



# The Chimes

Date: October 9, 2018  
Volume 18 Number 21

## Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: [office@modcob.org](mailto:office@modcob.org) ♦ web site: [www.modcob.org](http://www.modcob.org)

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

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



My two cents worth:

I used to receive a magazine that was written for pastors. This magazine was always filled with cartoons that pastors would appreciate and that sometimes might be a bit offensive to people in the congregations. My favorite was a cartoon that showed a filing cabinet, the top three drawers had labels such as: membership records, church board minutes and committee reports. The bottom drawer was so filled to overflowing that it wouldn't close. The label on that drawer was "Sermons I like to preach on my last Sunday."

I have five more sermons to preach at Modesto (not that I'm counting or anything) and there is a lot that I'd like to say, but I don't think the pulpit is the place to say it from. That's a lesson I learned the hard way. However, even if I did it wouldn't be a problem because I only have good things to say about my time at Modesto, well mostly good things anyway. So let me share some thoughts here:

My experience at Modesto has been extremely affirming, I have felt greatly appreciated. I want to affirm you as well; the Modesto congregation is a close-knit

affection for one another and live that affection out in their daily lives. There also is a sense of dedication to and appreciation of the church and its history. There is a significant willingness to share in the work of maintenance of the existing church programs, I have especially enjoyed having so many different people share in worship in one form or another.

I have also seen great concern for the underprivileged in this world and a sincere desire to be faithful to the Church of the Brethren tagline, "Continuing the work of Jesus." If I sit here long enough I'm sure I'd be able to come up with many more attributes as well, but to sum it up I'll simply say that serving as your interim pastor has been one of the great blessings of my life.

Saying all this leads me to two thoughts. One, I had hoped that I would be able to stay until you found a settled pastor, but probably underestimated the difficulty in doing this four-hundred and fifty miles from my home and family. Even though you have been gracious in allowing me to spend some time with them and working from there, the commute has become more draining as time has gone on and I don't think I have the energy to continue. Hopefully the leadership will soon be found, both interim and settled, to enable the church to be cared for and to reach its potential.

The second thing is that in the strengths that I see in this congregation, there are also potential problems. For example, the closeness of the congregation will at times make it difficult for some new people to feel a part of the congregation. Another example is that the appreciation for what the church has been can make it feel disloyal to make the changes that the church needs to make to produce a vibrant future. At times I may have seemed to be pretty aggressive in pointing these things out to the point of being too critical. If that ever has been the case, it's because I believe the church is the great hope of the world, but it must find a way to be relevant in a world that is constantly changing. I also believe that the Modesto Church of the Brethren has amazing potential to be the kind of church to do that, but it will require some daring. If I leave you with one thing, I hope it's that you see that as an adventure and will fully embrace it. ~Michael



### **Upcoming Sermon Topics**

October 14 - Discipleship 101: Getting into the Flow - Mark 10:17-22

I have developed some fantastic plans for losing weight and getting into better physical condition, but somehow I'm just never able to implement the plan. One reason for this is that tomorrow never comes! You know, I plan on starting my new way of life tomorrow. So, if knowledge isn't the problem, what is?

The same holds true for discipleship, it's not enough to know what to do, we need to get in the flow.

October 21 - Last Words: The Last Word on Worship: Revelation 5

The book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible, almost certainly the most misunderstood of the New Testament. It is also probably my favorite book. So, I thought it appropriate that my final series at Modesto should be on the last book of the Bible. Hopefully we will explore this book in a way that opens some new insights into it for all of us.



(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](mailto:mfletcher21625@aol.com) or by phone at 313-303-1227.

Oct. 9 - 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.

Thursday, October 11 - 4:00 pm - Starbucks,  
3801 Pelandale

Saturday, October 13 - 8:30 am - Velvet Grill,  
3250 Dale Rd.

Monday, October 15 - 1:00 pm - Smokey's  
Neighborhood Grill, 501 Bangs

Thursday, October 18 - 4:00 pm - Starbucks,  
1800 Oakdale

Saturday, October 20 - 6:00 pm - Panera  
Bread, 3401 Dale

(Becky will be joining us.)

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

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

Saturday, November 3 - TBD

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



**University of La Verne Visit**

On Sunday October 14th  
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.



**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.



**Young Adult Gathering**

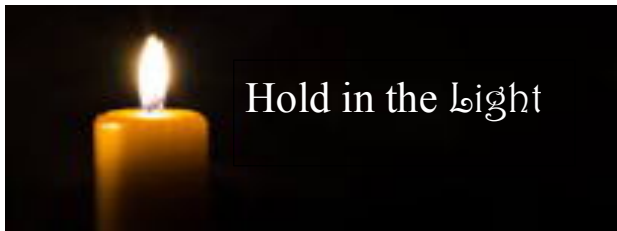
All young adults of the  
congregation are invited to  
join our next Young  
Adult gathering, Friday  
evening October 12 from  
5:30 to 7:30 at Michael's Pizza  
Bar, 500 Carpenter Rd. Childcare and dinner  
will be provided at the church, please  
RSVP if you will be utilizing the childcare.



**Greeters Needed!**

Looking for friendly smiles and warm  
handshakes! If you're willing to share those  
with all who enter on Sunday mornings, please  
give Lynda Sesser a call at 209-527-8613 or  
209-605-3101. There are 13 Sundays  
between now and the end of the year, so  
there will be lots of opportunities to share a  
welcome to our congregation!





Keep in your prayers Renee Gokey, providing housing for her mother and her granddaughter.

Remember in your prayers Gene Palsgrove, at home after a stay in the hospital for an infection. He has good and bad days. Mary thanks us for our love.

Rejoice with Kelly and Shaun that they recently celebrated the weddings of Shaun's brother and Kelly's sister.

Evan Campbell asks for prayers for Jaimie's mother in a care facility.

Keep in your prayers Mimsie Farrar's father battling cancer.

Pray for Josh Katen's grandfather in hospice care.

Keep in your prayers Pastor Michael's family after the sudden death of his sister-in-law's husband of a massive heart attack. Pray for Chelsea Feeney as she has a CAT scan in preparation for her open heart surgery.

Pray for Terhesa Gamboa's friend Robert in the hospital.

Pray for Maryco and Phil as they deal with Maryco's condition.

Luella apologizes for any omitted joys or concerns as she is dealing with a serious reaction to the high dose flu shot.

Keep in your prayers all those who are ill, in pain, or have troubles too deep for words.

Deacon on call for October:

Linda Owen

From Pat Royer:

It is with joy and humility that I express my gratitude to you, my congregation, for the continued physical, emotional, and spiritual support you give to me. I give God, through many of you, the credit for my being able to age as gracefully as I am. My doctors tell me I am doing amazingly well for the condition I am in, and I am convinced being a part of a loving congregation has a great deal to do with that. Thank you!

## Items of Note



Woodland West Community Neighborhood will be holding a Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Monday, October 15, 2018, 6 p.m. at Modesto Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave. Special guests are Pharmacist Elaine Pardini, speaking about the opioid crisis, MPD Northwest Area Command and Sheriff-Elect Jeff Dirkse. We will discuss Neighborhood Watch issues that concern our neighborhood such as mail theft, racing and vehicle theft. Neighborhood Watch is an excellent opportunity to meet your neighbors, learn crime prevention and safety strategies to preserve the neighborhood that we live in.

## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Our Advent Devotional sign-up list has begun! An opportunity for you to share a story/insight out of your Advent/Christmas experience. Watch for list on the round table in the foyer. It's waiting for your name!



Hello all! This is the official MCOB Youth Update for October (with some stuff to consider up to the end of the year)!

For starters: September was a great month and I really enjoyed our two meetings and seeing all of you that made it. Thank you for drudging through our first class on the 30<sup>th</sup> and all the help ushering.

Now on to October! It's a busy month so I will delve right in. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, we have been invited again to help with the all-church work day. It is from 9-12 and there will be doughnuts and lunch. I will have to miss it again as it is our anniversary that day. Please plan to attend with or without your parents. This is another great chance to be servants and our youthful presence is greatly appreciated.

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our next class at 10am again in Rooms 1&2. More snacks, one more video and more discussion. Bring your thinking and planning caps for after church- we will be designing the Haunted House (HH) and finalizing all our plans for it until 2PM. Pizza provided.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> is the Harvest Festival at 5PM so we need our HH to be ready to go! We will meet earlier in the day at 11AM for construction of the HH and eat pizza. I don't expect us to take longer than 3 hours so we will call this one at 2PM. Parents, if you are able to help, we may be able to be done sooner and any help is, of course, appreciated!

\*Some things to consider for November and December:

We have been asked by Stephen to participate in hand bells again soon. Be aware of a meeting with him and/or me on time and dates for this ministry. It's a great one and we love to see you guys up there!

We are planning on working with Hutton House again this year. I will be hammering it out over the next week or two and have much more info next update.

December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> is a HUGE weekend for us! We will be meeting the 15<sup>th</sup> at the church for our annual lock-in at 3PM and not leaving the church until after clean-up of the Christmas Dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup>! No joke, it's a big weekend! May as well call it a Youth Retreat. For the dinner, we will be helpers for Sue and serving all the food and doing setup. Afterward, we will help with clean-up. Here's the kicker: all the money provided by the church for the Dinner will be donated to the Youth. It all will go into a special fund I will start that will be exclusively used for our new Youth room!

It will be ok to wear or be in our PJs for the lock-in, church and the Dinner this year; I will. You may bring one friend for the lock-in and one gift for the White Elephant exchange and one snack to share. Gift to be between \$10-\$20 ONLY. Everyone must have a signed waiver I will send by email or can be signed at the church. ~Josh





See photo of initial installment of an enticement for our All Church Work Day on Saturday October 20th from 9 til noon. Sign up soon, the good jobs go quick. Any questions please call Bill Johnson home 522-0746, cell 985-0908.



After the subject was brought up at the August and September board meetings, it was decided that our church would return to using "Fair Trade" Coffee. (For some time, we have been drinking regular coffee, due to costs.)

Here is some background information about our decision. The following comes from Wikipedia:

*Fair Trade coffee is coffee that is certified as having been produced to fair trade standards. Fair trade organizations*

*create trading partnerships that are based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. These partnerships contribute to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to coffee bean farmers. Fair trade organizations are engaged actively in supporting producers and sustainable environmental farming practices. Fair trade practices prohibit child or forced labor.*

Since our church concerns itself with social justice issues and good stewardship of the land, the board decided it would follow that we should spend extra money to pay for Fair Trade Coffee. This change more than doubles what we have been paying for coffee. It will be planned for in the 2019 budget. This increase was not in the 2018 budget, so, if you are a coffee drinker that appreciates Fair Trade coffee, a contribution for this would be appreciated. (Make the check to Modesto Church of the Brethren with "Fellowship and Rec." on the memo line). The SERRV shop has Fair Trade coffee for sale for gifts or use in your home.

~Margaret Johnson with Luella Cole and Sue Messamer



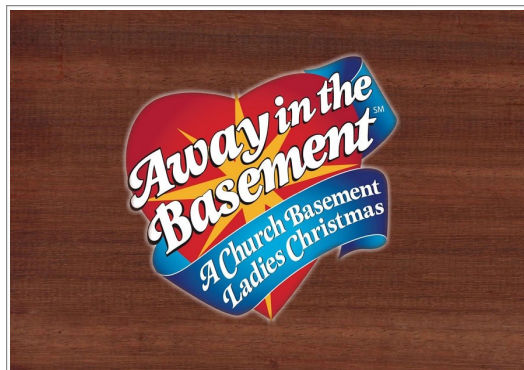
Senior Ministries Trip to Knights Ferry and Oakdale Cheese Factory

Our day begins with a scenic road trip along the Stanislaus River. We will watch salmon spawning if they cooperate. You can feed goats and Koi and that is just some of the animals you may see on the trip.



You will be able to feed yourself samples of Gouda cheese at the Oakdale Cheese Factory and buy some cheese to take home. There will >> be time for lunch at The Rivers Edge Restaurant in Knights Ferry. We will have a unique opportunity to visit the Knights Ferry Museum In the old dance hall thanks to a friend of Rita Matthews. After lunch you will be on your own to view as many other sites as you wish. Can't walk far? Several sites include short or no walking. The ride home should take less than an hour. Plan to come along, enjoy the scenery, experience the exhibits, socialize with your friends and the locals.

Questions? Call Felton 614-6825 or Karleen 484-3163. REMEMBER TO SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21!



### Senior Ministries

Fallon House, in Columbia State Park  
November 15, 2018

Our lovable Church Basement Ladies take us back to 1959 and the day of a potentially disastrous Sunday School Christmas Program. With holiday preparations and love in the air, life inside and outside the basement always has surprises in store for them. Can they once again be counted on to step in and save the day? (Rated G) The ticket fee, \$26,

should be given to Margaret Johnson or Gayle Howell by **October 21**, (209-522-0746). Checks should be made out to "Modesto Church of the Brethren" with "Senior Ministry" on the memo line. The drive to Columbia takes 75-90 minutes.



### Stanislaus Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Celebration

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Stanislaus Interfaith Council Thanksgiving Celebration will be held on Monday, November 19 at the Modesto Centre Plaza. Gathering music begins at 6:45 PM and the program begins at 7. Come and hear expressions of thanksgiving from the many faith communities in Modesto. Refreshments will be provided.

**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](mailto:office@modcob.org) by Wednesday evenings. Thank you!**

## The Condensed Calendar

### Monday-

1p Pastor's roaming office/ Buckhorn BBQ  
6:30p Board Meeting

### Tuesday-

### Wednesday-

6p Faith Bites  
7p Choir

### Thursday-

4p Pastor's roaming office /Starbucks -  
Pelendale Rd.

### Friday-

5:30p Young Adult gathering/Michael's Pizza  
Road

### Saturday-

8:30a Pastor's roaming office/ Velvet Grill  
Dale Rd.

### Next Sunday - October 14<sup>th</sup>

### Hosting Family Promise - 21<sup>st</sup>

9:30 Sunday morning study  
9:30a University of Laverne representatives will be  
visiting  
11a Worship

*Articles and photos for  
the next issue of Chimes  
are due by Thursday,  
October 18 Use article  
name in the subject line  
and email to:*

*[chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)*

*The Editor thanks you.*



October 18 5:30pm Ladies Night Out

Olive Garden

October 20 9am All Church Workday

October 24 Faith Bites Potluck

October 25 8:30 am Sr. Ministry Event

Trip to Knights Ferry

And Oakdale Cheese Factory

October 26 6pm FUN event

October 27 5:30pm Harvest Festival



November 15 Sr Ministry Trip: Fallon House

Theater, Columbia

November 16pm FUN event

November 22-23 Thanksgiving-Office closed

November 29 6pm Advent book study



December 6 6pm Advent Book Study

December 13 6pm Advent Book Study

December 14 6pm FUN Event

December 16 12:30 pm Holiday Luncheon

December 20 6pm Advent Book Study

December 24-25 Christmas-Office Closed