



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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

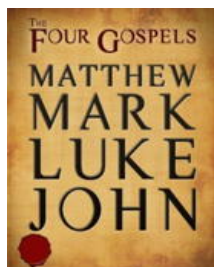


Looking Forward, Moving Forward

The new year, a time to change our ways, to evaluate, to discern to regroup...a good way to begin 2019!

To begin, I need to revamp my own personal prayer life. I will set apart a special time for me and community prayer. This is something we can do together. For instance, every day at noon, we all spend a few moments in prayer for our search committee or for whomever or whatever the Spirit may lead.

Moving on, regular Bible reading is my next step. My goal...the Gospels by Easter (April 21). That's 89 chapters in about 17 weeks...5.2 chapters/week. We can do this! Please join me!



Our Advent book study group has been a great time to grow in faith, to share our lives and lives with others. I strongly encourage involvement in a small group. Of course, one small group would be the choral ensemble (duh)! I hope the book study groups will continue.

I believe God is leading us to pray for our search committee as it continues its work. May God lead us to the servant to be our pastor (and vice versa)! In the meantime, we continue in ministry with a vast array of leaders.

God is calling the MCOB faith community to faithfulness in worship, stewardship, and leadership. My passion is for us to thrive as God's people in our community in love, healing, peace, and justice. These are some personal thoughts and goals and some ministries we can do together!

The question then, is...where, when, how can I serve!

Love, joy, and peace!
Stephen Reddy



Invitation to Worship

January 6 Following the Star

Stephen Reddy

What's the Star all about? Where's it going? Does it have anything to do with me? Is it calling me? Please read Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12!

January 13 Are You a Consumer of Christianity or a Disciple of Jesus?

Felton Daniels will be exploring with us the roles we play in our faith journey and challenge each of us to live our Christian lives with gusto. Please read Mark 12: 41-44.



Greeters for January:

January 6th : Pat Royer & Donna Heiny

January 13th : Jolinda Reddy & Darrian Davis

January 20th: Matt & Anna Hazen, Emily & Sarah

January 27th: Terhesa Gamboa & Syl Bupp

Deacon on Call for January:

Jim Martinez

Hold in the Light

Keep in your prayers John and Karen Cosner, as John has been hospitalized for several days due to his Parkinson's.

Larry Cole's back pain has flared up and he is having difficulty getting around.

Sara Miller is rejoicing at a visit from her brother Kevin, from Pennsylvania.

Barbara Switzer's Grandson Jeremy is visiting her after being in France for his college studies.

Terhesa Gamboa's friend Robert is still ailing, but he is at home. Her sister is undergoing cancer treatment.

Sheila Cornwell (daughter of Gayle Hernandez) who fell while visiting in California and is now dealing with multiple health issues and will not be able to return to her home in Kansas until they are resolved.

Kelly Gepley is grateful for the support from the congregation for her first year of teaching.

Mary Pieczarka is recuperating from thyroid surgery, which has affected her voice.

Donna Heiny reported that Sherman Hoover, a former congregant, has passed away.

Keep in your prayers all those who are ill, any who are grieving, those who are lonely, and any who are troubled too deeply for words.

Special Announcements!

#1. PLEASE NOTE! NO FAITH BITES THIS WEEK! FAITH BITES RESUMES JAN. 9.

#2. THE BOARD/COMMISSION RETREAT IS CANCELLED. COMMISSIONS: HAVE MEETINGS BEFORE BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 14!

#3. THE LAST ADVENT BOOK STUDY MEETS THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 6 PM.

ITEMS OF NOTE

**John McCutcheon Concert at the Modesto Church of the Brethren.
Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 7:00 PM.**

Six-time Grammy nominated singer/songwriter John McCutcheon performs his 17th benefit concert for the Modesto Peace/Life Center.

John is a master of guitar, banjo, hammer dulcimer, piano and fiddle. Johnny Cash called him "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard."

His socially conscious songs inspire us, his songs about family and every-day life move us, and his sense of humor entertains us.

John's "Christmas in the Trenches" is considered one of the most moving and powerful peace songs ever written.

John McCutcheon's concert is a unique opportunity for folks to sponsor the event over and above the cost of a ticket.

These sponsorships may seem like a modest contribution, but they go a long way to support the various programs of the Peace/Life Center.

If you think you might be interested in sponsoring this event, please consider giving at one of these levels, or really in any way you think is possible: we really appreciate your consideration, and we are happy to provide some recognition as part of your sponsorship. The following are the sponsorship levels:

Autoharp \$40 - 1 ticket

Guitar at \$75 - 2 tickets

Banjo at \$150 - 4 tickets

Piano at \$300 - 8 tickets

Hammer Dulcimer at \$500 - 16 tickets

Single Tickets: \$23 Advance, \$26 Door, \$10 Youth (24 and under.)

Evan Campbell is selling tickets at church.

For sponsorship, contact Joseph Homer at jhomermolestopeacelife@gmail.com

Sponsorship tickets can either be mailed or picked up at will call.

Council Meeting-January 27 After Worship An Idea from Sue Messamer

Looking at our January church calendar I see we have a Council Meeting scheduled on January 27th after worship.

I have offered to be responsible for lunch so thought this might be fun and take some of the responsibility off me. Dave and I will prepare the Ham & Swiss baked sandwiches. I'm asking if any of you would be willing to do a crock-pot of soup.

I know how you all love dessert so I'll take care of that. I have a new recipe I'll try out on you. This would give us a variety of soups to sample and have some fun.

Soooo if you are willing to bring a crock of soup, let me know, I would like to know the kind of soup so I can make sure we have a variety.

Contact me at smessamer@att.net

Cell 209 505 0222

Looking forward to hearing from you. To be honest I have an ulterior motive to this. Council Meetings are where important decisions are made that include all of us. It's an opportunity for you to share ideas and concerns you may have and no judgements are made. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE!

~Sue Messamer



New Year's Resolutions

By Bill Johnson

Just a few words about New Year's Resolutions for 2019. What do you want to see happen in 2019 for our church? How can you personally get involved? Who do you contact? Where do you start?

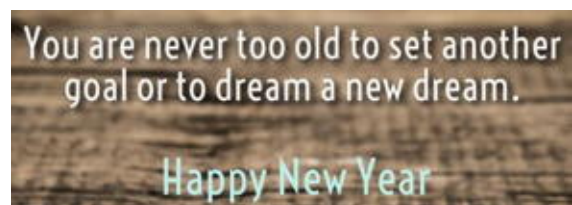
I bring this up, knowing that the nominating committee struggles each year in the fall getting willing candidates to step up to be on commissions, committees etc. The board leadership is not getting any younger and has challenged itself to focus on mentoring a younger generation to start moving into leadership on commissions and the board. It's not rocket science--just a little extra "doing".

Even though the pastoral search continues, the church has some areas to celebrate in the area of youth and children's ministries (due to hard work and leadership from Karleen Daniels).

This work is supplemented by the activities of Fellowship and Recreation led by Sue Messamer and her gang. We all enjoy the meals and activities but a lot of planning and prep makes it all happen. The same can be said for Building and Grounds (Bob Sesser and Bill Johnson), the Music Ministry (Steve Reddy), Witness (Gayle Hernandez, Luella Cole), Deacons (Marye Martinez) and Stewards (Margaret Johnson and Jim Martinez). If you have an interest in what these folks do, ask them! Maybe go to some of their meetings, get a feel for what they are doing. With the exception of a chair position the time commitments are normally small and can be on your schedule.

Speaking of time commitments, the board is working on some experiments where the focus is on less time in meetings and more time doing the work needed. With the computer, smart phones, texting, etc. there are many ways to communicate. More to come on these experiments as we get into 2019.

With that being said we wish all a safe and happy holiday season. Spend some time thinking about what could be your personal time commitment to the church in 2019. Seek out what you might want to do in 2019. Talk to those folks listed above, they are a pretty good bunch.





Senior Ministries-Heart of the Valley Quilt and Textile Arts Show, January 19
 Meet for lunch at 11:30 am at Skewers Restaurant, at the corner of 9th and L Streets. Following lunch, the group will go across the street to Modesto Centre Plaza to attend the quilt show.
 Admission to the show at the door costs \$8, but Al Forcier has 30 admission wristbands for \$5 each. See Al to buy a wristband and save \$3 off admission. He has only 30 wristbands, so get yours soon!



MESSENGER renewal time is here. This is our denominational magazine and an important resource for information, spiritual study and inspiration. It also keeps us aware of happenings throughout the country - at home and abroad.

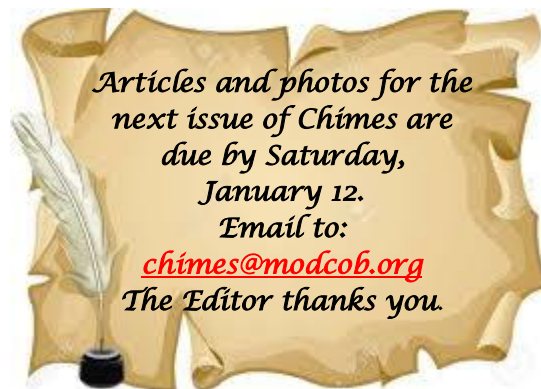
Romy will be at a table with renewal forms, etc. in the Narthex on the following Sundays: 1/6, 1/13. Or send your check to the church office marked *MESSENGER* renewal in the Memo line. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE IN THE OFFERING.**

The price remains the same: \$14.50 for one year or \$27 for two years). For first-time subscribers the cost is \$7.25 for 1 year.

Ladies' Night Out-Monday, January 21
 The Prospector ladies and friends will meet at Bel Piatto, Kansas and Emerald Avenues, on Martin Luther King Day, January 21, at 5:30 PM for their monthly dinner out. Please RSVP to Linda Owen (dlo2@sbcglobal.net).

PLEASE HELP WITH THE CHIMES!

Modesto Church of the Brethren is a busy, vibrant congregation, with many events each week. Your Chimes editor wants to publicize every one of those events in a timely manner, so the congregation knows what is coming up. Unfortunately, I have found it necessary to search for the information I need. Please help me continue to make the Chimes a valuable source of information for the congregation. Send your event information--on time! 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 by Wednesday evenings.
 Thank you!**

The Condensed Calendar

Monday, December 31

Office will be open

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Happy New Year!

Office Closed

1:30 pm Knitting Group-Pat Royer's
Casa de Modesto, Apt. 1004

Wednesday, January 2

NO FAITH BITES

NO CHOIR

Thursday, January 3

6 pm Advent Book Study

Friday, January 4

Saturday, January 5

Next Sunday, January 6

9:30 am Sunday morning study

11:00 am Worship



**January 5 BOARD/COMMISSION RETREAT
CANCELLED**

January 14 6:30 pm Board Meeting

January 15 7 pm John McCutcheon Concert

January 19 Sr. Ministries Heart of the Valley
Quilt & Textile Arts Show
Modesto Centre Plaza

January 21 Martin Luther King Day
Office Closed

January 27 Annual Council Meeting
Following worship and lunch



February 2 2pm Sr. Ministries event
Steel Magnolias at Gallo
Center for the Arts

February 3-10 Family Promise Hosting Week

February 18 Presidents Day/Office Closed

February 20 6 pm Visit from Samuel and
Rebecca Dali of EYN, Nigeria

Welcome Statement: Believing that God's unbounded love and grace, as taught by Jesus, are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we embrace persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. As an Open and Affirming congregation we welcome everyone to participate in the life and worship of our church.