



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.



What does a pastor's work week look like? Or, as Eli asked me the other day, "Dad, what do you do?" Both of these questions are attempts to understand the somewhat nebulous work of ministry in a congregational setting. After all, you see me on Sunday mornings but what happens the rest of the time? Here is my attempt to be more transparent about the happenings of church work.

During the week, Monday thru Thursday, I try to be in the office from 8-2:30. During this time I am available to meet with anyone who would like to stop by. Or, if you would prefer to schedule a specific time please contact me directly. I also spend time planning worship, attending a meeting or two, and assorted administrative tasks.

However, on Tuesday I will be visiting friends of the congregation during these hours. I am going to try and call or email people to find a good time and not just drop-in. Again, if you would like a specific day and time please contact me directly.

Wednesday is a day when there tend to be community meetings, such as, with interfaith leaders and other groups. I also have lunch out on these day as part of Caffeinated Church, whose locations can be found via the Chimes, bulletin inserts, and in the announcement screen at the conclusion of worship. I am open to almost anything and like a good recommendation of local eating establishments.

After 2:30 you can find me picking up my children from school and then coming home...usually. At home is where I spend time on sermon preparation, updating our social media presence (more on that later), returning emails and phone calls, etc. Some evenings I will come back to the church for meetings and Faith Bites and other church events.

Friday is my Sabbath day and I am away from my phone and computer. You can always message me, but I will probably not respond until Saturday. It is especially during this time that I am grateful for the Deacons who work with me on meeting the caregiving needs of the congregation. They are available during emergencies and help to cover my times away and on Fridays.

Saturday is a catch all day and I can be found doing any number of things! It is not unusual for me to be working on a sermon, at a church function, hosting a dinner for 6, or helping out where it is needed.

Sunday? I think you know where you will find me!

Basically, my week breaks down like this: 28-34 hours at 2301 Woodland Avenue or with its members, and 14-20 hours on administrative or sermon preparation. These are time approximations and a fluid schedule as emergencies arise, hospital visits must happen, and many other uncertainties will occur!

I have been asked how I would like to be contacted, and how can I be reached. In order: 1. Texting. 2. Face-to-face. 3. Email. 4. Phone calls. My cell phone number is: 909-525-7550 and the church number is 209-523-1438. My email is: andrew@modcob.org



February 2 - Jairus' Daughter Healed
SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:21-43

February 9 - Death of John the Baptist
SCRIPTURE: Mark 6:1-29



FEBRUARY GREETERS

February 2nd: Felton Daniels & Al Forcier
February 9th: Karen Seip & Barbara Switzer
February 16th: Bev Jefferies & Donna Heiny
February 23rd: Jonathan Goodrich & Eddie Hernandez



January 19

Jolinda Reddy thanks the church family for support after her melanoma surgery.

Larry Cole is working hard at physical therapy at Garden City.

Barbara Switzer had a surprise birthday party for her 89th.

Pastor Andrew is grateful for the work done at the Board Retreat.

January 26

Renee Gokey is grateful that her granddaughter Clarissa's illness is over.

Larry Cole has appointments with both surgeons this week and may go home soon.

Linda Hunter is concerned that her son Jesse has suffered a concussion in a tournament.

Jolinda Reddy will have her melanoma surgery stitches out Monday, but is now waiting for information about an aneurysm.

Terhesa Gamboa reports that her friend Robert is in rehab and is talking about college. Sadly, her dog Rommie has spinal stenosis and a tumor. Since Rommie is 12, there will be no more surgery, just good care to keep her comfortable.

Elaine Forcier encouraged Maddy Beth to announce that she has been accepted to attend a conference for future physicians at Harvard University.

Items of Note

WHAT IS A COUNCIL MEETING?

A Council meeting is a meeting for anyone in the church who would like to attend. The meeting is organized with an agenda that lists what is happening and when. This agenda is created by the Board Chairperson, Karen Cosner, Board Vice Chairman, Bill Johnson, Moderator, Linda Hunter, and Pastor Andrew Sampson, and is approved by the Leadership Team prior to the meeting.

At the meeting, there are reports from the different commissions, committees, and groups to tell some of their plans for 2020. There is also a time to hear from the treasurer about the yearly budget, amount of money the church has taken in and how much it has paid for bills, activities, etc. It is a good time to find out what is and will be happening in the church and ways that you can help.

Occasionally, there are questions that are asked and time for conversation to be had to answer them. Everyone is allowed to share their opinion, or ask a question on the matter. If a vote is needed, however, only members are allowed to vote at this time.

The Council meeting is the ultimate authority in the church. The members of the congregation make the decisions that dictate everything else. So please come, see how the church works, what is going on, and ways that you can help.

The first Council meeting of 2020 was held January 26. Following are the minutes of the Council meeting, thanks to Kim Boardman's quick work:

Modesto Church of the Brethren Council Meeting January 26, 2020 Minutes

- I. Call to Order: 12:54pm by Moderator, Linda Hunter
 - It was pointed out that there was not a quorum present, but that we would be proceed since we were not discussing any action items. All items voted upon would be contingent upon approval at our next council meeting.
- II. Devotions: Linda Hunter-Thanks for our food and a reading about possibilities in the new year.
- III. Approval of Agenda-M/S/P: Joann Ewert, Felton Daniels
- IV. Approval of 11/17/19 council minutes (see council packet)
 - M/S/P: Jolinda Reddy, Jeannie Canter
 - follow up comment by Felton Daniels about significant changes made in the 2020 Witness Commission budget.
- V. Treasurer's Report for 2019-Edie Ransom
 - see full report in council packet
 - see attachment #2: Summary of Budget Fund Transactions
 - Approval of Report-M/S/P: Eddie Hernandez, Karen Cosner
- VI. Reports: See council packet for details
 - A. Christian Education-Karleen Daniels
 - B. Witness-Jolinda Reddy
 - a. SERRV-no report
 - C. Buildings and Grounds-Bill Johnson
 - D. Personnel-Bill Johnson
 - a. Using same review process for 2020

- E. Stewards-Al Forcier
- F. Deacons-See attachment #3
- G. Fellowship and Recreation-Peggy Hoover
 - a. Senior Ministries-Felton Daniels
 - see attachment #4

H. Worship and Spiritual Life-Elaine Forcier

- a. Please give feedback about recent changes as Pastor Andrew steps into leadership.
- I. Minister of Music-Peggy Hoover
- J. Moderator-Linda Hunter
 - a. Goal to fix quorum issue
- K. Board of Administration Chair-Karen Cosner
- L. Pastor-Andrew Sampson

***All reports were **contingently** approved-M/S/P: Bob Sesser, Elaine Forcier

VII. Discussion regarding change of quorum number-Linda Hunter
 -Current membership is 201; all are encouraged to ponder this issue which will be decided at a council meeting in the near future (TBA)

VIII. Thoughts, reflections, questions

- A. Luella Cole: Why have the annual reports been changed for this council meeting?

Answer from Pastor Andrew: Leadership decided to change the format of this meeting to looking forward. Later in the year, we will have reports concerning what is actually completed.

- B. Pat Royer: Will there be a new directory this year? Answer: Yes, it will be available online and in print. Pictures will need to be updated.



1. Partner with strangers

- 1a. Cooperative work between commissions on events or goals
 - Ex. - Harvest Festival: Witness to publicize, Fellowship and Rec to cook, Christian Ed to plan activities, Building and Grounds to clean-up before/after, and Stewards to make sure that we can pay for it!
 - This will require communication, job descriptions so we know who is doing what and when, and bigger events that extend into the community.
- 1b. And we also need to partner with other faith communities and organizations with whom we share a common vision. We can do more when we're not having to do it by ourselves!
 - Communities that belong to the Interfaith Council, are a part of M-LINC, etc.
 - Community organizations like Modesto PLC, Family Promise, City of Modesto, etc.

2. Venture into the unknown

- Work on projects that we have not done before or revamp old ideas
 - Specifically, develop the acreage for the benefit of the community and by extension, us
 - Park-like setting: soccer field, basketball and pickle ball courts, playground or parkour course, 1-2 grow rooms, walking path, benches, and pavilion
 - Transitional and low-income housing, and a static site for Family Promise
- Other possibilities include a Church World Service depot, after school activities for neighborhood children and youth, and job training programs.

3. Listen to God and follow our conscience

- Live more comfortably as the community that we feel called by God to be!
 - Helping individuals feel more confident in who they are and what they believe.
 - Regular conversations about who the COB was, is, and can be
 - Working with all age groups that can help to alleviate some of the concerns within that stage of life and provide a community of support and encouragement.

- Develop a style of worship that is more inclusive of all people regardless of age, experience, identity, etc.

- Working more into our identity as a progressive church within a denomination that isn't.
 - Build bridges with PSWD congregations who may differ from ourselves, finding common values and working together on mutual projects
 - Identify areas where we can offer a prophetic witness to the PSWD and denomination
 - Using materials from BMC to explore more deeply who an SCN congregation is
 - Connecting with other SCN congregations and allies in the PSWD and across the wider denomination especially prior to denominational activities.





Hurray!

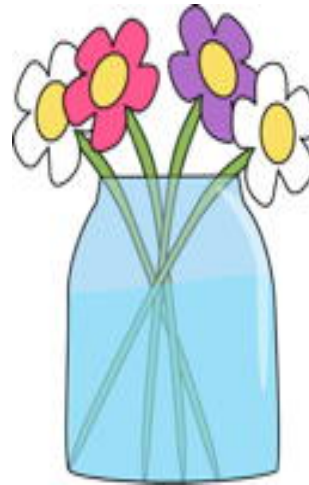
Our new heater and AC for the Gathering Place is installed and up and running.

~Building and Grounds



Mark these dates on your calendar! Our Spring All Church Work Day will be **Saturday, March 28th** from 9am to noon. Our Fall All Church Work Day will be **Saturday, October 3rd** from 9am to noon also. These are fun events and a good time to get together with your friends and help put a little polish on the church. Sign ups for the Spring event will begin around the 1st of March with the signup board in the narthex.

COMING SOON



Greetings to all!

We will be starting our after-church potlucks, once again. Here is the schedule:

February 9- At the home of Felton and Karleen Daniels
3611 Smokey Ct., Modesto

March 22- Hosts are Bill and Margaret Johnson.

May 3- Hosts are Al and Elaine Forcier.

June 7- Volunteers? (Please contact Margaret Johnson.)

For each potluck, bring a dish to share. Come and enjoy some friendly conversation while we enjoy the meal.



SENIOR MINISTRY'S HOBBIES, COLLECTIONS AND TALENTS EVENT

Thursday, February 13 at noon we will be entertaining ourselves with our Hobbies, Collections and Talents. Lunch in the gathering place will be \$7.00. Sign up for lunch in the foyer. If you have a hobby, collection and or talent please consider sharing it with all of us. Please contact Felton 614-6825 ASAP if you have something to share.

And BE PREPARED TO BE IMPRESSED!!!!



Camelot the Musical - Sierra Rep

Thursday March 12 - 2:00 \$30

Tickets on sale now - See Linda Owen.

MUST BE PURCHASED BY FEBRUARY 16!



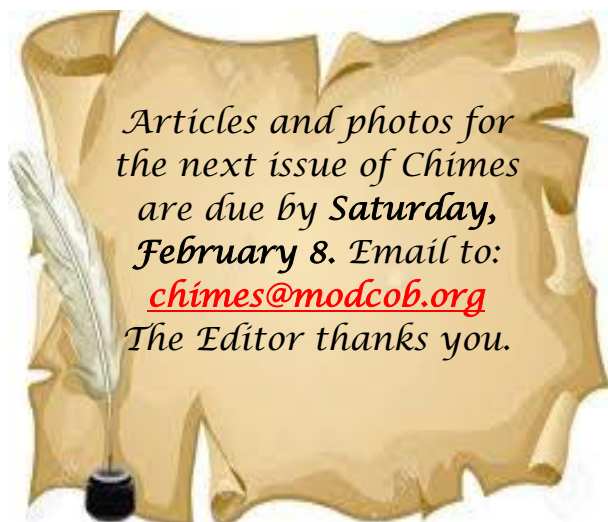
Welcome Statement

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 "New" Quiet Place

Take a moment to drop by the conveniently re-located Quiet Place. Come through the main entrance to the church, go through the work room, past the pastor's office, to the door on the left. Sign your name as a visitor and do a 1st timer 'walk through'. Maybe you'll want to come back later when you have time to relax, do one of the readings & 'sit a spell' and enjoy some quiet time. ~Elaine Forcier, for the Worship & Spiritual Life Commission



The Condensed Calendar

Monday, January 27

Tuesday, January 28

Wednesday, January 29

12:30pm Caffeinated Church-Chefs of NY
2307 Oakdale Road

6pm Faith Bites

7pm Choir

Thursday, January 30

Friday, January 31

Saturday, February 1

Next Sunday, February 2

9am Christian Ed Meeting

9:30am Sunday School

11am Worship

Super Bowl!

3pm Youth Super Bowl Party-
Sampsons' Home



February 4 7am Men's Group-Perko's

February 5 1pm Caffeinated Church-
Golden Bowl, 925 Sisk, Salida

February 9 12:15pm Prospector Potluck--
Daniels' home

February 10 6:30pm Board Meeting

February 12 1pm Caffeinated Church-
Brighter Side, 1125 K St.

February 13 12noon Sr. Ministry Event-
Hobbies, Collections & Talents

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 17 Presidents' Day-Office Closed

February 18 7am Men's Group-Perkos

February 19 1pm Caffeinated Church
Surla's--431 12th Street

February 21 6pm FUN Night

February 26 1pm Caffeinated Church-
Grill Mi--3848 McHenry Ave. #310

February 29 Leap Year Day!



March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins



Pastor Andrew's Office Hours are
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-2:30 PM.