



# The Chimes

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## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



To say that a lot has happened within our country and community over the past couple of weeks is a gross oversimplification! The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis as well as those of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor have caused civil and social unrest in our world as well as in our thoughts, our actions, and our reactions. As I sit here and try to think about what to write, the words are not coming easily.

So, I want to begin by apologizing for the things that I have said which were insensitive and hurtful, actions that were inconsiderate and careless, and thoughts, that while private, were toxic, hurtful and mean-spirited. As well as the times when I could have spoken but remained silent, could have acted but did nothing instead, and implicitly became part of the system of oppression rather than an ally for justice. Perhaps the two most difficult words to speak in the English language are, "I'm sorry," but now is such a time when they are most required, so I humbly offer them to you today. I will try to do and be better.

But if you are as interested as I was in understanding the systems of injustice that exist and of which we all, to some degree, play a part, then I would encourage you to take a Harvard Implicit Association Test, <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>. There are multiple tests offered and I would urge you to take at least one. However, you should know that the results may make you uncomfortable, angry, and want to change the world! I am also available if you take one of these tests to talk about your feelings and reactions to what you have gone through. Blessings to you all as we continue being a community that strives to follow Jesus in word and deed, seeking justice for the oppressed, and advocating for the needs of the neglected!



June 7 - Acts 17:1-9 - "The Church Begins to Grow, Part I "

June 14 - Acts 18:1-4 - "The Church Begins to Grow, Part II "

**What does the Lord require? A statement from David Steele, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren (excerpt)**

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"--Micah 6:8*

Our hearts break for the loss of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and so many others who have lost their lives due to the color of their skin. Each death represents injustices disproportionately affecting the Black community.

Many across our country have protested in the wake of George Floyd's death because of the way authorities delayed arresting and charging the police officers involved, but most importantly because his killing is a perpetuation of the injustice, violence, and racism that have devalued and harmed Black Americans for centuries.

Many protests have remained peaceful; violence has erupted in some. What is clear is that the nation, and especially our sisters and brothers from various racial backgrounds are hurting and in mourning.

**Jesus commanded in Matthew 3:8: "Bear fruit worthy of repentance." Bearing the fruit of repentance, we stand in solidarity with all who suffer from injustice, violence, and racism.**



**"Summer (or anytime!) Reading Ideas"  
(Submitted by Stephen Reddy)**

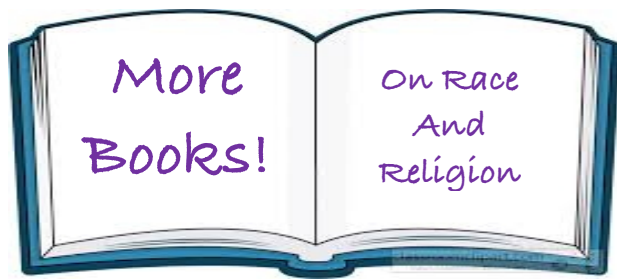
The Future of Faith ~Harvey Cox  
Unlearning God ~Philip Gulley  
An Altar in the World ~Barbara Brown Taylor  
Leaving Church ~ Barbara Brown Taylor  
Holy Envy ~ Barbara Brown Taylor  
Days of Awe and Wonder ~Marcus Borg  
Abraham ~ Bruce Feier  
Not in God's Name ~Rabbi Jonathan Sacks  
Fire by Night ~ Mellisa Florey-Bixler  
Speaking Christian ~Marcus Borg  
What is the Bible? ~Rob Bell  
Hallelujah Anyway ~Anne Lamott



**More Books?**

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 & we will determine the best time & date to meet to meet everyone's needs. Any suggestion re: potential book titles would be helpful too!

**Elaine Forcier, Worship & Spiritual Life**



Here are some books recommended by those who participated in the Zoom discussion about race relations last Tuesday night. I've added some that Amazon sells and recommends.

Biased ~Jennifer L. Eberhardt

The New Jim Crow ~ Michelle Alexander (We used this at a church retreat, led by Wendy McFadden)

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S. ~Lenny Duncan

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America ~Richard Rothstein

Divided by Faith ~Michael Emerson and Christian Smith

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? ~Beverly Tatum

Notes of a Native Son ~James Baldwin

Just Mercy ~Bryan Stevenson

White Fragility ~Robin Diangelo

And...A few good books for young children:  
All Are Welcome ~Alexandra Penfold  
We're Different; We're the Same~B. Kates  
Where Are You From? ~Y. S. Mendez  
Lovely ~Jess Hong



## Camp Peaceful Pines News

Derek Castle went this week to Camp Peaceful Pines with Lindy and Lois Franz from the Empire church. They worked on the new cabin that had mostly been completed last year. They painted and added shutters and new doors to keep out the weather. While there will be no camps this summer, the Forest Service is allowing us to continue with much needed maintenance.

Next week Derek and Jenni are flying with their 9 year old granddaughter to Arkansas to visit their son and his family. They are looking forward to seeing their 3 grandchildren but, of course, apprehensive about the risks of flying.





In place of Joys and Concerns this time, I will publish some of the many Milestones that were sent for the Chimes. From now on, the Chimes will publish Milestones in each issue. I still have more, but keep the Milestones coming!



Cica Akpovi recently graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Public Health.



Tom and Nancy Deal celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 4<sup>th</sup>.



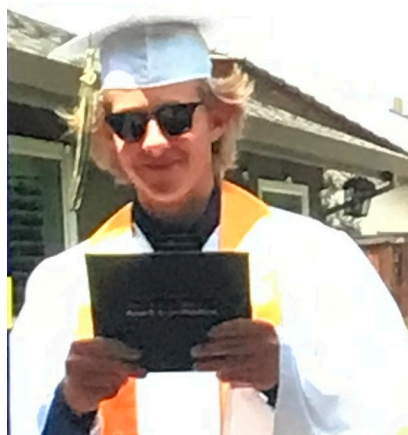
This is Lily Belle. She was running around loose in the neighborhood for months before I caught her, two weeks after Rommie passed

away. I didn't want another dog so soon. I listed her with a rescue and she was adopted but returned the next day. She was meant to be here with me. We love each other very much. She will be a great dog with time and training. ~Terhesa Gamboa



Dave & Linda Owen celebrated 50 years of marriage with a small backyard family gathering and with many greetings through social media on Sat., May 23.





Nate Johnson, Luella's grandson, graduated from Gregori High School. He is planning to go to Sierra College in Rocklin to study engineering and play water polo.



Kim and Jim Boardman are both retiring from teaching. Kim taught 6, 7, & 8th grade science at Salida Middle School. Jim taught physics and chemistry at Riverbank High School. One thing they will do in retirement is visit national parks.



"Milestones" will be a regular feature in the Chimes from now on. Even if your milestone is past, it can still be recognized in the Chimes. BUT.... In order to be sure that your milestone gets into the Chimes, you must send it to **[chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)**. If it is sent to any other email address, it may go astray. Thanks to all who have sent pictures and stories about their Milestone! There is no limit! If you have another milestone, send it in!