



# The Chimes

Date: May 15, 2020  
Volume 20 Number 10

## Modesto Church of the Brethren

2301 Woodland Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358-9501 (209)523-1438

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: [office@modcob.org](mailto:office@modcob.org) ♦ web site: [www.modcob.org](http://www.modcob.org)

Pastor: Andrew Sampson Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



While we spend most of our time at home we might consider establishing a sacred space. This can be inside or out of our house and perhaps a new way of being spiritual. You can use this space while doing your daily devotional, while you join in Bible study or Sunday service or just when you need to pray or be still. You can add a candle or cross or plant whatever having a sacred space in your home means to you. I'm thinking of having a picture of Christ since I miss the Jesus window at church so much. It's gotten me where I've needed to be on many a Sunday.

"Jesus offers us profound peace, shalom, a wholeness that comes from our close connection to him. It is not peace instead of the trials, but peace in the midst of them."

*Carrie Amann Wujek '92 Notre Dame*

~From the Deacons and the Worship and Spiritual Life Commission

## Invitations to Worship

May 17 - Acts 2:42-47 - "Community"

May 24 - Jeff Glass will be preaching

May 31 - Acts 2:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-12  
"The Church's birth-day"

**Be aware:** Sunday Worship is being streamed via Facebook only, at 11 AM. It is not possible to stream to both Facebook and YouTube simultaneously. No account is necessary to participate in worship on Facebook. Just log into the Modesto Church of the Brethren page.



Good News: Jolinda Reddy is at home after her stay in the hospital!!

Rita Matthews is grateful for home delivered meals! See her article in this Chimes.

If you have a joy or concern that should appear in this section of the Chimes, please contact Pastor Andrew or your Deacon.

## Creative Worship in Modesto

Modesto Bee, April 27

Most stayed in their vehicles, windows down



and singing along as the worship band played. Others sat in lawn chairs just outside their cars,

or perched in pickup truck beds for a better view. Some held up their smart phones to capture video and photos.

In these various ways, members of Sunrise Christian Fellowship in Modesto turned out Sunday morning for a drive-in church service. Senior Pastor Max Richardson said the gathering came about because members of his congregation "just called me and called me and called me and they said, 'Figure out a way to get us back.' However legally we can, let's do it."

The church on Woodland Avenue just east of Highway 99 has between 150 and 175 members, said Richardson, who estimated that 100 turned out Sunday morning. Prior to the service, members waved and called to one another from their vehicles, and a few walked among the vehicles but were careful to keep their distance. Many wore masks.

"This pandemic cannot stop Sunrise Christian any longer," member Jenny Roberts said in an email. "We are gathering for the first time since the social-distancing order took place back in March, but with all social-distancing guidelines in place.

"All you need is a car, good coffee, and your smile. We will be six feet apart at all times and still being blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit and our church family."

The much larger Shelter Cove Community Church on Coffee Road also held drive-in services Saturday and Sunday. It had two 16-by-9-foot-video walls set up in a parking lot and used an FM transmitter to allow members to listen on their vehicle radios. Meanwhile, a public-address system sufficed for Sunrise Christian.

"We are making do with what we have, and that's all right," Roberts said. After a chorus of horn honks to welcome one another, congregants were told, "It is good to see every car and everybody here."

Richardson said things would be kept simple, with a little shorter service and no Sunday school, for example. "We have one restroom that we're allowing open," he said about precautions being taken, "and we're only allowing one person in at a time."

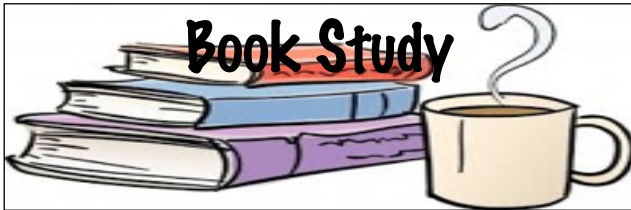


Camp Peaceful Pines Board has been officially notified by Alpine County that it will not be given a permit to operate our camping program this year due to COVID-19.

The good news is that we will be allowed to send small teams of workers to continue our remodeling projects, using safe space guidelines. Hopefully, if we can open camp in 2021, we will be sporting new and improved facilities!

~Elaine Forcier, Camp Representative





During the current 'shelter in place' situation, several virtual opportunities for social & spiritual connection within our church family are available through the wonders of technology. These Zoom gatherings include two Wednesday Bible Studies, a spiritual growth group, a men's fellowship group and a women's book study group. In response to a suggestion at the last board meeting, we are now offering an additional book study.

If you're interested in joining a new book group please let me know and we will determine the best time and date to meet everyone's needs. Any suggestion regarding potential book titles would be helpful too!  
~ Elaine Forcier, Worship & Spiritual Life Commission



Dear Friends,  
We missed meeting our Family Promise guests at our last scheduled Family Promise hosting week due to the Coronavirus! However, the program continues to operate, with modifications, of course.

Since our hosting week in January, three families have moved into homes of their own. Two new families have been added, so the program is full again. To accommodate the social distancing requirements, the families are being housed in a motel...a very expensive proposition! (Continued in next column)

Not only must the motel be paid, but gift cards need to be provided for the families' meals. Donations are needed to cover the additional expenses that are happening because of the COVID-19 situation. Donations can be made through the church, or sent directly to:

Family Promise, 2301 Woodland Ave., Suite 8, Modesto, CA 95358-9501

~Linda Williams, Family Promise Coordinator



When I decided to isolate myself in March, I came across the Senior Information number for meals. I had meals delivered after surgery years ago and they included tiny boxes of milk and small loaves of bread. So I called them again, mainly to get the milk and bread!

I was considered eligible because I am over 65, I live alone and I don't drive. If you are able, they ask you to pick up meals at the Area Agency on Aging on Coffee or at the Senior Center on Tuolumne.

Much to my surprise, my delivery came in a beautiful green and yellow refrigerated truck! My 5 meals, milk, bread, margarine, fruit juice, fruit and a cookie were frozen and neatly packed in layers in a numbered cardboard box. I have discovered they make several meals of beef, pork, chicken, fish and pasta. All meals can be heated in their packaging in regular or microwave ovens. So far, I think I have eaten 30 meals. Most of them are great, always with vegetables. Please spread the word to your friends and relatives. (Continued, next page)



The Agency says the meals cost about \$3 each. If you are unable to pay, it's okay. I am so happy to have these meals. I eat better than cooking for one. If you or your friends are interested, please call the number above and they will have someone return your call for eligibility. ~Rita Matthews



### The Christian Education Commission Is Coming at this Virus with Creativity!

The Christian Education Commission is thinking that getting "church" into children's lives might be easier for parents than we first thought. Kids can just turn on the computer and Zoom, Facebook or whatever. They can do it in their pajamas! Mom and Dad can observe and even participate while all this is going on. This may be our new way of doing church for quite some time. Some churches have actually reported larger attendance by doing things this way.

However, we know there is NOTHING that takes the place of actually being face to face and really interacting with one another. We look forward to the day when we can get back to doing church for children in a more personal way by sitting together, listening together, learning together, and playing together.

The children and youth leaders have met twice this month and have planned some activities for the coming weeks that we hope will be enjoyed and remind the children that they are loved and valued by our church community.

For our first activity, sidewalk chalk was delivered to all the children. They were asked to draw something when they thought of church and take a picture of it to share. We have a Facebook page (MCOB family and youth) to post pictures of their efforts for everyone to see, and some of the pictures are here, in miniature!. In the future we will try to do some of our events on Zoom. In short, we want to **CONNECT!!** Watch for more pictures and articles to come.



**Modesto Church of Brethren  
Board of Administration      MINUTES**

**May 11, 2020**

**Present:** Karen Cosner, Linda Hunter, Edie Ransom, Marye Martinez, Karleen Daniels, Felton Daniels, Jim Martinez, Sue Messamer, Elaine Forcier, Kim Boardman, Andrew Sampson, Bill Johnson

**Absent:** Jolinda Reddy

**Meeting held online via Zoom.**

I. Opening Devotions-Sharing by everyone about some quarantine experiences.

Reminder: Keep your report short, only what is coming up in the next couple of months. Raise hand to be acknowledged if you have a comment or question. Please no side conversations.

II. Approval of Agenda: approved as printed

III. Approval of April 13, 2020 Minutes-M/S/P: Bill Johnson, Sue Messamer

IV. Treasurer's Report for April

Edie Ransom

-see attachments

-questions concerning Christian Ed and miscellaneous account

-M/S/P: Bill Johnson, Marye Martinez

V. Reports

A. Stewardship

Jim Martinez

-\$600 sent to Heifer for chicks

-concerns about meeting expenses during shut down

-Recommendation: If needed to cover operating expenses end-of-year account will be used first, followed by the bequest account

-Motion to accept recommendation/S/P: Karleen Daniels, Felton Daniels

-Operating Budget Reserve Account is still available also

B. Pastor

Andrew Sampson

-Original dates to be absent are cancelled; should be home most of the summer

- copyright purchased to livestream music legally
- letter from board chair and pastor mailed
- concern that church may not resume in-person until September; no choir/singing possibly for safety
- thinking about youth and others missing significant life milestones
- C. Witness .... Marye Martinez
  - cooking at 9<sup>th</sup> & D on Thursday
- D. Worship and Spiritual Life Elaine Forcier
  - Quiet place and labyrinth are available for individuals
  - 8pm Bible study has been added, but no participation yet; perhaps make it a book study instead
  - welcoming banner not needed at this time; checking with Kevin Miller
  - possible fall activities: yoga with Jolie Lapora; labyrinth walk on September 21
- E. Member at Large Felton Daniels
  - in talking with some members, most are doing fine with shut down
- F. Christian Education Karleen Daniels
  - Two meetings recently and will continue with bimonthly meetings in May to pick up contact with children/youth
  - delivered chalk to children with instructions to post to Facebook
  - coloring page with instructions to mail to another member
  - working on a Zoom FUN activity
  - nursery/children's church probably not allowed when we return in person
- G. Moderator Linda Hunter
  - Constitution committee is making progress
- H. Building and Grounds Bill Johnson
  - reduce janitors to one day per week (Monday)
  - Discontinuing dumpster rental for now; not generating enough trash currently; budget savings through end of year
  - Zoom will be used for meetings
  - solar panels need to be cleaned; gutters cleaned in October
  - Bill Johnson and Bob Sesser to power wash exterior and refinish doors

I. Deacons

Marye Martinez

- most members are doing fine
- all members are encouraged to keep contacting each other
- commercial communion purchased
- encouraging people to establish a quiet/sacred space in or around their own home

J. Personnel

Bill Johnson

- no report

K. Fellowship and Rec

Sue Messamer

- no food and no fun for now
- staying in touch with Wednesday Night Dinner folks with cards

VI. Other:

- Annual Conference cancelled
- PSWD conference will be online

VII. Next meeting, June 8, 2020 at 5:30 pm

VIII. Adjourn: 6:35pm