



The Chimes

July 17, 2018
Volume 18 Number 15

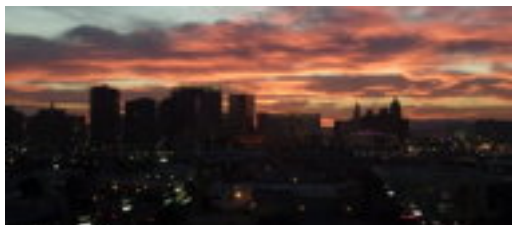
Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Interim Pastor: Michael Fletcher—Ministers; Every Member of the Congregation

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



I recently had the good pleasure of representing the Pacific Southwest District at the New and Renew Conference at Bethany Theological Seminary. While the conference itself was informative, what I found to be most inspiring was the opportunity to speak with people involved in the ministry of church planting. One of those opportunities involved the sharing of a table at lunch time with Luz Roman, a woman who has sensed a call to move from the Boston area to Las Vegas to plant a Church of the Brethren congregation there, and her husband Orlando.

I must confess to a certain ambivalence toward ethnic church plants before this conference. While I certainly wasn't opposed to them, I personally was more interested in traditional churches with the hope that we could plant churches in our denomination that would become multi-ethnic in nature. The conference changed my viewpoint on that. While I still desire to see multi-ethnic Churches of the Brethren, I also now see how meaningful our ethnic congregations are to their members. (I also have come to see that they may actually provide the best opportunity to become the multi-ethnic congregations that I desire to see, but that's another story for another time.)

One of the reasons for this change is that I saw in Luz and other ethnic church planters a passion for persons who are dealing with difficult life situations and their ability to connect with them, an ability that I would never possess because of language or cultural differences. Luz's heart for the disadvantaged and Orlando's commitment to his wife's ministry are inspiring to say the least and I hope will become contagious in our district and denomination.

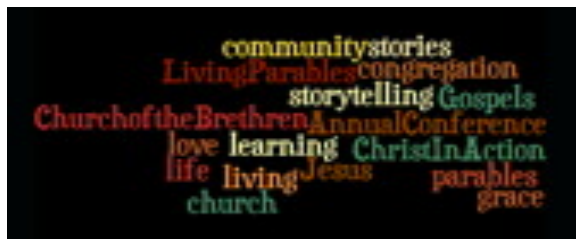
The Pacific Southwest District presently has two church planting projects that we are supporting: the Las Vegas project and one in Los Banos, led by Rigo and Margie Berumen. Both groups are Latino congregations, and both demonstrate an incredible passion for discipleship. At a minimum we at the Modesto COB can and should be in prayer for the ministry of these church plants, but I'd like to see us look for other ways to come along side these two groups and support their efforts. In the coming days and weeks, I will be looking for ways to enter into conversation as to what that might look like. In the meantime let me know if you have any thoughts concerning this opportunity.
~Pastor Michael





July and August Sermon Series - What We're Talking About When We Talk About _____

I was hoping to do a series over the remainder of the summer based on questions that were raised by the congregation, however since no one has come forward to raise any questions to focus on, I'm going to alter the concept slightly and do a series on the following concept: "What are we talking about when we talk about (fill in the blank)." The idea is that sometimes we use terminology that has a variety of meanings and we don't recognize that others are thinking something very different. In addition, my experience at Annual Conference has led me to question whether we are too easily settling for a meaning when a deeper truth is awaiting us below the surface if we are willing to do a little digging. On July 22nd, we'll consider what we're talking about when we talk about salvation and on the 29th, we'll think about what it means to talk about God. Following the message on those Sunday morning, we'll have a time of conversation to dig deeper into the topic and to consider the topics we'll look at in August.



Pastor's Schedule

(When in Modesto) Monday & Wednesday through Friday

In office 8:30 to 11:30

Tuesday - Pastor's Sabbath.

Other times by appointment. Contact me by email at mfletcher21625@aol.com or by phone at 313-303-1227.



July 17-18 - Working from So Cal

July 19-July 26 - in Modesto

July 27-28 - In Glendale for Memorial Service

July 29- Aug. 20 - in Modesto

Aug. 21-25 - Working from So Cal

Aug. 25 - Sept 9 - in Modesto

Sept. 10 - 16 - Vacation



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.

I would welcome suggestions as to locations and times to conduct these gatherings.

Saturday, July 21, 8:30 am - Panera Bread, 3401 Dale Rd.

Thursday, July 26, 5:30 pm - Starbucks, McHenry & Briggsmore and 6:00 pm - Habit Burger, next door

Monday, July 30, 12:30 pm - Michael's Pizza Bar and Grill, 500 N. Carpenter Rd

Sunday Morning Study



We continue to meet on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 in the church library for a time of thought provoking conversation based a 10-12 minute video that takes a look at a spiritual issue from what is often a very unique perspective. Some of our conversations have been quite interesting as we consider these various topics. Each week is a unique topic and so anyone can just drop in for a session and join in the discussion.



Neva Forney
July 15, 2017

*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

Author unknown

Keep in your prayers the family of Randy Short, pastor of the Glendale Church of the Brethren, as well as the Glendale congregation, as they have lost a pastor to sudden death twice in three years.

Continue to hold Joan Beaton's family, the Wolfes and Tera Jackson, as they prepare for her memorial Rosary (10:00 am) and Mass (11:00 am) on Friday, July 20th at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 1416 Maze Blvd. A reception will follow at Modesto Church of the Brethren.

Rejoice with Chuck Messamer as he recovers successfully from knee replacement surgery.

Hold the Johnson family in your prayers as they await more news after Bill's granddaughter Ava's successful surgery for a brain tumor.

Jim and Kim Boardman are happy to be back from a 3-week tour of several national parks.

Joann Ewert has been happy to have three of her children, Steve, Harlan, and Jeannine, visiting her.

Elaine and Al Forcier enjoyed the inspiring film about Mr. Fred Rogers, "Won't You Be My Neighbor".

Continue to hold the Roy family and the VerHulst family in your prayers as they continue to deal with the loss of Louise and Al.

As those who seek to walk in Jesus' way, we intentionally pray for ourselves and others. We remember the lonely, that they may lean on the promise that God is with us always. We think of those who have recently lost loved ones and are grieving, that they may know the comfort offered by loved ones who are being the extension of God's love and comfort. For those who are ill, we pray they may receive God's healing of mind, soul and body. We pray for our country and the divisions caused by lack of understanding and lack of compassion. May we strive to be aware of our own prejudices and shed them with the help of the God, who loves all. We pray for all innocent victims of violence and poverty around the world remembering especially our EYN sisters and brothers and Nguba Buba. We join with those joyfully celebrating the bounty of God's blessings made known in so many ways. We are thankful for our church family and the freedom we have to worship together. In all things we give thanks to God, who is faithful and always good. ~From the Chimes, September 26, 2016

*Deacon on Call
For July:
Marye Martinez*

Sunday Morning Greeters

In July, you will be seeing the following greeters:

July 22nd --- Jim & Bonnie Costello

July 29th --- Russ Davis & Raeann

Greeters for August will be:

Sunday, August 5th- Linda Flores & Karen Seip

Sunday, August 12th -Jim & Kim Boardman

Sunday, August 19th -David F.Messamer

& Donna Heiny

Sunday, August 26th -Joann Ewert

& Bev Jefferies

In the Days Ahead

Something New From Fellowship & Recreation!

When fall begins, the church calendar gets so full it's hard to get an event on it. SOOO....we are going to try something new! On Wednesday, August 8th, instead of our scheduled potluck, we are going to have the birthday event. We will have pizza, salad, cake and ice cream for dinner. The committee will take care of everything except the birthday cake--which we are hoping you will sign up to bring. You will find a signup in the narthex for both attendance and to bake and bring a birthday cake.

One more thing--beginning this week we want you to bring a baby photo. Don't share it with anyone! Just place it in the box you will find on the kitchen counter. No need to put your name on the photo, just place it in the box. Photos will be returned the night of the event. So come have some fun and have some pizza as we all blow out the candles together. Don't forget to sign up so we will be sure to have enough pizza.~Fellowship and Recreation

Summer Movies!

The summer movie schedule has been put on hold due to vacation and projector issues.

Stay tuned for more information in the future!

Worship and Spiritual Life: Eddie Hernandez, Stephen Reddy

Something New!



Summer is an opportune time to try on some ideas that the Worship Committee has been 'kicking around'. One of those ideas is to see what happens if there is no hymn leader during worship services. Sometimes during memorial services there is no one up front leading hymns and that has seemed to work out fine. For the duration of the summer schedule we are designating the pianist / organist to lead out on hymns instead of having a vocal leader. Giving you this written 'heads up' should help alleviate any confusion or concern about the absence of hymn leaders. As always we welcome your comments and feedback. ~The Worship Committee: Elaine Forcier, Linda Hunter, Jolinda & Stephen Reddy with Interim Pastor Michael Fletcher

Adventures in the Snow



The Senior Ministries group will meet at the church on Thursday, August 16th, at 12 noon for a \$7.00 lunch. Following lunch, Derek Castle will present a program: "Adventures in the Snow" - a cross Sierra winter hike, plus photos of Mexico - the area where Gail Kristaponis will be moving. Be sure to sign up on the poster in the narthex by August 12th to help us plan for lunch. See you on August 16th for : FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP!!!



The next FUN night will be July 20 at 6 PM in the Gathering Place. Parents and children are welcomed for food, fun and learning for the whole family. Especially for children from Kindergarten to 5th grade and their parents.

Bike and Build Hosting

Some time ago, Bike and Build leaders notified us that they wouldn't be riding through Modesto this year. However, they changed their route and they'll be here after all! We will be hosting 28 riders and their bikes on Monday, July 23. We will give them dinner, a place to park their bikes and roll out their sleeping bags, and breakfast, before they are on their way again, traveling across the U.S. and helping to build affordable housing



Homeless in Modesto

Plan to attend the State Theater on Thursday, July 19 for a showing of "Homeless in Modesto," a documentary by Richard Anderson that puts a human face on homelessness through interviews of homeless people arranged by members of the Modesto Peace/Life Center, John Lucas, Leng Nou, and Frank Ploof. Following the hour-long film will be a panel discussion with Councilwoman Kristi Ah You, police chief Galen Carroll, Family Promise Executive Director Tamra Losinski, and longtime homeless Modesto resident David Fuller. Admission of \$5 will benefit Family Promise.



Homeless camping in Beard Brook Park



Salvation Army/ Berberian Homeless Shelter

The Condensed Calendar



Monday

Tuesday

Pastor's Sabbath

Wednesday

Thursday

7 pm Fundraiser for Family Promise:
Homeless in Modesto-State Theater

Friday

6pm FUN Night
Family Camp CPP

Saturday

Next Sunday

9:30am Sunday morning study
11am 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 Pedersen-Pennock at pedersea@gmail.com by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!

JULY

July 23 Bike and Build Sleepover

July 25 6pm Summer Sunday Potluck

August

August 8 6pm Summer Supper Potluck

August 16 12pm Sr. Ministries Event-
Adventures in the Snow

August 17 6pm FUN Night

August 19 **6pm** Prospectors Potluck-
Johnson's

August 19-26 Family Promise Hosting

September

September 28 6pm FUN Night

Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Thursday, July 26. Use article name in the subject line and email to:
chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.