



The Chimes

Date October 23, 2018
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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.



Reflection

The recent proceedings around the confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice reminded us just how polarized our nation is. I believe this polarization is more of a political manipulation to gain and hold onto power than a legitimate division based on issues. Therefore, whenever there is a legitimate divide over an issue, rather than seek a solution to the problem, it becomes an opportunity for political gain. There may be no issue where this is more prevalent than abortion, which appears to be at the heart of the controversy concerning the recent Supreme Court debate.

Let me state that I am anti-abortion, I believe it to be inconsistent with the way of life that Jesus taught and modeled. Having said that, let me say two things that give more definition to my position on this topic.

One, I define myself as anti-abortion because I believe the pro-life and pro-choice labels are misapplied in the way they are normally used. To me being pro-life means that we're opposed to the death penalty, war and any other form of violence to achieve our goals. I also believe that being pro-life should mean being committed to a standard of living for all persons that includes things like nutrition, healthcare, housing and education.

We can debate what that standard is and how we achieve it, but we cannot accept the levels of poverty and homelessness that exist for children in this nation and the world and call ourselves pro-life. Nor can we accept the exploitation of the poor and the planet and call ourselves pro-life.

I could go into much greater detail on that point, but it's the second point that I really want to focus on. While I am anti-abortion, I have no misconceptions that a political solution will have any significant impact on the problem. In fact, I think it may actually make things worse. Outlawing abortion means that women who are faced with an unwanted pregnancy essentially have two choices. One, give birth to an unwanted child. While it's true that adoption provides a partial solution to this issue, it's not a perfect solution for everyone. Any child brought into the world against its parents' will starts out at a huge disadvantage. The second option is to have an illegal abortion, which means a safe abortion for women of means and unsafe abortions for the poor. Hardly a just situation.

I believe that the solution is to create a society where there is no such thing as an unwanted pregnancy. A society where every baby born is loved and cherished, not only by that baby's family, but by the entirety of the society into which it is born. To achieve that goal, we need to create a society where no

family ever feels they can't afford another child, where no woman feels she needs be sexually active to gain acceptance and no man feels his importance enhanced by how many women he has sex with.

There are probably many other things that need to happen to create such a society, so many that it would be easy to simply excuse it as impossible and not even try. But Jesus calls us to be faithful, not successful, and so to be a follower of him means we are called to advance the kingdom of God here and now. This almost always occurs one small step at a time. So let's quit politicizing abortion and take a small step on the way.

~Pastor Michael



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.

Oct. 23- 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

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, October 29 - 1:00 pm - Uno Pizzeria and Grill, 1533 Oakdale

Thursday, November 1 - 4:00 pm - Starbucks, 1800 Oakdale

Monday, November 5 - 1:00 pm - Michael's Pizza Bar, 500 N. Carpenter



Upcoming Sermon Topics

October 28 - Last Words: The Last Word on Politics: Revelation 18:1-5

Paul's words from the 13th chapter state that government authority has been granted to those in power by God. This passage has been used to justify some of the most corrupt governments in the history of this planet. But Romans 13 isn't the Bible's final word on politics, John the Revealer's letter to the seven churches of Asia Minor promotes a very different understanding of governments. This understanding calls us to be aware and not give governments a free pass.

November 4 - Last Words: The Last Word on Eternity: Revelation 21:1-7

What's heaven like? Despite the many images that we've been given, we really have no idea of what awaits us on that day when we take our final breath. Two things we do know however are one, we'll take a final breath one day and two, if God is in control it will be good.

Note: We will recognize the lives of those saints who have gone before us during our worship time.

Church of the Brethren Compelling Vision

The Church of the Brethren is committed to the development of a compelling vision. All other business at the 2019 Annual Conference has been set aside to work on this task. Part of the process leading up to conference is to hold discussions at District Conferences this year. To help our delegates be better prepared for this task we will hold a conversation around this topic on Sunday, October 28 at 9:30 in the sanctuary. I hope to see you there.



Fran Adkins is happy to be home after a trip to celebrate her brother and sister-in-law's 60th wedding anniversary.

Phil Reffle is happy that Maryco is feeling better and was able to go to church.

Mimsie Farrar courageously did some political canvassing and was pleased that people were pleasant whether or not they agreed.

Tammy Firch decided to stop using Facebook due to so many trolls.

Renee Gokey is still housing her mother and granddaughter. Her friend Marsha has depression but is getting treatment.

Pray for Carol Greathouse as she is home from emergency surgery. No visitors yet.

Sue Messamer asks for baked goods and donations for the Harvest Festival.

Stephen Reddy celebrates the choir and the keyboard players, Elaine Forcier, Linda Williams and Leslie Wilkinson.

Tammy Firch applauds political campaigns that remain civil.

Karen and John Cosner are celebrating the birth of a new great-grandson, Jordan (JJ)

Eddie Hernandez reports that Gayle is ill today with a migraine, and he wishes to thank Karleen Daniels for the wonderful job she does with the children.

Chelsea Feeney would like to correct her phone number which is incorrect in the directory. Her number is (530) 520-7380

Add Janeen Studley's contact information to your directory: 2328 Bolton Ct., Modesto, 95356, 209 614 7543

Keep in your prayers all those who are ill, and those whose troubles are too deep for words.



October 7: Bob & Lynda Sesser

October 14: Rita Matthews & Linda Flores

October 21: Monique Sanders & Marquis

October 28: Jeannie Canter & Fran Adkins

November 4: Jim & Bonnie Costello

November 11: Russ Davis & Raeann

November 18: Donna Heiny & Pat Royer

November 25: Libby Higgs & _____

Deacon on Call for October:

Linda Owen

Deacon on Call for November:

Eddie Hernandez

COMING SOON

ANNUAL HARVEST
FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
5:30-8:00

HOMEMADE ROOT BEER!
HOT DOGS/CHILI BEANS!
BOBBING FOR APPLES!
FACE PAINTING!

CUPCAKE WALK!

FIRE PIT/S'MORES!

BALLOON ANIMALS!

YOUTH GROUP HAUNTED HOUSE

COSTUME PARADE @ 7 PM

MAGIC SHOW @7:30

**BAKED GOODS AND DONATIONS
NEEDED!**

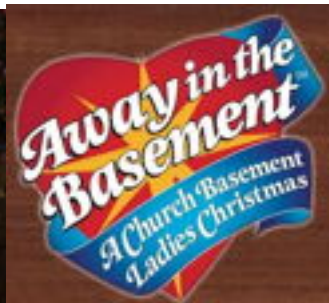
SENIOR MINISTRIES EVENTS

If you signed up for the Knight's Ferry trip (October 25) and *Away in the Basement/Church Basement Ladies* at the Fallon House Theater (November 15) by October 21, you're all set! If you didn't sign up this time, watch for the next Senior Ministries event!

Don't forget:



October 25



November 15



Woodland West Community Neighborhood will be holding a presentation meeting on the SR 132 project on Thursday, November 8 at 6 p.m. at our church. Anyone who wishes to be informed of the construction plan should come. All are welcome, this is a public meeting. For more info contact Terhesa Gamboa at 209-576-8484 home, 209-247-2769 cell.

All Church Workday Report

This last Saturday was one of our most productive work days ever. We had the youth repaint directional arrows in the parking lot for better visibility. The solar panels were cleaned. The gutters were cleaned. Windows on the interior Ed wing were cleaned inside and out. Nursery toys were given a good cleaning. Interior lights that had burned out were replaced. Hallways on the Ed wing (especially in front of Family Promise) were cleaned as well as the walls, since Family Promise is having an open house this Thursday. A lot of tree trimming was done. This effort was led by Eddie Hernandez. Bathroom stall locks were repaired and replaced.



We seem to always talk about the cream filled maple bars and this year we had an enticement for the youth with chocolate, but it was our lunch this year that stole the show. This year Karleen and her crew provided a lunch of baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, with cake and ice cream. YUM! We had a turnout of over 35 folks, which is excellent! Our next All Church Work Day will be in April. Don't miss out. These are fun events! ~Bill Johnson

ALL CHURCH WORKDAY



**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!**

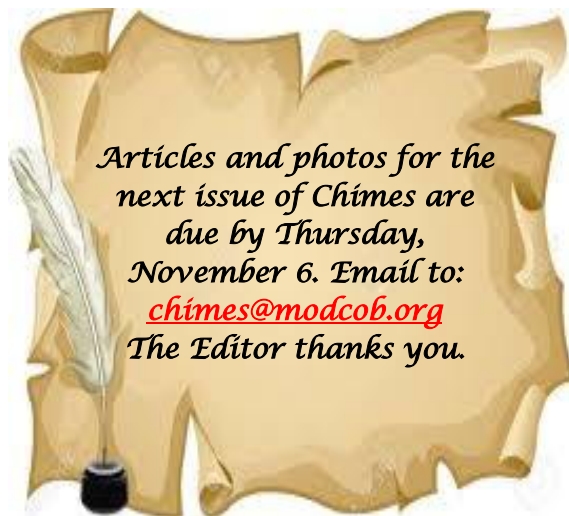


The next Youth Group meeting will be November 11 at 10 AM in Rooms 1 and 2. Our regular Youth meeting will also be on November 11 after worship. Be there!

Don't forget the Youth-created Haunted House at the Harvest Festival, at 5:30 on Saturday, October 27!



*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Thursday, November 6. Email to: chimes@modcob.org
The Editor thanks you.*



The Condensed Calendar

Monday-

Tuesday-

Wednesday-

6 PM Faith Bites POTLUCK!

7 PM Choir

Thursday-

8:30 AM Sr. Ministries Event-Trip
to Knight's Ferry and Oakdale Cheese
Factory

Friday-

6 PM FUN Event

Saturday

5:30 PM

Harvest Festival!

Next Sunday-October 28th

9:30 AM Denominational Conversation
Compelling Vision
11 AM Worship

Pastor Michael will be working
from Southern CA October
22-26. If you need immediate
attention, please call the
office, or your Deacon.



November 3/4 Daylight Savings Time Ends
FALL BACK one hour!

November 4 12:15 PM Council Meeting

November 6 Election Day

November 8 6 PM Woodland West

Community SR 132 Project meeting

November 11 Veterans' Day

November 15 2 PM Sr. Ministries Trip

Fallon House Theater/Columbia

November 16 6 PM FUN Event

November 19 6:45 PM Stanislaus Interfaith
Council Thanksgiving Event
Modesto Centre Plaza

November 22-23 Thanksgiving-Office closed

November 29 6 PM Advent Book Study



December 6 6 PM Advent Book Study

December 13 6 PM Advent Book Study

December 14 6 PM FUN Event

December 16 12:30 PM Holiday Luncheon

December 20 6 PM Advent Book Study

December 24-25 Christmas-Office Closed

