



# 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.*



## Reflection

### Will You Come and Follow Me By John Bell-Iona Community

Will you come and follow me,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
And never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you  
And you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
And never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
Should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you  
And you in me?

Will you let the blinded see,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
And never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
And do such as this unseen,  
And admit to what I mean in you  
And you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide,  
If I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
And never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
To reshape the world around,  
Through my sight and touch and sound in you  
And you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true  
When you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
And never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you,  
And you in me.

### The Iona Community

The Isle of Iona is a small island off the west coast of Scotland. The Iona Community was founded in 1938 by Rev. George MacLeod, to close the gap which he perceived between the church and working people. He took a group of ministers and unemployed skilled working men to Iona to rebuild the ruined medieval [Iona Abbey](#) together. The Iona Community has developed into a Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. Their publishing group, Wild Goose Publications, has produced music and worship material from which came this hymn that we sang in worship on August 25.

# Invitations to Worship

September 1

Scriptures: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Title: "A New Way to Measure"

Theme: The ways that we measure success are not necessarily God's!

Summary: Luke's text is more than about table manners in first century Palestine, and so this will not be a sermon from Miss Manners! However, it does seem like a lot of "if/then," actions happening. But as with most of Jesus' teachings it is not as simple as a black and white understanding. What it does offer us the challenge of reconsidering how we measure success in our lives and as a church.

September 8

Scripture: Luke 14:25-33

Title: "Count Well the Cost"

Theme: To be a follower of Jesus requires serious thought.

Summary: "Count well the cost," is a statement made by Alexander Mack, founder of the Church of the Brethren, and continues to be relevant today. In today's text Jesus delivers zinger after zinger which makes me wonder what the reactions of the "large crowd" were. However, the biggest zinger could be the last, that is found in verse 33. Consider what it has meant for you to follow Jesus, and what words of wisdom you might impart to those contemplating being a follower of Jesus.



September 1 Al & Elaine Forcier

September 8 Jolinda Reddy & Darrian Davis

## Hold in the Light



Kim Boardman is grateful for all those who attended Isaac Croyle's memorial.

Rita Matthews asks for prayer for her nephew, Rick Arnold, a police officer, who suffered a head injury during a rescue mission a few weeks ago. He has now awakened and recognized his mother, a positive sign.

Kelly Gepley reports that her baby shower at Graceada Park went well.

Mimsie Farrar felt God's call to attend the protests against the "Straight Pride" event, even though she was afraid of possible violence.

Eddie rejoiced that Maryco Graff and Dave and Sue Messamer were able to attend worship.

Chuck Messamer reported that the memorial for his cousin Ivan Bowman was a blessed remembrance.

Remember those who are shut-in, those who are ill, those who are lonely, those whose troubles are too deep for words.

Deacon on Call for September  
Jim Martinez

## In the Days Ahead

LIVE  
Generously

It is almost September, that time of year when we renew our pledges to support our church financially.

There is a story that speaks to our purpose in regard to that support. It goes like this:

A young boy from a poor family was walking home with a bag of groceries. It was getting dark as he made his way through the busy streets, and then it happened - the bag tore, the load dropped, and the groceries scattered on the sidewalk. Most busy pedestrians sidestepped the mess, except for one gentleman who had mercy on the boy. He bent down and helped him gather his supplies, cleaned up what was broken and restocked the grocery bag. As together they finished the task the little one, with tears staining his cheeks, looked into the face of the older man and asked, "Mister, are you Jesus?"

Yes, we look most like Jesus when we are generous, when we give with our hands and with our resources. Gandhi once challenged his followers, "The greatest way to change the world is to be the change we wish to see in the world."

Be the change. As we, in this corner of our world, try to follow Jesus, let us Live and Give Generously!

From The Stewards

**Attention! Attention!**



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 at 527-7354. ~Stephen Reddy



This **Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** at 6 PM will be our final Summer Potluck. The theme is Vegan/ Vegetarian. Come and join us!



**Faith Bites will begin Wednesday September 4th @ 6pm.** Due to cost increases we will be asking for a \$5.00 donation and \$12.00 for a family (A family is 3 or more folks).

We need help on Faith Bites evenings. There are garbage cans to empty, cleaning the coffee area, wiping off the tables and helping in the kitchen. If we all work together it doesn't take long. If you know of anyone who might be willing to cook a Faith Bites meal, please let me know.

Hope to see you as we eat and fellowship together. Fellowship & Recreation  
Sue Messamer





## Grandparents' Day Lunch Ice Cream Social

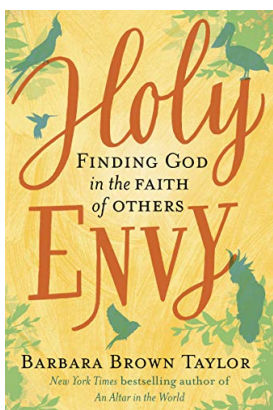
We look forward to seeing all of you on **September 8**, right after church, for food, fun & fellowship. We will have a **sign-up sheet** in the foyer for the event itself, and also for those of you who can make a freezer of **home-made ice cream**. Please sign up to let the cooks know how many to expect!

Gary House & Ed Whitby will be cooking a meal for us, so we will ask for a donation to help cover the cost of the meal. Should be a fun event....see you there!!



Modesto Church of the Brethren has supported the MoPride (LGBTQ+) Event the last two years. We are grateful they are having an event downtown on **September 14**, from 11:00AM to 6:00 PM, We are sponsoring a booth at the event to show that we are one of the local Christian Churches that are Open and Affirming. We know all God's children are precious.

Call/text Mimsie if you can help at the booth, providing information about our wonderful church family. [209-499-1571](tel:209-499-1571).



## Fall Book Study Coming Soon:

*Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others,*  
By Barbara Brown Taylor

An exciting, encouraging story of rediscovering and finding one's faith through the faith of

others. An exceptional book...challenging, hopeful, a wonderful guide to finding God. We will meet for **SIX Thursdays...September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17...6:00 -- 7:30 pm**. Books are available from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Questions? call Stephen or Jolinda...527-7354



Come to the Baby Shower for Kelly and Shaun's baby, September 15, at 3 PM. Shaun & Kelly are registered under "Kelly and Shaun Gepley" at Target and "Kelly Gepley" at Amazon.



Remember the memorial service for David and Mary Strohm, September 21, at 10:30 AM.



From the Board Chair:

At our Board meeting on August 12, the Board appointed two committees. The first one was recommended by the Stewards commission to study the recommendation that we separate the Treasurer/Bookkeeper position into 2 positions. They will study all the implications surrounding that recommendation and report back to the Board at the October meeting. This committee has met once. The members are Linda Hunter, Bill Johnson, Peggy Hoover and Pastor Andrew.

The second committee will search for a new Minister of Music. It will be a committee of 5 persons in addition to Pastor Andrew. All of the positions for this committee have not been confirmed yet. Sincerely, Karen Cosner



## Preview of a Coming Event!

*Sing to the Lord a New Song!*

Craig Courtney  
 • Masters in Piano Performance  
 • Music Co-Editor of Beckenhart Press  
 • Choral Clinician and Featured Composer

**Craig Courtney Choral Festival**  
**COMBINED CHOIR CONCERT**  
**Saturday, October 12, 2019**  
**4:00 PM**

Multiple Church choirs from the Modesto and surrounding communities will join their voices under the direction of Craig Courtney for this sacred program.

Modesto Church of the Brethren  
 2301 Woodland Avenue

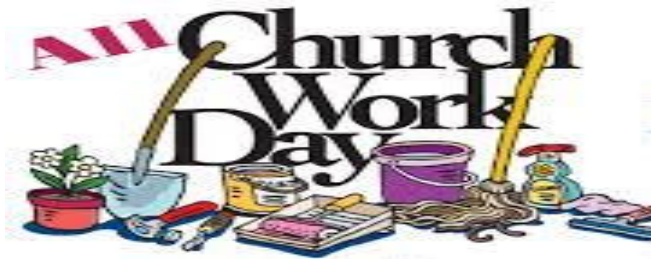
A Musical Gift to the Community

Contact  
 (209) 527-7354 Stephen Reddy  
 (209) 523-1438 Church Office

Craig Courtney is a renowned composer of sacred choral music, much of what our church choir has sung many times. We are fortunate that he has agreed to come to Modesto to conduct this concert, through the work of our choir director Stephen Reddy and pianist, Linda Bustle as well as other church musicians. Be looking for flyers much larger than this small photo, and be sure to attend this unique concert!







The signup board for the **All Church Work Day** at 8 AM on October 5th is up and in the Narthex. The good jobs go quickly. We will have solar panel cleaning, gutter cleaning, nursery toy cleaning, parking lot lines re-stripped, a crew to fix lunch, and window washing. We plan on digging holes for new trees to be planted if the old stumps have been ground down. We have a few more projects but that is the starting lineup. Sign up now and get the project that you want.  
~Building and Grounds



### 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.

## Prospector Potluck



## Schedule

Here are some dates for your calendar:

**October 6**, After-church potluck at the home of Bob and Lynda Sesser

**November 17**, Potluck Cancelled! Please attend the Church Council Meeting!

**December 14**, 6 p.m., Christmas party at the home of Eldon and Linda Williams

I hope you can join us for some great food, fun and friendly conversation.

-Margaret



*Articles and photos for the next issue of Chimes are due by Saturday, September 7. Email to: [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)  
The Editor thanks you.*

## The Condensed Calendar



**Monday, August 26**

Family Promise Hosting

**Tuesday, August 27**

1pm Bible Study

Family Promise Hosting

**Wednesday, August 28**

6pm Last Summer Potluck

Theme: Vegetarian/Vegan

Family Promise Hosting

**Thursday, August 29**

5:30pm Ladies' Night Out-Bel Piatto

5:30pm Men's Night Out-George's

Steakhouse

Family Promise Hosting

**Friday, August 30**

6pm Young Adult Gathering-Thai House

Family Promise Hosting

**Saturday, August 31**

Family Promise Hosting

**Sunday, September 1**

9:30am Sunday School

11am Worship



September 2 Labor Day—Office Closed

September 6 2pm Witness Meeting

September 8 12:15 Grandparents' Day Picnic  
and Ice Cream Social

September 9 6:30pm Board Meeting

September 14 11am-6pm MoPride Event

September 15 3pm Shaun & Kelly's Baby  
Shower

September 21 10:30am David and Mary  
Strohm's Memorial

September 21 Peace Day

September 23 First Day of Autumn

September 27 6pm FUN Night



October 5 8am All Church Work Day

October 6 12:30pm Prospectors' Potluck-  
Sessers'

October 12 4pm Craig Courtney Choral  
Festival

October 26 5:30-8pm Harvest Festival

October 31 Halloween

