



# The Chimes

Date: November 6, 2018  
Volume 18 Number 23

## 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.*



### WHY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN?

More than three years ago, I started a spiritual journey. I left a church I had attended for 16 years. I wasn't sure I wanted to join another church. Instead I went back to Mt. Hermon Retreat Center, and attended three reflective retreats from November 2016-November 2017. I was introduced to the practice of contemplative prayer using classic religious art. Praying like this was a very rich experience for me. During this time in 2017, my husband and I attended a neighborhood church off and on through Easter. There was just something missing. In October of 2017, we attended Worldwide Day of Communion at Church of the Brethren. Stephen Reddy was the first person to warmly greet us. In November we attended the interfaith thanksgiving service and we both enjoyed it.

In January of 2018 I started attending COB by myself on a regular basis. I found it to be a warm and welcoming place. The Sesser's knew my husband from his work in the county. Curious about membership I reached out to Elaine Forcier, and she met me for coffee.

Marye Martinez called me before Easter to explain the Love Feast, which I was

familiar with because of my years in a Grace Brethren church. Pastor Michael's sermons resonated with my work.

Social Justice is the way to peace. As a graduate of the MSW program at CSU Stanislaus, social justice was one of the pillars of our curriculum. Social justice, social change, social work is one of their mottos.

Michael gave me two books to read to help me understand Brethren beliefs. I attended Felton's Sunday school classes on the history of the church. The more I learned, the more I realized how much I identified with the idea of a simple life, that encourages helping others if you've been blessed materially. The idea of spiritual friendship is so beautifully carried out by this congregation. Everyone has been welcoming and sure to see that I'm not left out of anything.

This church has such vitality. There seems to be something one can be a part of almost every day. Yet no one has told me how busy they are. I truly appreciate the sense of peace that seems to underlie all that's being done.

I enjoy praying the labyrinth after every Sunday service. When I worked at Sierra Vista a coworker introduced me to fair trade. What a beautiful array of items are in our SERRV gift shop. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, I officially became a member of this peace church. I hope to contribute and be of service. Thank you for accepting me into your fellowship. ~Ann Marie Washington



## Pastor's Schedule

Nov. 7-15 - Working from Southern Cal  
(Also attending District Conference during this time.)

During this time please feel free to contact me by email at [mfletcher21625@aol.com](mailto:mfletcher21625@aol.com) or by phone at 313-303-1227.

Nov. 16-18 - in Modesto (this concludes my time as interim pastor)

## Upcoming Sermon Topics



**November 11, 2018**

**A Woman of Faith! Mark 7:24-30**

Jesus seems to insult the Syrophenician woman and throws her under the bus. So, where does her faith fit in?

Read for cultural understanding and insight.

**November 18, 2018**

**Last Words: The Last Word on the Church**  
- Revelation 2:1-7 & 3:7-22.

I'm sure everyone remembers that my first message at Modesto, some 16 months ago, was about the church, so my final message as your interim pastor will provide a sense of symmetry. It's important to remember that what we know as the book of Revelation is in reality a letter from a pastor named John to seven churches in Asia Minor. What John says to those churches is surprisingly relevant almost two thousand years later. We'll look at several of the specific things he has to say to them, but in commending and counseling them.



- ✚ Remember those who left us during 2018: Sarah Glass, Nancy Bupp, Doris Heisel, Flora Ruth Garrison, Alba VerHulst, and Louise Roy.
- ✚ Ann Marie Washington thanks us for the warm reception to her joining the congregation.
- ✚ Syl Bupp reintroduced Darlene Mathias, former member, who is visiting from Washington State.
- ✚ John Heisel honored Doris by taking her ashes to Virginia, where she is at home.
- ✚ Shaun and Kelly Gepley are distressed by the disappearance of their dog.
- ✚ Linda Bustle expressed thanks for all the prayers, cards, and help through her journey with cancer.
- ✚ All are rejoicing that Gene Palsgrove has been able to attend worship the past two Sundays.
- ✚ Renee Gokey's mother is looking for housing.

*Deacon On Call for November*

*Eddie Hernandez*



November 4: Jim & Bonnie Costello

November 11: Russ Davis & Raeann

November 18: Donna Heiny & Pay Royer

November 25: Libby Higgs & \_\_\_\_\_

## Items of Note

### From Worship Planning Committee

Elaine Forcier, Linda Hunter, Jolinda Reddy and I have been hard at work on Advent/Christmas plans. Each of the Advent Sundays, we'll be singing a different Designated Carol for worship. I/We invite you to the sanctuary at 10:45 on Sunday, November 25, to rehearse these carols.

The preachers/messengers for Advent are: Amy Pennock (12-2), Jeanine Ewert (12-9), Robert Aguirre (12-16), choir concert (12-23), and, of course, Christmas Eve worship.

Karen Cosner, Linda Hunter, and Jolinda Reddy are preparing sanctuary decorations for Advent. Any questions, please check with any of the committee.  
~Stephen Reddy

**Harvest Festival 2018:** Sue Messamer thanks everyone who helped with and attended the Harvest Festival. Children and adults had a wonderful time. The youth group's Haunted House was especially scary this year!

### Faith Bites Resumes

After a week off due to Halloween, Faith Bites will resume this Wednesday, November 7 at 6 PM. Choir practice will also return to its usual time, 7 PM, after dinner.



### Woodland West Neighborhood Community Invites You!

Thursday, November 8, 2018

6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Modesto Church of the Brethren

Join us as we provide an overview of the design for the first phase of the State Route 132 Expressway Project. This will include a digital simulation of the project design. For more information, please visit our project website at <https://www.stateroute132.com/>



Calling all youth! The next youth group meeting will be November 11 at 10 AM in Room 1 and 2. We will also meet on November 11 after worship, until 2 PM. Activities for December to be announced later!



### Calling All

### Young Adults!

Join us for the next "Young Adult" Gathering at 6 pm on **December 7** at **Thai House** on **Tully Road**. Contact Anna Hazen if you will need child care at the church beginning at 5:30 pm. RSVP to Kim Boardman (985-0011) for a seat at the dinner table.



### Family Unity Night

Friday, November 16, 6 PM

Come for Food, Friends and FUN!





**Stanislaus County Interfaith  
Council Thanksgiving Celebration**  
The annual Stanislaus County  
Interfaith Council

Thanksgiving Celebration will be held this year at the Modesto Centre Plaza on Monday, November 19, beginning at 6:45 PM with gathering music. Presenters representing several faith communities throughout Stanislaus County will bring messages of thanksgiving with song and spoken word. Those who attend the event are asked to bring non-perishable food items, which will be donated to Interfaith Ministries' food pantry. A free-will offering will also benefit Interfaith Ministries. Refreshments will be provided by the faith communities that are members of SCIC. **That's us! We need cookies!** If you can provide 2 or 3 dozen cookies, please have them available by Sunday, November 18. You may leave them in the kitchen clearly labeled **SCIC**. Thank you!

**Chimes Changes**

Your Chimes editor has decided that a more reasonable deadline for Chimes submissions would be the Saturday before the Chimes is published. It would also be helpful if one or more persons would be willing to read over the draft of the Chimes on the Monday before it is sent to Jill to email and print. Having a proofreader would help avoid the kinds of errors that have popped up once in awhile. If you are willing to help in that way, please email me at [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org) to let me know.

You may notice that this Chimes is somewhat smaller than usual. Very few articles were sent to be included in this Chimes. Thankfully, Ann Marie sent her thoughtful reflection!

Most of the other articles were put together from the calendar in Sunday's bulletin. If your commission has events coming up, please send an article to [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org), or the editor will have to make something up!



*Articles and photos for  
the next issue of Chimes  
are due by **Saturday,  
November 17**. Email to:  
[chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)  
The Editor thanks you.*

**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-

1:00 PM-Pastor's Roaming Office-Michael's  
Pizza, Carpenter Road

Tuesday-

Election Day

Wednesday-

6 PM Faith Bites  
7 PM Choir

Thursday-

6 PM Woodland West Neighborhood SR132  
Meeting/Sanctuary

Friday-

PSWD Conference-Hillcrest, LaVerne  
Through Nov. 11  
MCOB office closed

Saturday-

Next Sunday-November 11<sup>th</sup>

Veteran's Day  
9:30 AM Sunday morning study  
11 AM Worship

Please note that by vote of Council on  
November 4, the Modesto Church of the  
Brethren Office will be closed on Fridays.  
Phone calls to the church number will be  
monitored in case of emergency.



November 12-Veterans' Day Holiday Observed

November 15 Sr. Ministries trip/Fallon House  
Columbia

November 16 6 PM FUN Event

November 18 12:15 Farewell lunch  
for Pastor Michael

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

November 22-23 Thanksgiving-Office Closed

November 26 5:30 PM Ladies' Night Out/  
Sizzler

November 29 6 PM Advent Book Study

## DECEMBER

December 6 6 PM Advent Book study

December 7 6 PM Young Adult Meeting/  
Thai House, Tully Road

December 8 2 PM Ladies Christmas Tea  
Daniels' Home

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

