



# The Chimes

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## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Pastor: Andrew Sampson Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



### Brethren Mennonite Council Supportive Communities Network

Pastor Andrew's sermon of June 30 re-introduced to the

congregation the organization with whose guidance we became a member of SCN (Open and Affirming) in 2013. The following article explains SCN's Guiding Principles:

### Called by Conscience

As we seek to be faithful to our Brethren history, tradition, and values, we desire to be people who are known by the manner of our living, people who are guided by the example and teachings of Jesus.

We believe this means that we must all pay careful attention to the dynamics of power and privilege within our church, and first commit ourselves to striving to act always in the Spirit and in the way of Christ.

We must be clear about appropriate and inappropriate uses of power: We cannot pit marginalized groups against each other in order to preserve the status quo. We cannot use the coercive power of threats of punishment as a means for working toward uniformity. We cannot make decisions about persons or groups of persons and their place within the church without those persons central to the conversation and the decision-making processes.

Instead, we seek a path that is Christ-bearing and Christ-witnessing:

### We are committed to openness to the Spirit and new light

*"Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' (Jn. 13:7-8)*

Our commitment of openness to the Spirit and new light means that we must practice the humility of listening openly and of interpreting and re-interpreting our convictions in the gathered body of the church. As Brethren, we have historically practiced this through holding no creed but the New Testament. Together we are continually discerning how to live and grow in faithfulness to Christ. Slim majorities, enforced legalism, and manipulation of process are not consistent with this commitment. Any solution to our disagreements must allow for the movement of the Spirit.

### We desire to live the love of Christ

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn. 13:34-35)*

Living the love of Christ means living in a spirit of love of neighbor, of inclusion, and welcome. We see these as the gospel values of Christ's love for us and Christ's call for us to love each other.

## **We hold respect for conscience**

*"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (Jn. 16:13)*

There is in our tradition a commitment to no force in religion. There are many issues upon which we differ. Holding respect for conscience means that we approach decisions of the Annual Conference with respect, but we also recognize that congregations and individuals must ultimately discern and follow the call of Christ for their lives.

## **We honor the blessing of God's creation**

*"All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them." (Jn. 17:10)*

We seek to extend respect and dignity to all. We recognize and proclaim the inherent goodness of LGBTQ identity. Therefore, we will not tolerate or participate in scapegoating, nor conversations that are abusive or bullying.

## **We keep courage in faithfulness**

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." (Jn. 14:1)*

Radical discipleship begins with the courage to follow Christ, and in its season, bears good fruit. It means we are willing to say, "Here I stand," and "I count the cost." We seek to be people faithful to the ways of Jesus.



### **July 7: "The Big Picture"**

Read Ephesians (all, @ 30 minutes, max). In chapters 1-3, Paul tells the Ephesians who they are and what has been done for them. Beginning in chapter 4, he shows them about living out their new reality. What is our new reality in Christ?

~Stephen Reddy

### **July 14: "A Riddle Wrapped in a Mystery Inside an Enigma"**

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Theme: What happens when we aren't the hero?

Summary: The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of Jesus' most well-known teachings, so much so that it has worked its way into our vernacular and is used in nonreligious ways. We often view ourselves as the Samaritan and not the two who passed the injured person by. But what if we change our view to be that of the one left along the roadside and who is rescued by the one we least expect?

~Andrew Sampson

### **All are Invited to Installation Sunday!!**

On Sunday, July 14, Andrew Sampson will be officially installed as our Pastor during the morning worship service. This is one of the sacred services of our denomination and Russ Matteson, our District Executive, will officiate.

As part of this service of installation, communion will be served by intinction—dipping the bread into the grape juice so that we partake of both together. Those wishing to participate in communion will go up the center aisle to one of the three stations available when it becomes their turn, and return to their seats by the outside aisles. For those who wish to take communion, but prefer to participate without going forward, the bread and cup will be brought to you.

Please come to this special worship service and officially welcome Andrew as the new Pastor of the Modesto Church of the Brethren. Reception to follow in the Narthex. Karen Cosner, Board Chair/Marye Martinez, Deacon Chair



### **Greeters for July:**

July 7 - Pat Royer & Donna Heiny

July 14 - Eldon & Linda Williams

July 21 - Jim & Marye Martinez

July 28 - Al & Elaine Forcier



Keep in your prayers Anita Pedersen-Pennock as she recuperates from surgery.

Also pray for Mike Castaneda who was hit by a car in a crosswalk.

Be thinking about Steve Miller who has had one knee replacement and will have another.

Rejoice with T.J. Miller that he qualified for the national weightlifting competition.

Keep Chelsea Feeney in your prayers as she is in the Kaiser hospital being treated for pulmonary embolism.

Luella Cole is rejoicing that the angiogram found no blockages in her heart arteries.

Lucille Absher (Fran Adkins' sister) wants to say a big THANK YOU to all who were so thoughtful when she had her hip surgery and during her recovery. The flowers brightened her room and the beautiful cards, prayers, and expressions of concern made her feel special. She thanks us for accepting her as a part of our community.

Gayle Hernandez reported that the family of the toddler who was killed by a dog in Gustine were friends of her daughter. Keep them all in your prayers.

Chuck Messamer's cousin Ivan Bowman was killed in an accident while on their motorcycle trip to Canada.

Terhesa Gamboa's friend Debbie injured both ankles, and her dog Rommie is recuperating from a third surgery.

Derek Castle reported that a burglar broke into a neighbor's house and badly injured her, but she escaped to the Castle's house. The intruder was arrested.

Allison Sampson has just returned from Texas where she attended her grandmother's memorial.

Gail Heisel was in Modesto to scatter her father's ashes in places important to him.

Keep David and Sue Messamer in your prayers as they are both dealing with health issues.

Remember Pastor Andrew and Felton Daniels as they represent us at Annual Conference this week.

Ginny Hollis is having surgery tomorrow to repair cartilage in her knee. Please keep Oscar and Ginny in your prayers.



Derek and Jenni Castle have recently moved to a new house at 115 Park Avenue and welcome friends from church to sit on their front porch, which is directly across from Mancini Bowl, to listen to the Concert in the Park this Wednesday night.



The Castles would also like to invite the MCOB church family to stop by to visit them for a while this Thursday afternoon (4th of July) anytime from noon till around 6pm. Come and join us for an iced tea on our historic 113 year old front porch overlooking Graceada Park. Come and take a stroll around the park to enjoy watching families having a fun time together.

There is a great playground and splash park and swimming pool nearly opposite us for any children to enjoy.

The Castles' new home, at 115 Park Ave., is on the west side of the park opposite the Mancini Bowl and 3 houses from Needham St. They would love to see as many as possible even if you can only spare 15 minutes.

No need for RSVP, just show up whenever you can. Derek and Jenni's cell phone numbers (and new address) are in the 2019 directory but they no longer have the home phone number listed in the directory.



An Evening with the Psalms  
(a Psalm inspiration)

Thursday, July 25  
6:00—7:30 pm

Come together to share the Psalms  
from various translations...  
a time to appreciate the beauty  
of the poetry and how each  
one speaks to us!  
From the following: KJV, NRSV,  
New Hebrew, Geneva Bible!

Please read: Psalms 8, 23, 27,  
46, 88, 121, 139!

~Stephen Reddy



# Peace Week Photos



## Children's Peace Week-June 10-14

We had special guests each day of Peace Week to help us become open and understanding of differences. Hopefully the children not only learned to tolerate differences, but to celebrate those differences!! The last special guests were two children who have become social activists. They told the children, "You are never too young to become an activist for something you are passionate about".



**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!**

*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Saturday, July 13.*

*Email to:*

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

*The Editor thanks you.  
(Submitted articles may be edited for space or clarity.)*

## The Condensed Calendar

Monday, July 1

Tuesday, July 2

1:30pm Knitting Group-Apt 1004  
Casa de Modesto

Wednesday, July 3

Annual Conference,--July 7  
Greensboro, NC  
8pm MoBand Concert-Graceada Park

Thursday, July 4

Office Closed



Friday, July 5

Saturday, July 6

Next Sunday, July 7

9:30am Adult Sunday School  
11am Worship

dates  
to Remember



July 10 6pm Summer Supper Potluck-  
"Christmas in July"

July 14 11am Communion & Installation  
of Pastor Andrew Sampson during Worship

July 18 5:30pm Ladies' Night Out  
La Parrilla/McHenry Village

July 19 6pm F.U.N. Night

July 21-26 Jr. High/Youth Camp CPP

July 24 6pm Summer Supper Potluck

July 26-30 Family Camp CPP



August 14 6pm Summer Supper Potluck

August 16 6pm F.U.N. Night

August 25-Sept. 1 Family Promise Hosting

### Reminder:

Pastor Andrew will be at Annual Conference from July 2-July 7<sup>th</sup>. If you should have a pastoral need, please contact Marye Martinez or your Deacon.

**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, ethnic and religious background, 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.