



# 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.*



### "Listening to Winter" by Macrina Wiederkehr

The trees have shed their colorful autumn robes.

Winter is raging through the dark, empty branches  
and I am listening.

I am listening to the roar and to the quiet of winter.

I am listening to a beauty that sometimes remains unseen.

I am listening.

I am listening to the seed hidden in the earth.

I am listening to the dark swallowing up the light.

I am listening to faith rising out of doubt.

I am listening to the need to believe without seeing.

I am listening.

I am listening to the season of contemplation,  
to the urgency of our world's need for reflection.

I am listening to all that waits within the earth,

to bulbs and seeds,  
to deep roots dreaming.  
I am listening to the sacred winter rest.

I am listening.

I am listening to long nights,  
comforting darkness,  
fruitful darkness,  
beautiful darkness.

I am listening to the darkness of the winter season.

I am listening to the sparks of hope within the darkness.

I am listening.

I am listening to storms raging out my window,

to storms raging in my heart.

I am listening to all that makes me pull my cloak a little tighter.

I am listening to trust buried deep in the ground of my being.

I am listening.

I am listening to the kind permission of the season

to rest more often,  
to reflect more deeply,  
to pray without words.

I am listening to the sacrament of non-doing.

I am listening.

I am listening to my dreams and inner visions,  
to the unknown wrapped in the mystery of my  
life,  
to tears trapped in underground streams of  
my being,  
to seeds watered daily by those tears.

I am listening.

I am listening to the quiet life in winter's  
womb.

I am listening to winter, nurturing spring.

I am listening to brilliant winter sunsets  
and lovely frosty mornings.

I am listening to snowflakes flying through  
the air,

to the cold winds that often blow out there,  
to bare trees, so lovely in their emptiness,  
to one leaf that never did let go.

I am listening.

I am listening to winter  
handing over to spring.

I am listening to the poetry of winter.

I am listening.

*Many thanks to Anna Hazen for posting this  
poem on Facebook!*

*Happy  
New  
Year*



*In California!*



*Pastor Andrew is on vacation. Please  
come to worship on January 5 and 12  
and be surprised!*

January 5:

January 12



*Greeters for January:*

January 5<sup>th</sup>-Jolinda Reddy & Monique  
Sanders

January 12<sup>th</sup>-Fran Adkins & Rita Matthew

January 19<sup>th</sup>-Syl Bupp & Darlene Mathias

January 26<sup>th</sup>-Al & Elaine Forcier



### *December 22*

Jonathan Goodrich has a friend in the hospital

Darlene Mathias visited her mother-in-law who has been ill

Jeannie Canter has been ill, but is doing better.

Sara Miller reported on Steve's knee surgery

Roland Johnson says that his father Norm is doing well, except for a cough.

Carolers went to sing at 6 places

Josh Gilstrap-Katen said that his friend enjoyed helping with the youth group.

Kim Boardman had an early Christmas present: her oncologist has released her.

Tammy Firch is looking for storage for some of her belongings.

### *December 29*

Larry Cole was sent from Garden City skilled nursing to Doctor's Hospital, as his foot is not healing after surgery.

Jim Boardman thanked the congregation for the use of the Gathering Place for his family's Christmas celebration.

Cal Aukeman introduced family members visiting from Washington.

### *The Stewardship Commission*

would like to thank the congregation for their generosity in giving to the church budget. We met our budget. It always is a celebration to be able to pay all of the costs of operating our church. We also met our outreach plans of giving to the specified Witness Commission categories that are a strong commitment of our church. Blessings for Giving: Time, Talent and Funds. ~The Stewardship Commission

### *Thanks to The Carolers:*

Thank you to those who brightened our home with Christmas Caroling... especially my favorite, "O Holy Night."

*From Tom Deal*

### *Kudos to Family Promise:*

The December 27 issue of *The Week* Magazine featured **Family Promise** as its Charity of the Week. Since 1988 over 200 local affiliates offer temporary housing as well as transportation, child care, and connections to local social-service agencies. The main goal is to find housing and 88% of the families in the programs do that.

(Continued on next page)

Charities recognized by *The Week* magazine have earned a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, which rates not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, governance practices, and the transparency of their operations. Four-star is the highest rating by CN. ~From Pat Royer

## *Remembering...*

It's been a general tradition in this country to have a burial in a cemetery with a grave marker or tombstone. In recent years more and more people are selecting to have their bodies cremated and scattered or buried or disposed of in a different way. Because of this, the Deacons have established a loose-leaf binder to have a place to remember people from our congregation who have died but do not have a grave marker or permanent identification of their final resting place. Persons memorialized in the notebook would have had their ashes scattered in various locations, or might have donated their body to science.

This notebook would be a place of record for former members of this congregation and friends or non-members who have been active in this fellowship.

You are invited to add the names and some information about your loved one/family member who is deceased but does not have a place marked where the body or remains are located. You might like to look at the few that have been entered at this time to get a suggestion what you might like to write and picture. The requirements for the memorial are what would be informative and able to be contained on an 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper.

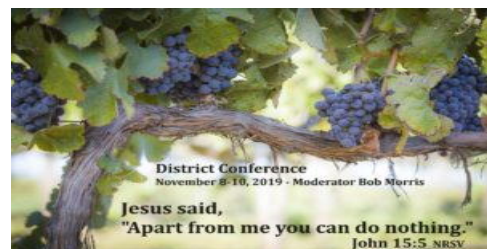
The book is located in our church library to be available for perusal. The notebook or binder is on a small rack on the top shelf at the right end of the shelf which backs up to the kitchen wall. **It is to be left at this location.**

If you have questions ask Mary Baucher or Pat Royer.



## **Pacific Southwest District Conference Report**

The Delegates to the 2019 PSWD Conference will report on the events of the Conference, which was held November 8-10 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ. The delegates will report on **Wednesday, January 8**, after the Faith Bites meal, as there is no Choir practice that evening.





## Senior Ministries Program



Seniors, get ready for another tour through Europe. Your guide this time will be Peggy Hoover as she shows pictures and tells tales of her 4 week trip through Germany (Viking River Cruise on the Elbe), The Czech Republic (Prague), Poland (Krakow, and Warsaw), England (London), and France (Evian, Versailles, Normandy, Le Mont Saint Michel and Paris). The tour will take place **Thursday, January 9th, 2020**, at the church. Come at 12 noon for a \$7 lunch.



### Continuing the Sock Project

Although Christmas is over, the need for clean socks for the clients of the Cleansing Hope Shower Shuttle continues. The Witness Commission has decided to keep the Sock Boxes in the Narthex for continued donations of socks. Please be generous.

Clean, new socks are vital for homeless folks, to keep their feet healthy. Many are on their feet most of the time, and worn or no socks can cause many foot ailments. So... Please

**Give**  
**SOCKS**

*Articles and photos for  
the next issue of Chimes  
are due by Saturday,  
January 14*

*Email to:  
[chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)  
The Editor thanks you.*



### 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.

## The Condensed Calendar



Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31  
New Year's Eve

Wednesday, January 1, 2020  
Happy New Year!  
Office closed  
**NO FAITH BITES**

Thursday, January 2

Friday, January 3

Saturday, January 4

Next Sunday--January 5  
9:30am Sunday School  
11 am Worship

January 7 10:30am Sr. Ministries Meeting  
January 8 7pm PSWD Conference Delegates  
Report  
January 9 12pm Sr. Ministries Event  
Viking River Cruise presentation  
January 14 7pm John McCutcheon Concert  
January 17 6pm FUN Night  
January 18 8:30am Board Retreat  
January 19 3pm Gene Palsgrove memorial  
January 20-25 Family Promise Hosting  
January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Office Closed



February 10 6:30pm Board Meeting  
February 14 Valentine's Day  
February 17 President's Day-Office closed  
February 29 Leap Year Day