



The Chimes

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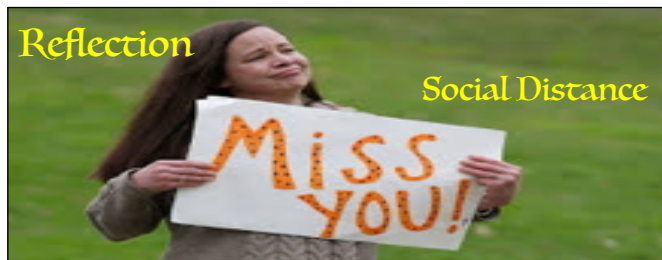
Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Pastor: Andrew Sampson Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently...."

"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed." ~Kitty O'Meara (sent by Linda Owen)

Over a month has gone by since I have written anything under the Chimes heading. Since we have not been together in person, it has been difficult to gather enough information to fill even one page of the Chimes. But we all need to be able to connect to each other in any way we can, since we are not together in person.

Some may not know that Pastor Andrew has provided virtual ways that some of us

have used to be together in the last few weeks, through Zoom Bible Study on Wednesday and Sunday worship through Facebook and YouTube.

Please join the group who participate in the Zoom Bible Studies, Wednesdays at 1 PM. Pastor Andrew sends an email detailing how to log onto Zoom, with a computer, tablet or phone. The Bible study Wednesday is a preview of the scripture for the following Sunday sermon, which deepens understanding.

Sermons on Sunday begin at 11 AM. Log onto Facebook, look up Modesto Church of the Brethren and click on Videos. On YouTube, open the app and type Modesto CoB in the Search box at the top of the page.

On Zoom, participants using computers and tablets can see and hear each other and carry on conversation. On Facebook it's possible to type comments during the sermon and afterward. All the sermons are saved on the apps for listening again or listening at a different time.

Invitation to Worship

Sunday, May 3: Scripture, Acts 3:1-11

Sunday, May 10: Scripture, Acts 2:42-47 - "Community"

Sunday, May 17: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 - "The greatest gifts"



Dear Friends,

On the afternoon of Monday, April 27, several members of the Church Board, healthcare professionals from the congregation, and Pastor Andrew met on Zoom to discuss how the church will move forward during the ongoing pandemic. Our conversation took place, in part, due to the overabundance and often contradictory information about the coronavirus.

And so, we wanted to provide a plan as clear as is possible, since it appears that we will be unable to resume in-person worship until June or later. We developed this plan based upon two consensuses: there is a deep desire to be together, and an equal desire to be safe.

Therefore, we will continue to work on improving our connections with one another, finding new ways to worship together, and to be guided by science and data in making these decisions. We also want to emphasize that this is a constantly changing situation and we will do our best to stay abreast of the most current information that we have available. We also encourage you to be informed through the same sources that we are using: State of California, <https://covid19.ca.gov/>, Stanislaus County Health Agency, <http://www.schsa.org/publichealth/pages/corona-virus/> and the Center for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

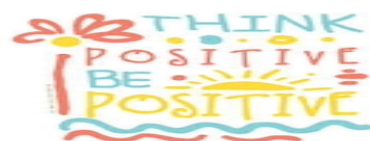
Our current worship continues to change and hopefully, improve, as we learn more about the various technologies - Zoom, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube - that we use.

We understand that there are limitations to technology, but believe it is a good alternative. We would like to continue live-streaming our worship once we resume our in-person worship to keep connected with our church family as well as those looking for a church. Additionally, we are investigating the cost to upgrade our equipment, share copyrighted material, and other programs to improve the quality of our transmissions.

We would like people to share their joys, concerns, prayer requests, and notes of encouragement with Pastor Andrew so that he can share them anonymously online as it is one aspect that is missing and most requested in the service. You can call or text Allison or Andrew by Saturday each week, as well as letting Luella know so she can send out a weekly Chimes. If you would be willing to share your thoughts about this experience, an interesting story you heard or? Please send the information to Luella. We are doing our best to stay connected with you and encourage you to stay in touch with each other and lift-up one another in prayer.

We are grateful to the Deacons and other caregivers within the church who are reaching out to others. If you need some help, please let the office know or call the Deacons. The gift of community is always valuable but especially so in a time like this. We are thankful for each one of you and all that you are doing! Stay safe and be well,

Karen Cosner, Board Chair
Andrew Sampson, Pastor



Eddie and Gayle Hernandez would like to remind congregation members that the current Upper Room devotional is available at the church. If you are able to come to the church to pick one up, please call the office before you arrive, to make sure there is someone there! There may be a supply of the books outside the front door if you can't get in or would rather stay outside.

Eddie and Gayle have offered to deliver an Upper Room to you if you live in Modesto and can't travel to the church. Please call them at 209-857-5982 to arrange a delivery.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

The Stewardship Commission would like to encourage all members to be sure to mail in or drop off your monthly giving.

This month our giving has declined. The total giving for this month was less than \$17,000 and our operating expenses alone average around \$20,000. It needs to be noted that the \$20,000 operating expense figure does not include any of our outreach budget items. We do have reserves; however, they are meant to be set aside for one-time expenses or emergencies.

We realize that not having services at church each Sunday is the main reason many of you have not sent your monthly offerings. We encourage all to make the effort to send in your tithes each month. Prayerfully we ask your help!

Jim Martinez/ Stewardship Chair.



FELTON DANIELS IS ON THE PEACE/LIFE CENTER'S RADIO STATION

My show called "WHERE WE WERE" has episodes about the history in and around Stanislaus County. The newest episode is titled THE STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIR FROM WATERMELONS TO LIVESTOCK. My thought about writing this article was to give you the times for the broadcast, since we are sequestered and hearing about the Fair would give you something to do.

THE STANISLAUS COUNTY FAIR FROM WATERMELONS TO LIVESTOCK is already on the air. You can find it on KCBP 95.5 FM at the following times: Thursday, April 23 and 30 at 9 AM, Friday, April 24 and May 1 at 8:30 PM, Sunday, April 26 and May 3 at 11 AM and Monday, April 27 at 9AM. I hope you hear something new about the Fair. It has a far more interesting past than I realized.



A longer version of this article was sent out earlier this month, giving the history of the Modesto Peace/Life Center and how it happens to have a radio station. In future issues of the Chimes, that information will be repeated.

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.

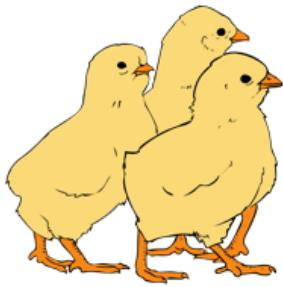
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

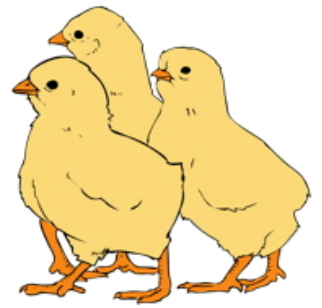
*- Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM
March 13th 2020*



Brother Richard is a priest-friar of the Irish branch of the Capuchin Franciscan Order.



! CHICKS!



Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we will be sending \$600 to Heifer International to provide flocks of chicks to families in areas where they are needed. The Witness Commission thanks the members of the congregation for your generosity!

Heifer International says, "Your flock of chickens gift donation helps provide a family in need with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks, along with the training to care for them. Each flock of chicks provides eggs and protein for nourishment; and boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring. Chickens require little space and can thrive on readily available scraps, so the families don't have to spend much.

Have fun coloring the chicks!

