



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.



Letting Go

In the March issue of Messenger, Wendy McFadden's essay on "Letting Go" spoke to me, because for the last several months, I have been in the process of letting go of the many possessions that I have accumulated in the house I have called home for the past 26 years. Although I like my neighborhood, the house and yard are too much for Larry and me to keep up anymore, so we're planning to downsize—as soon as we pare down our possessions.

I'm trying to be unemotional as I pull out things I've carefully stored in closets, cabinets and garage, deciding which category to put each thing in: keep, donate, or toss. Having come from a long line of pack rats, this is not easy.

As Wendy McFadden says, excess possessions "weigh us down". I have allowed that to happen. Now that the garage has been liberated from much of the stuff that I let accumulate, I can get the car in without worrying about hitting something. It is freeing to be able to see the things I need to use! The more I let go, the more free I feel.

In her essay, Wendy enumerates several other things that we need to let go of: Acquiring more stuff, needing to be in control, resentment and complaints, fear of what might happen, and outrage. At various times I've held onto all these burdens and often struggled to let them go.

All of these, along with too much stuff, take the place of living simply, being open and generous to others, and living as Jesus taught. ~Luella

Invitations to Worship

May 12: You've probably heard of original sin, but how about original goodness? Looking at Acts 9: 36-43 and Wisdom of Solomon 7:24-28 we will talk about Holy Wisdom or Sophia as a reflection of God's goodness within all things, and how we find and honor that reflection in ourselves and others. Anna Hazen will bring the message.

May 19: Choir leading worship 🎵

Today is our annual end-of-the-choir-year music and worship Sunday. Please read Psalms 47:1-7 and consider "the power and role of music in our lives" as individuals and as a faith community. Keep singing!





Greeters for May

5/12 Jeannie & Dean Canter

5/19 Donna Heiny & Pat Royer

5/26 Libby Higgs



Keep Michael Fletcher and family in your prayers as he will undergo surgery for his esophageal tumor June 11.

Kim Boardman asks for prayers for the 19-year-old daughter of a colleague who is having surgery for a brain tumor.

Keep in your prayers Monique Sanders' 34-year-old niece, who had a stroke.

Evan Campbell asks for prayers for his wife, Jaimie, as she travels to Missouri to be with her brother who is in intensive care due to kidney disease.

Barbara Burton rejoices that her daughter is getting married soon.

Mary Pieczarka and Cal Aukeman ask for prayers for Jessica, their daughter-in-law, whose grandmother (Gigi) recently passed.

Renee Gokey is remembering her sister, who passed 7 years ago on May 5; also, her friend Jerry's brother has an infected foot.

Terhesa Gamboa's friend Robert is doing better; her sister has cancer and is halfway done with chemo; her dog Rommie has been ill again, but is now recovering.

Andrew Sampson, our new pastor, reports challenges in the home sale/purchase process; one of his co-workers in Indiana, Diane, had a stroke.

Linda Bustle gives gratitude for all the little miracles in her life.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers all those who are ill; those who are not able to come to worship; those who live with pain; and those whose troubles are too deep for words.

Deacon on Call for May
Lynda Sesser



Fellowship & Recreation is looking forward to seeing you at the Mothers' & Friends' Tea on Saturday, May 11 at 2pm for a relaxing afternoon we have planned for you.
(Continued on the next page)



Just a reminder to bring your favorite teacup and plan to have time to visit with old and new friends.

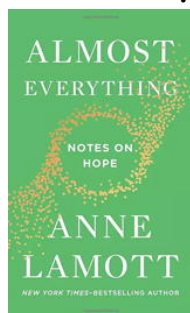
We will be setting up for the event Friday at 11am. If you have roses that we could use for decoration please get those to the church either Thursday afternoon or Friday morning.



We hope you can join us on Saturday. Please be sure to sign up so we can plan accordingly.

June Book Study

Almost Everything: Notes on Hope



By Anne Lamott

Meeting Thursdays in June:

June 6,

June 13,

June 20,

June 27

6-7:30 PM



Hello Neighbors,

Our neighborhood is very diverse. To celebrate that, we will be holding a Multicultural Potluck on Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sharp Park, 1900 Torrid Ave. Bring your favorite ethnic dish to share and something to sit on. Sheriff Jeff Dirkse will be joining us. This is the idea of a neighbor who likes to cook. We thought it was great, so join us! ~Marco Bettencourt, Chair
Terhesa Gamboa 576-8484 H, 247-2769 cell



May's Senior Ministry event includes a scrumptious lunch prepared by Karen Cosner, as well as a guest speaker from the Stanislaus County Ombudsman program. The ombudsmen are volunteers who are advocates for the rights and dignity of residents of long-term care facilities. The ombudsman talks with residents about the care they receive, their environment and any concerns they may have. They investigate the concerns of the resident, and try to negotiate a resolution with the facility. Come hear about this important program Thursday, May 16th. Lunch is at noon for just \$7.00 and the program starts at 1pm. Please sign up to let Karen know how many to cook for! ~Karleen Daniels, Senior Ministry Committee



Come for Food, Fellowship and Fun! The next F.U.N. event for families with children ages kindergarten to 6th grade will be May 17 at 6 PM.

The Condensed Calendar

Monday, May 6

Tuesday, May 7

Teacher Appreciation Day

1:30-3 PM Knitting, Pat Royer's Apt. 1004

Casa de Modesto

Wednesday, May 8

6 PM Faith Bites

7 PM Choir

Thursday, May 9

Friday, May 10

Saturday, May 11

2 PM Mothers' and Friends' Tea

Next Sunday, May 12

9:30 AM Sunday Study

11 AM Worship

Happy Mothers' Day!

**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!**

dates
to Remember



May 13 6:30 PM Board Meeting

May 16 12 Noon Sr. Ministry event

Lunch/Ombudsman Speaker

May 17 6 PM F.U.N. Event

May 20 5:30 Ladies' Night Out-Olive Garden

May 24-27 Camp Opening-CPP

May 27 Memorial Day—Office closed



June 10 6:30 PM Board Meeting

June 10-14 Peace Week

June 13 7:05 Sr. Ministries-Modesto Nuts

Baseball Game Thurman Field

June 14 6 PM F.U.N. Event

June 15 3 PM Fathers' Day Bash

June 16 Fathers' Day

June 20 SCIC Prayer Supper

June 21-23 Women's Retreat—CPP

June 23 11 AM Installation of New Pastor

June 30 Prospector Potluck-Hernandez Home



July 4- Independence Day—Office closed

*Articles and photos for
the next issue of Chimes
are due by Saturday,
May 18.
Email to:
chimes@modcob.org
The Editor thanks you.*

