and since the guests depart by 6 AM, you would even have time to go home and get ready for work!

Please consider serving our Family Promise guests in this way, or as an evening host, sharing a meal with our guests, and then visiting with them until 8:30 PM. Volunteering to help host Family Promise is a good way to meet some delightful people!

If you are new to the congregation, or if you have not been a Family Promise volunteer, or if you just want a refresher of your original training, there is a 15-minute Family Promise training video that would be helpful for you. The video is on YouTube and is available on line; just click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnXNKZm5uQQ> .

Please consider becoming a Family Promise volunteer. Just a few hours of your time will yield a bounty of good fellowship and maybe even a good dinner that you didn't have to cook! ~ Luella



**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 Pennock at [pedersea@gmail.com](mailto:pedersea@gmail.com) by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!**

*Articles and photos for the next Chimes are due by Thursday, June 14. Use article name in the subject line and email to: [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org) The Editor thanks you.*

# The Condensed Calendar



**Monday-**

**Tuesday-**

Pastor's Sabbath

Pastor's Roaming Office - Panera Bread - Dale Rd.

**Wednesday-**

6p Faith Bites

**Thursday-**

**Friday-**

Women's Retreat CPP - Sunday

**Saturday-**

9:30a Coffee & Conversation

**Next Sunday - June 10**

9:30 Sunday morning study

11a Worship

June 11-15 Peace Week

June 13 6p 1st Summer Supper Potluck

June 21 Sr. Ministry Event -

8:30a Breakfast @ Huckleberry's

10a Tour Modesto Airport

June 24-July 1 Hosting Family Promise

June 27 6p Summer Supper Potluck

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

## Welcome Statement



Believing that God's unbounded love and grace, as taught by Jesus, are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we embrace persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, ethnic and religious background, physical and mental ability, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. As an Open and Affirming congregation we welcome everyone to participate in the life and worship of our church.

Women's Retreat this Friday through Sunday. Hope to see all of you ladies there!



Gourmet Cooking camp has been cancelled due to lack of sign-ups.