



The Chimes

Date: August 13, 2019
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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.

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم أين ولدتم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

Reflection: A Welcome to Our Neighbors

"In August 2015, pastor Matthew Bucher of Immanuel Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia, wanted to share a simple message with the neighborhood around his church. In the midst of a national dialogue that was strikingly negative about immigrants, Bucher joined with his church to put a hand-painted sign saying, "No matter where you're from, we're glad you're our neighbor," in the building's front yard, in the three main languages spoken in the neighborhood."

<http://immanuelmennonite.org/>

The original sign was simply black ink on a white background. These signs became so popular around Harrisonburg that Pastor Bucher, along with other Mennonite pastors in the area, developed the colorful poster in the picture above. From the beginning, the design has been free to all, with only a request that proceeds from any sales benefit immigrant-related organizations. Other languages have been substituted for Spanish where necessary: French in Canada, for example.

After hearing a story about these signs on NPR, I purchased one about 2 years ago and posted it in my front yard, which is at the end of a cul-de-sac. Anyone who drives into my court can see it. And even the summer sun and torrential rain of last winter has not dulled its bright colors.

I only regret that the sign is not bigger, allowing for more languages. My next-door neighbors on one side speak Spanish, and the neighbors on the other side speak Hindi. Arabic is widely spoken in Modesto, along with Punjabi, Farsi (Dari), Urdu, Aramaic, Vietnamese, Khmer, and more. To print the sentence in all the languages spoken in Modesto might require a billboard!

Almost a year ago, the Witness Commission purchased two of these signs to display at the church. One was posted near the marquee, clearly visible from Woodland Avenue. That sign disappeared. There is still one sign in storage. The Witness Commission would like suggestions for where to post it where it would be likely to stay!

In a time of growing diversity, dissension, and even violence, I pray that the sentence on these signs helps us remember that all humans are precious in God's sight.

~By Luella, with much help from Google!

No importa de donde eres, estamos contentos que seas nuestro vecino.

No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor.

سعداء انكم جيراننا. لا يهم أين ولدتم، و لكننا



Invitations to Worship

Date: August 18

Scripture(s): Jeremiah 23:23-29, Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Title: "The Quandaries of Fire and Baptism"

Theme: Fire and baptism each have their benefits and difficulties.

Summary: Fire is something that is all too familiar to Californians! We have experienced it first-hand, seen the devastation, and know its many dangers. However, despite its destructive properties there are some positives of fire. For example, giant sequoias need fire to release seeds and thus, begin a new generation of trees. Similarly, but inversely, baptism acts like fire for us. It should be taken as seriously as fire because of the changes that it makes to us.

Date: August 25

Scripture(s): Jeremiah 1:4-10, Luke 13:10-17

Title: "Unpopular Work"

Theme: God's call in our lives can be difficult and also rewarding.

Summary: At first read today's texts seem to have very little in common with one another. The one from Jeremiah has frequently (and inaccurately) been used to speak of the miracle of life, and Luke has Jesus breaking the law. Yet, in reading more closely there is more in common. 1) Jeremiah and Jesus were both called by God to their respective ministries. 2) Both of them faced some difficult times within said ministries. Today we will talk about our own callings and how they have been difficult and rewarding.



Greeters for August:

Aug. 18 - Luella & Larry Cole

Aug. 25 - Ann Marie & Ed Washington



Keep the Bowman family and Alana Croyle in your prayers as they remember Ivan and Isaac, who have passed on. **Isaac Croyle's memorial is Saturday, August 17 at 3 pm**

Linda Bustle rejoices that she is one year past her cancer diagnosis and doing well.

Libby Higgs prays for the families of shooting victims and is glad to help the cleanup along the Tuolumne River.

Terhesa Gamboa thanks all for the well wishes for her dog, Rommie, but prays for her friend Robert, who is once again in jail.

Karen Cosner is happy that she will need no chemo, only radiation after cancer surgery.

Pat Royer expressed frustration over so many mass shootings and wonders how to stop them.

Pastor Andrew offers prayers for children going back to school.

Sara Miller asks for prayers for teachers going back to school, some dealing with difficult assignments.

Rachel Gilstrap-Katen is rejoicing that Josh successfully climbed Mt. Whitney with only sore muscles as a consequence.

Jeanine Ewert introduced her long-time friend, Vicky Clawson. She also announced that she and Chuck La Rosa are engaged to be married, and will marry in 2 weeks. Chuck is facing treatment for a serious condition. Friends may follow his journey on caringbridge.org. Look for him under Charles La Rosa.

Sandy Whitby reported that her mother, Barbara Switzer, fell and dislocated her left shoulder.

Kelly and Shaun Gepley are glad the city did not approve the permit for the "Straight Pride" event at Graceada Park, partly because they are opposed to the beliefs of the organizers, but also because they were having a baby shower at the park the same day.

Keep in your prayers any who are ill, those who are shut-in, those who are lonely, and all whose concerns are too deep for words.



The celebration of life for Isaac Croyle will be held on Saturday, August 17th at 3 PM at the Modesto Church of the Brethren. Kim Boardman is overseeing the service. Alana Switzer, Isaac's Mom, is encouraging those attending to wear tie-dye if possible, but for sure, bright colors. A light meal will follow in the Gathering Place, which will be decorated with "all things Isaac".

If you can help in any way, please contact Marye at ezjamm@aol.com



BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Wed. Aug. 14, 6 PM

Supper on Wednesday is NOT a potluck. Pizza will be served, along with salad and birthday cake! You may bring salads if you want to, or other dishes if pizza isn't your favorite meal. Only a few persons have signed up to bring cakes, so if you are able, bring a birthday cake!



The FUN event this month is a picnic. What could be better than a picnic????

A picnic AND a movie!

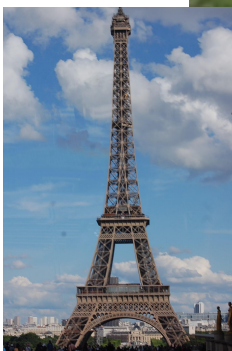
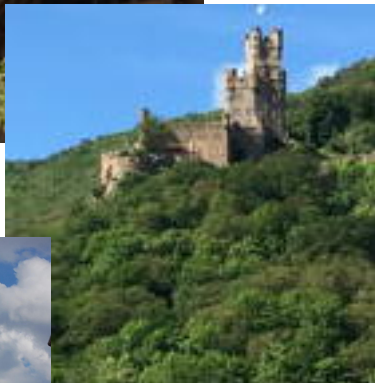
We'll meet at the Castle's new home at 115 Park Avenue, August 16th at 6 pm for the picnic and move right across the street to the Graceada Park/Mancini Bowl for the free movie "Incredible 2" at 7 PM. There is a great playland at the park too if you have already seen the movie. Grandparents are welcome to bring grandchildren anytime. Bring friends! RSVP to Karleen 484 3163 or karleenfelton@gmail.com

Senior Ministries Event



Rollin' on the Rivers-From the Alps to Paris

Join us for a time of fine food, fellowship, and photos on Thursday, August 22 at noon. After lunch (\$7) we will take a virtual cruise down the Rhine and Moselle Rivers in Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, and France via Linda and Dave Owen's photos taken this spring. Find the sign-up board in the foyer and let our cooks know you'll be here. You don't have to be a senior to attend! All are welcome.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites all to celebrate the diversity of Modesto.



Congregation Beth Shalom invites the community on Saturday, August 24 to view "Dear Freddy", a documentary about being proud of oneself and responding to hate with love. Freddy Hirsh was an Olympic-caliber gay Jewish athlete who could have left Europe for safety as the Nazis gained power, but he chose to stay for the sake of Jewish children. He ran a daycare center for 600 children in Auschwitz. The doors to this free event open at 2 PM for the documentary, followed by a panel discussion at 3:45 and refreshments and socializing.



The Fellowship and Recreation Commission is planning a baby shower for Kelly and Shaun Gepley, on Sunday, September 15th at 3 PM. Shaun & Kelly are registered at Target & Amazon; registered under "Kelly and Shaun Gepley" for Target and "Kelly Gepley" for Amazon.



Family Promise hosting week begins at 5:30 PM on Sunday, August 25. We still need a cook for Saturday, August 31, and several overnight hosts. Please check the sign-up board in the narthex and sign up!

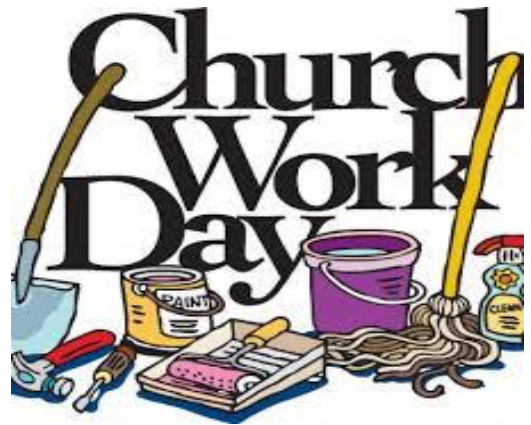
Calling All Choristers!



MCOB's august choral ensemble will resume regular rehearsals on

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00 PM. If you're a regular, put this on your calendar.

If you've been thinking/praying/wishing about singing in the choir, now's your time to decide...singing in choir will change your life! Any questions, check with me
Stephen Reddy, 527-7354.



Our fall ALL CHURCH WORK DAY has been moved up a week, to Saturday October 5th. The sign-up board will go up the end of August. Please save the date on your calendar. Solar panels, rain gutters, nursery cleaning, stump grinding, etc. will be on the list of things to do. From Building and Grounds



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Saturday, August 24.

Email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.

The Condensed Calendar

Monday, August 12
6:30 pm Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 13
1 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, August 14
6 pm Birthday Dinner-NOT A POTLUCK!

Thursday, August 15

Friday, August 16
6 pm F.U.N. Night.at Castles'
and Graceada Park

Saturday, August 17
3 pm Isaac Croyle's Memorial

Sunday, August 18
9:30am Sunday Study
11am Worship

dates
to Remember

AUGUST

August 22 12 pm Sr. Ministry event: Lunch,
Slide show-Moselle & Rhine River Cruise
August 23 6:30pm Candlelight Vigil,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakdale Rd.
August 24 2 pm "Dear Freddy"; Beth Shalom
Documentary, Panel discussion, refreshments
August 25 -9/1 Family Promise hosting
August 29 5:30pm Ladies' Night Out
Bel Piatta
August 29 5:30pm Men's Night Out
George's Steak House

SEPTEMBER

September 2 Labor Day--Office Closed
September 8 Grandparents' Day
September 15 3pm Kelly & Shaun's
Baby Shower
September 21 10:30am David and Mary
Strohm's Memorial

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