



# The Chimes

Date: April 9, 2019  
Volume 19 Number 8

## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



### THANKSGIVING in APRIL

Hooray! The Pastoral search is finally over! On March 31, 2019, Andrew Sampson accepted our call to full-time ministry, following an overwhelmingly positive vote during council meeting. However, as we bask in the glow of 'mission accomplished', let's remember that we're not 'there' yet, but still in transition while awaiting the Sampson family's arrival in June.

Looking back over the long search process, I'm thankful to all of you for keeping our congregation moving forward month after month. Your trust, encouraging words, patience and prayerful support enabled the Search Committee to take the time needed to discern the 'fit' for our unique faith community. Our choice to bring Andrew to meet the congregation was a unanimous decision.

During the search, we had gifted pastoral leadership from our Interim Pastors. Thanks goes to Interim Pastor Michael Fletcher for

providing nearly 2 years of full-time pastoral leadership. After his departure, Stephen Reddy graciously stepped up to the plate, sharing his leadership gifts in both pastoral and music ministries. In addition to pastoral leadership, countless capable lay people continued to offer their time and talents during worship services, giving sermons or filling other roles (sound techs, worship leaders, story tellers, musicians, worship table and banner designers, greeters, ushers, money counters, candle lighters etc.).

Expressions of appreciation would not be complete without mentioning important ministries beyond worship. Throughout the search journey, many of you continued to graciously take on all the tasks necessary to keep our church functioning. Our faithful Church Board and Commissions, Deacons, Worship Committee and Children's & Youth leaders all provided ongoing support for ministries behind the scenes. During the "Meet and Greet Weekend", the Fellowship and Recreation Commission kept us well-fed, as usual.

David Shetler (District Executive from the S. Ohio District) provided crucial expertise and encouragement while 'shepherding' the Search Committee along the entirety of our journey. David's tenure with us is finished, and now Russ Matteson is 'back in the saddle' as DE for our congregation.

Finally, a special 'shout out' to our 7-person Search Committee: Evan Campbell, Karen Cosner, Felton Daniels, Rachel Gilstrap-Katen, Matt Hazen, and David Messamer. Our wide-ranging perspectives, ages, and interests proved to be an asset while wrestling with the pros and cons of each applicant, one candidate at a time. Throughout the process, our respect for each other and commitment to common purpose enabled us to listen, find connection and work together courteously as a team. Although we're grateful to have been a part of the search process, we're pleased to close this chapter in the life of our congregation in anticipation of a brand new one! And the adventure continues....  
~Elaine Forcier, Search Committee Chair

## Invitations to Worship



"Two Parades" Mark 11:1-11

Two parades entered Jerusalem that day. One a big, long military parade with horses, weapons, soldiers. The other...Jesus riding a donkey with the adoring crowd shouting "Hosanna"!

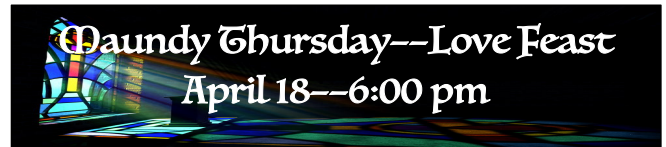


"The Story Continues" Mark 16:1-8

If Jesus had not risen he would have been known in history as just another crucified messiah wannabe. What's your Easter (Resurrection) story?



April 14<sup>th</sup>. Monique Sanders & Jason Davis  
April 21<sup>st</sup>. Bob & Lynda Sesser  
April 28<sup>th</sup>. Rita Matthews & Sylvan Bupp

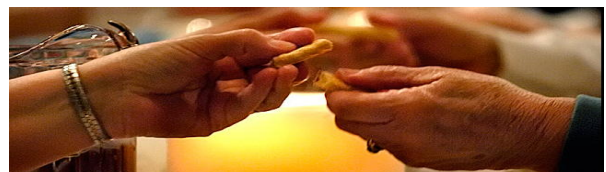


Good Friday, we know. And Easter most certainly. But Maundy Thursday? Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. It is believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with the disciples. Passover was the meal where Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, in an extraordinary display of humility. He commanded them to do the same to one another.

You are invited to attend Love Feast on Maundy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. We will have a short service to focus on what this event is all about. Then you may choose to observe or take part in one of the foot or hand washing stations at men's, women's, mixed and hand stations.



We sing as we wash, then proceed into the Gathering Place for our meal of sop (Beef and



beef broth over bread) and to partake in communion. (Continued on next page)

This is a great way to prepare yourself and your family for the coming of Easter and a way to remind us of our desire to humble ourselves to one another and remind us of why Jesus chose to have his disciples do likewise. Maundy Thursday is one religious event that we as Brethren have participated in for generations.



Dear MCOB family,

Trish and I would like to express our great gratitude to all of you who have expressed your concerns via calls, texts and cards, and have continued to pray, for my progress with radiation treatments against aggressive prostate cancer.

I began treatment on March 27th with internal radiation (one dose of brachytherapy) in Sacramento. This will be followed by 5 weeks of external radiation in Vacaville, beginning April 10 and ending May 15.

For this reason, I'd like to ask you to continue your prayers for my continued treatment and recovery. Trish and I still consider you all family, and many of you are included in our daily prayers. Thanks again for your concerns and wonderful prayers!  
~Dan and Trish Galt

Chelsea Feeney has been approved to have her heart surgery on June 10. Please keep her in your prayers.

Leslie Wilkinson's daughter Janelle was involved in a serious auto accident but was saved by her airbag.

Michael Fletcher, our previous interim pastor, is undergoing his second infusion of chemo for his cancer. He will also be having radiation.

John Miller, who has been teaching art in Modesto City Schools, has cleared his credential, so he is a full-fledged teacher.

Kelly Gepley had testing that suggests that her baby may have Down's Syndrome. She will have further testing for a definitive diagnosis.

Joann Ewert reports that her granddaughter, who is a senior in high school, has been chosen athlete of the week for her high jump of 5 feet 2 inches and her long jump of 15 feet.



Hello and hugs from our little corner of the world, from Marley Brown Mueller. Thank you all for your recent thoughts and well wishes from around the globe.

It's certainly been an emotional couple of weeks as we still recoil in disbelief at the absolute sense of violation that we have endured. It has certainly touched us all on a personal level.

In my role as Triage Nurse I have spoken to more than one person who is connected to someone who knows someone who was either wounded or killed in this senseless act. When I can help, even in such a small way, I certainly pause to breathe and even manage a smile.

I feel that New Zealand has certainly lost her feeling of calm remoteness, and an isolated sense of serenity.

In the last 2 weeks we do not open the National News to 'latest sightings of a pod of orca seen on our coastline' or the 'rural community groups raising money for other people in need of some assistance'. These latest events have sent our little country into a worldwide state of grief. We have seen firsthand the smaller community vigils/ prayers/ candles and unity of all people, races and religions holding tightly together.

Our Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has received credit from around the world for her handling of this tragedy. The New York Times headlined 'Jacinda Adern, New Zealand's Prime Minister "leads by following no-one."'.

It also mentioned that she may have re-written the script for how a nation grieves. As well as displaying this remarkable act of empathy, she humbly stated that "I don't think I'm displaying leadership. I just think I'm displaying humanity". She speaks for all New Zealanders. She has swiftly taken action, with her parliament, to ban military style semi-automatic weapons (and to top it off she has insisted that she herself will never name the killer).

Jacinda has certainly won the respect of the 1.5 billion Muslims from around the world. Her mark reached the Burj Khalifa building in Dubai that was lit up by her image hugging a Muslim woman in the wake of this tragedy. A petition was started in France that is now circulating, for her to receive a Nobel Peace Prize for the compassionate response that she has shown to all of this.

So Thank You all for your emails, texts, WhatsApps, and messages. It's heart-warming to know that you are all holding hands with us. We can certainly feel the warmth.

Love and kindness, Marley Brown Mueller,  
Daughter-in-Law of Romy and Harold Mueller

### **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**Commemoration--March 30, 2019**

**Legacy Award**

**Honoring Gene Palsgrove and Mary Baucher**



Gene Palsgrove and Mary Baucher have been involved with many community service efforts during their many years in Modesto. Gene, a World War II conscientious objector, Church of the Brethren minister, teacher and principal in the Modesto City Schools for 30 years, helped start the Community Rehabilitation Project in South Modesto. He was also instrumental in founding the Modesto Peace/Life Center in 1970 and the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Committee in 1994, establishing Interfaith Ministries food bank and creating Modesto's Sister City program with Khmel'nitskiy in Ukraine.

Mary Baucher has always considered herself to be a behind the scenes community volunteer, wanting to help others. Mary helped found the Modesto Peace/Life Center and worked for many years with Friends Outside. She helped start a child care program at Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown, became a facilitator for the Bereaved Parent Support Group under the auspices of Via, which merged with Community Hospice.

Mary was involved with Habitat for Humanity and West-Care Adult Day Care Center, and helped start Modesto's SERRV International Gift Shop. She has been involved with the Cooperative Disaster Child Care Program through the Church of the Brethren.

Gene and Mary, whose separate families were next-door neighbors for many years, were both previously married to spouses, Bob Baucher and Lenore Palsgrove, who themselves had a long history of community service. Mary and Gene married 8 years ago.

~From the program of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Event



The Stewards have chosen the above phrase as their theme for the year. Live generously! What does that mean to you? How will it be done?

Our congregation is on the verge of a new chapter in our ministry together. It is a good time to assess our blessings, thank God for the abundance of those blessings and renew our commitment to live generously.

Today is the day....



**YOUNG**  
adults

Young Adult Gathering (You know who you are!) at Buckhorn BBQ, Friday, April 12, at 6:00 PM. RSVP to Kim Boardman. Contact Anna Hazen for child care at the church.



This coming Saturday, April 13! Be at the church at 8 AM for donuts and group pix. Lunch around 11 AM, or when you are done with your project. Y'all come!



Labyrinth Walk for All  
Palm Sunday, April 14, 10 AM





Family FUN Night, April 19 6 PM  
Come for Fellowship, Food and Fun!  
FUN Night is for families with children from kindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Have dinner together, then children have a lesson and crafts and parents gather for discussion.



Join us for Easter Brunch from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Gathering Place. An Easter Egg Hunt follows for those who are signed up to participate. Gather in the narthex at 10:45 for information about the egg hunt.

Easter morning worship begins at 11 AM. Please join us for special music and the resurrection story, with Stephen Reddy preaching.



Ladies Night Out for April will be Thursday, April 25 at 5:30 pm. We will be dining at Betty's Kabob, in the shopping center at 1300 Sylvan Ave., across Sylvan from Marie Callender's.



Family Promise Hosting Week begins April 28! Look for the sign-up board in the narthex. We need cooks, evening hosts, and overnight hosts to help welcome our guest families. Please consider volunteering for this rewarding program which helps families who are experiencing homelessness stay together as they get back on their feet.

**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 evening. Thank you!**

## The Condensed Calendar

Monday, April 8,  
6:30 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 9  
10 am Prayer Time Together-Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 10  
6 pm Faith Bites  
7 pm Choir

Thursday, April 11  
6 pm Lenten Book Study

Friday, April 12  
6 pm Young Adult Gathering , Buckhorn BBQ

Saturday, April 13  
8 am All Church Workday

Next Sunday, April 14  
**Palm Sunday**  
10 am Labyrinth Walk  
11 am Worship



April 18 6 pm Maundy Thursday/Love Feast  
April 19 6 pm F.U.N. Event  
April 21 Easter Sunday 9:30 to 10:30, brunch  
10:45 Egg Hunt, 11 am Worship  
April 22 Earth Day  
April 25 5:30 pm Ladies Night Out-Betty's  
Kabob, 1300 Sylvan  
April 28-May 4 Family Promise Hosting Week  
April 28 Sr. Ministry event, "Tuesdays with  
Morrie" at the Gallo Center



May 5 12:30 Prospectors' Potluck/Forciers'  
home  
May 11 2 pm Mothers' and Friends' Tea  
May 12 Mothers' Day  
May 17 6 pm F.U.N. Event  
May 27 Memorial Day/Office Closed



June 15 3pm Fathers' Day Bash  
June 30 12:30 Prospectors' Potluck  
Hernandez home

*Articles and photos for  
the next issue of Chimes  
are due by Saturday,  
April 20.*

*Email to:*

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

*The Editor thanks you.*