



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.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Do we think of ourselves as being "rich?" Are we generous with our money, time and stuff? Should we question what we can give or what we can get? What is God calling us to do?

It is during this time, we ask that you prayerfully consider giving and the many ways our gifts are put to use. The Stewardship Commission appreciates receiving the annual commitments, the "Estimate of Giving" cards. It is helpful in planning the budget for the coming year.

Please remember to bring your "2019 Estimate of Giving" card to church on September 16. (Bring to the church office if you are unable to attend.)



The 2018 Annual Conference was my tenth, and this was the fourth time you've entrusted me with being your delegate. This conference was by far the least contentious of all I've attended, and my experience as a delegate was delightful rather than divisive.

This was my first experience of being a delegate seated at a round table with 6 or 7 other delegates, none of which were from Pacific Southwest District. The idea of assigning the delegates to sit around tables rather than in rows of chairs began in 2012. Always before, delegates from like-minded congregations and districts tended to group together in the rows of chairs, and form voting blocs. Controversial items of business would attract many to the microphones, and debate would become heated.

This year, even though there were a few items that drew dissent, few speakers came to the microphones, and there was only one expression of frustration with the process. I believe that having the opportunity to discuss items of business at the tables, with other delegates who might have different opinions, gives those who want to be heard a forum to express their opinions without going to the mike.

There were very few items of business this year, due to the focus on the Compelling Vision process. (More about that in a minute.) The delegate body deliberated on the Vision for a Global Church of the Brethren, accepting the recommendation of the Mission and Ministry Board that the global Church of the Brethren be a "union of autonomous bodies," bound together by a common theology and commitment to be in relationship."

The Vision for Ecumenism paper was passed, reaffirming the Church of the Brethren's historical service in disaster relief, missions, and peace witness, in cooperation with other faith traditions.

Perhaps the most contentious item of business was the paper on Creation Care. There were those who wanted to debate the reality of climate change rather than the actual provisions of the proposal. The aim of the paper, which was passed, was to encourage the use of renewable energy throughout the denomination, by creating a Creation Care Network of expert volunteers to facilitate that aim.

The 2018 delegate body accepted with little discussion the report of the Vitality and Viability Committee, in spite of some far-reaching recommendations. Because the root concerns prompting the original query were related to the disagreements about human sexuality/same-sex marriage and the reality that some congregations may leave the Church of the Brethren due to deeply held beliefs about Biblical interpretation, perhaps the most significant portion of this report is the following: "...Vitality in this context means forming a process to ensure that congregations who may leave do so in an accountable, amicable, and gracious process. This means avoiding litigation and instead seeking to mutually bless rather than

forestall unnecessarily." The report also suggests "clarifying the changing scope and force of Annual Conference." What that would mean is not explained.

In addition, the report includes several examples of districts and congregations which have dealt creatively with changes in their midst, some of which relates to the Compelling Vision process.

Other items of business were related to minor changes in terminology and procedure. The delegate body approved a 2% increase in the salary scale for pastors.

The greatest part of two business sessions was devoted to beginning the Compelling Vision Process, which grew out of a 2017 unfinished business item entitled "The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts Regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations and Districts". Referred for study to the Council of District Executives and the Leadership team, this item of business involved the disagreements about same-sex marriages and ordinations that have divided the Church of the Brethren for decades. Therefore, the leadership decided to try to change the conversation toward "the framing of a compelling vision for how we will continue the work of Jesus together."

Conversations about the Compelling Vision Process began at the 2018 conference and will continue through 2018 and 2019 with conversations in every district. Two groups will work to synthesize the themes that result from the denomination-wide conversations, and bring their findings to Annual Conference 2019. The business sessions of Annual Conference 2019 will be primarily devoted to the development of a Compelling Vision for the Church of the Brethren. You will be hearing more about Pacific Southwest District's part in this process. ~Luella Cole



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.

Sept. 10 - 16 - vacation

Sept. 17 - 18 - Working from Southern Cal

Sept. 19- Oct. 21- in Modesto

Oct. 22 - 26 - Working from Southern Cal

Oct. 27 - Nov. 6 - in Modesto

Nov. 7-8 - Working from Southern Cal

Nov. 9-11 - District Conference

Nov. 12-15 - Working from Southern Cal

Nov. 16-18 - in Modesto



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.

Friday, Sept. 21 - 1:00 pm - Arby's, 2100 Standiford Ave

Saturday, Sept. 22 - 8:30 am - Panera Bread, 3401 Dale Rd

Monday, Sept. 24 - 3:30 pm - Starbucks, 1800 Oakdale



Upcoming Sermon Topics

September 16 - The Way God Loves - Matthew 5:46-48 Guest Speaker, Robert Aguirre - Robert is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren currently residing in the Fresno area.

September 23 - Abundant Living: Transformation - Romans 12:1-2 - "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." These words of Jesus found in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John will form the foundation of this four-part series. So how do we live this abundant life? Well, it begins with transformation.

Wednesday Evening Conversations:



Questions with no Wrong Answers

Beginning on Sept. 19 you are invited to share in conversation around important

topics of the day involving, well just about anything and everything. We'll meet in the library at 5:00 and finish up in time for everyone to get in line for the meal at faith bites. Some topics will be:

Sept. 19 - Politics: What are the most important issues heading into the mid-terms?

Sept. 26 - Faith: What role does scripture play in our faith?

Oct. 3 - Entertainment: Is there a movie, television show or musical performance that inspires you?

Young Adult Gathering

All young adults of the congregation are invited to join our next Young Adult gathering, Friday evening October 12 from 5:30 to 7:30 at Michael's Pizza Bar, 500 Carpenter Rd.



Keep Gene Palsgrove and his family in your prayers. Gene sustained injuries from a fall on September 2, spent several days in the hospital, and is now at English Oaks, receiving physical therapy.

Also keep David Strohm in your prayers. He fell at home, and is in the hospital recuperating from injuries.

University of La Verne Visit

On Sunday October 14,th representatives of the University of La Verne will be visiting and sharing with us about the new sacred space at the university. This presentation will take place in the sanctuary at 9:30.



Give thanks that Libby, Dan and Trish Galt's daughter, has finished her last chemo.

Rejoice that Linda Bustle is home from her surgery and is in very good spirits. She will have chemotherapy treatment at Stanford soon.

Be with Amy Pedersen-Pennock, as her best friend's brother, Alexx Echeverria, died suddenly, leaving a young family.

Keep in your prayers Mimsie Farrar's dad, dealing with prostate cancer.

Also rejoice with Mimsie that Camp Peaceful Pines sustained very little or no damage from the wildfire that consumed much of the forest along Clark Fork Road.

John Heisel is enjoying a visit from his daughter Gail.

Deacon on Call for September

Jim Martínez

September Greeters

Sept 16th Donna Heiny & Pat Royer

Sept 23rd Maddy Beth Harty & Gracie Roberts

Sept 30th Terhesa Gamboa & Eddie Hernandez



9th & D

We are set for serving at the Shelter on the following dates (all second Wednesdays):

November 14 December 12

January 9 February 13

March 13 April 10

May 8

For more information and to volunteer, contact Monique Sanders or look for the sign up on the kitchen counter.

Items of Note



Hello all! Once again we are starting a new month (I know it's already the 6th, sheesh!). Summer is unofficially over and it's time to get serious and down to business (haha). We have a couple of great meetings ahead of us for September so let's get right to it:

September 16th- We have been granted a youth room!! Well, it is in the process and there are still some hurdles before we can meet in it, but it will likely be room 6. Our own room!! We will meet in the Gathering Place after church to eat pizza and drink soda and discuss any ideas you guys have for decorating and generally just making it 'ours'. We will likely end this meeting around 2PM and not our 2:30PM time as it was in the past.

September 30th- For starters this is the 5th Sunday of the month so we will be ushering during the service. We will be meeting in room 1 and 2 at 10AM if we don't have our Youth Room yet. Otherwise I will update this email as needed. At 10, we will be starting our monthly (for now) Youth Discussion Class. Don't roll your eyes- I am working hard to make sure it is not Sunday School-like. I will provide some simple snacks and juice. If you want coffee, get there a little earlier so we can start fairly promptly at 10AM.

We will watch a video that is about 12 minutes, then talk about it until 10:30AM. Then we will meet with Linda Hunter briefly and go over our roles for ushering. After church we will have lunch and perhaps talk about the video we saw earlier or likely just hang out and grub. Any ideas you guys have for food for the lunch email me back. I am hoping to not have pizza again and welcome all ideas. Or, if no one says anything, pizza it is! Muahahaha! Let's end this meeting at 2PM also.

I hope school is not too grueling yet (although, I know it is) for you all and I am looking forward to seeing you on the 15th.
~Josh Gilstrap-Katen

Fellowship and Recreation

Please come join us on **Sunday, September 16th at 5:30 PM** for our All Church Picnic/Homemade Ice Cream event. We will gather in the courtyard for pulled pork sandwiches and we are hoping you will bring a salad. We also are asking those of you with an ice cream freezer if you would churn up a freezer of ice cream to share. Watch for signup to let us know you're coming and also to let us know who is bringing ice cream freezers. We have some fun planned as well. Be thinking of who you would like to challenge to a balloon toss. We are also going to see who can make the largest bubble. Hope to see you Sunday September 16th at 5:30 in the courtyard for great food and fun. Please don't forget to sign up!!! ~Fellowship & Recreation



Our next Senior Ministries luncheon will be on Thursday, September 20 at 12:00 Noon. Come for lunch and enjoy a program by Elaine and Al Forcier about their trip to the National Parks in Utah and Arizona.



Family FUN Night, **6 PM Friday, September 28.** Come for Food, Friends and FUN! FUN night is designed for families with children from kindergarten to 6th grade.



Beginning September 16, the sanctuary lights will be dimmed at 10:50 to invite us into a time for preparation and reflection for worship. May we all be in an attitude of expectation and hope!

Greetings, all...You're invited to write, imagine, create our Advent devotional for 2018. You can choose a date--December 2-25--to create a personal narrative around the following themes: Fulfill the Promise, Prepare the Way, Rejoice in the Lord, Restore Us, Sing for Joy OR any Advent/Christmas ideas/experiences that speak to your spirit. Poetry and/or art would be appropriate. Sign-ups begin October 1 with all writing due November 1. 500 words max! Check with Stephen Reddy or Eddie Hernandez for questions/clarification.

The Worship and Spiritual Life Commission will be sponsoring an Advent book study group, meeting on the four Thursdays of Advent: November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 6:00--7:30 pm. The book title is: "The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Birth," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Each session will be for sharing Christmas memories and looking carefully into "the first Christmas." The book is available from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. See Stephen Reddy for more information.



Family Fun Day At The Park
 Saturday, September 22, 2018
 Sharp Park, 1900 Torrid Avenue
 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or later
 Featuring Free Mountain Mike's Pizza
 Modesto Irrigation District
 Special Guests
 Bring the family and something to sit on
 Water and games provided
 Feel free to bring your own games
 For more info contact
 Terhesa Gamboa

Condensed Calendar

Monday

6:15 Board Meeting

Tuesday

Wednesday

6pm **FIRST** Faith Bites

7pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday

5pm Ladies' Night Out - Beijing Restaurant

5pm Men's Night Out - Fast Eddie's MOAB

Friday

Saturday

Next Sunday - September 16th

11am Worship

5:30 Church Picnic/Ice Cream Social

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 the church office at office@modcob.org by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!



September 20 Sr. Ministry Event - Forcier's trip to Zion, Bryce, Arches & Grand Canyon

September 20 Next Chimes Deadline

September 22 First day of Autumn

September 28 6pm FUN Night



October 14 9:30am University of Laverne representatives' presentation

October 14th to 21st Hosting Family Promise

October 20 8am All Church Work Day

October 25 Sr. Ministries trip to Knight's

Ferry & Oakdale Cheese Factory

October 27 5 pm Harvest Festival

Special Note from the Chimes Editor:

Please remember to send Chimes articles to the dedicated Chimes email address:

chimes@modcob.org

(Articles sent to my personal email may get lost!)