



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.



13 weeks! Can you believe that we have worshipped online for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the year? Last Sunday, June 7, we broadcast our thirteenth worship service online. In case you are not sure what I'm referring to or maybe you do not have Internet access let me take a moment to explain. Since we began to shelter-in-place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Modesto Church of the Brethren has shared a worship service Sundays at 11 AM through Facebook and YouTube.

Our first Sunday to go online was March 15 and there have been some spits and sputters along the way - the first week the camera was turned the wrong direction! However, we persevered and continued to work at putting together a meaningful service. New technologies were (and are) being used, multiple people have been involved in the service, and we continue to refine the experience. And while I will not say that it is perfect; we have gotten more used to what the technology can and cannot do since that first week.

There are two reasons why I am excited about online worship. First, it has helped to connect and reconnect our church community - especially those who are far away and those who cannot attend as often as they would like. And this is why we will continue to stream our service online even after we resume our in-person worship. How wonderful it is to be together even when we are apart! The second reason for excitement is how online worship has expanded our community! We do not know where all the viewers are from; however, we do have the numbers on the number of people reached for each week - 400+ (394 on Facebook, 20 on YouTube)!

What this confirms for me is that our message of inclusivity, peace and justice, and seeking to follow Jesus is one that people are longing to hear and see lived out. We may not be perfect, but we are working at being better in all of these areas.

I leave you with one last appeal. If you see something posted on the church's social media accounts, whether it be a worship service, an article or photo that you found challenging or interesting, or an event, then please share it to your personal page. Let's see if we can share our vision with even more people.



Invitations to Worship



June 14 - Acts 18:1-4 - "The Church begins to grow, part II "

June 21 - Acts 13:1-8 - "The Church begins to grow, part III "

Just a
Reminder!



Budget concerns...

Giving falls behind...

Ministry funds needed...

Do you recall how you used to tie a string on your finger when you wanted to remember to do something? Now you just set the reminder on your phone or tablet. Well, however you do it, it is time to update your giving to the church. Modesto Church Stewards as well as the denomination's stewards are reminding us that giving is down.

During these days of "virtual" church it is easy to forget that bills keep coming in and ongoing ministries keep needing support. We have not paid any of our Outreach so far this year. We want to uphold our promises. Job layoffs and other unavoidable circumstances certainly prevent giving as usual, but those of us who are able to tie that proverbial string on our fingers, now is the time.

~From the Stewardship Commission

June Birthdays



1 Cica Akpovi
12 Emily Matteson
12 Monique Sanders
17 Felton Daniels
17 Kelsey Boardman
17 Lyla French
17 Kelly Gephart
17 Emily Gilstrap
22 Tony Bates
23 Mary Pieczarka
25 Terhesa Gamboa
27 Josh Roy

New Study Opportunity!

In light of current concerns re: injustices towards people of color, we are offering a new Zoom study led by Jim Costello. He will use the book White Fragility and other related readings as resources. Please call Jim Costello at (209) 402-9191 for specific information. Day & time to be announced. ~Elaine Forcier for the Worship & Spiritual Life Commission



YOGA ANYONE?!?

News flash! Starting soon in our church Gathering Place...a beginning Yoga class for folks of all ages and skills. Many of you remember Neva Forney, who graciously led yoga in our facility for so many years...and finally we have a new leader to carry on her 'torch'. Our own Jolie Lapora, having recently completed a yoga teaching course, is excited to lead a new morning class from 9:30 to 10:30, beginning Tuesday July 7. Bring a yoga mat or towel and an adventurous spirit. It may be just what you need to connect body, mind and spirit to find the calm we seek during the current storms of life.

Annual Conference Church of the Brethren



Denominational Worship Gathering "New World Coming!"

July 1, 2020

8:00 pm Eastern; 7:00 Central; 6:00 Mountain; 5:00 Pacific

On July 1, 2020, a **Denominational Worship Gathering** will take place virtually at 8:00 pm EDT. It will center around the theme: "New World Coming!"

The service will feature the preaching of Kayla Alphonse and Paul Munday, with a wide array of music, including selections by Jacob Crouse, Janelle Flory Schrock and Kendra Flory, the Keister Sisters, Shawn Kirchner, Nancy Faus Mullen, and Josh Tindall. Two of the hymns of the denominational virtual choir will be offered: 'Move in Our Midst,' and 'I See A New World Coming.'



General Secretary David Steele will offer prayers for the church. A wide array of persons from around the denomination will offer other expressions of worship leadership.

A series of congregational stories will also be featured, lifting-up the missional fervor and outreach of the Church of the Brethren from around the world.

In a season of disruption and despair, the service will point to the God in Christ who makes a way where there seems to be no way (Isaiah 43:19) -- encouraging us to build new worlds in God's name (Luke 4:18-19) -- seeing with eyes of faith, the vision of the Lamb (2 Corth. 5:7) -- as a weary earth sings -- nevertheless -- a New Song of New Creation, in Jesus (2 Corth. 5:17; Rev. 21:1-8)! A worship bulletin will be available by June 24th at www.brethren.org/ac/virtual

Children of All Ages, Welcome to Worship!

July 1, 2020

7:30 pm Eastern; 6:30 Central; 5:30 Mountain; 4:30 Pacific

Mark your family calendar for a 25-minute children's worship experience on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern time where you'll meet Louise Boid, a colorfully opinionated bird from Brooklyn, NY. as she moves to central Pennsylvania to get away from those noisy New York City ducks and pigeons! Louise Boid is brought to us by "The Puppet and Story Works" founded by Dotti and Steve Seitz of Manheim, Pennsylvania.



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You'll also experience a storyteller, Linda Himes from LaVerne Church of the Brethren, sharing the message of God's love for each of God's children, yourself included!

There will be songs, led by Carol Hipps Elmore, Minister of Nurture and Music at the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, interspersed throughout that will keep you singing and moving. Finally, Louise Boid will sing her latest rendition of "Rockin Robin!"

We hope you'll join us for a delightful children's worship time, immediately preceeding the denominational worship service. Both of these worship times are planned and sponsored by the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

Photo by Keith Hollenber

Church of the Brethren Online Concert

July 2, 2020

8:00 pm Eastern; 7:00 Central; 6:00

Mountain; 5:00 Pacific



An hour-long music celebration featuring Brethren musicians from across the church will be presented online July 2, 2020, the evening after the Denominational Worship Gathering and Children's Worship Service.

The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee is securing musical offerings from a wide variety of Brethren musicians, providing a variety of musical styles and instruments.

Contributors to the concert will include Brethren singer/songwriters Joseph Helfrich, Michael Stern, Shawn Kirchner, Seth Hendricks, Terry and Andy Murray, Jacob Crouse and Bittersweet Gospel Band. In addition, selections are scheduled from the Miami First Church of the Brethren, the women's choir from EYN Mubi, and several memorable excerpts from recent Annual Conferences.

In addition, a longtime friend of the Church of the Brethren, Ken Medema, has agreed to write and record a song specifically for the event.

The concert will be hosted by Program and Arrangements Committee members Emily Shonk Edwards and Carol Elmore.

We hope you'll join us for this cross section of inspirational music from around the church, as part of the 2 day activities in lieu of an actual in-person Annual Conference gathering.

Photo by Glenn Riegel



& Supportive Communities Network

Three weeks ago the Chimes featured an article from Pastor

Andrew regarding the rebuke the leadership of the Church of the Brethren had sent to On Earth Peace for its decision to join Supportive Communities Network. He assured our congregation, as members of Supportive Communities Network, that the rebuke has no effect on us.

Last week the members of the Tuesday Night Book Group decided that some members of our congregation should respond to On Earth Peace and the COB leadership. Margaret Johnson wrote the following letter:

Fellow Brethren,

It was with sadness that we read the May 18 statement from the Leadership Team regarding the One Earth Peace decision to join the Supportive Communities Network.

We understand that the Leadership Team is constrained by polity and felt it necessary to take the position it did. By the length of the statement, it is clear that much effort went into crafting a thorough explanation. It is certainly a difficult position to take, considering the divisions within the denomination.

We congratulate and welcome On Earth Peace in joining the Supportive Communities Network. We understand this move is not without risks. We Brethren are supposed to "count well the costs" when following Jesus. Why would we not act in love and true acceptance?

Sincerely yours, Margaret Johnson

Patricia Royer	Luella Cole
Nancy Deal	Mary Baucher
Trish Galt	Libby Higgs

This week, our letter was answered:

From: Bill Scheurer <bill@onearthpeace.org>

Subject: Fwd: Supportive Communities Network position

Date: June 10, 2020 at 12:16:44 PM PDT



To: billmarg3504@icloud.com, prayer@juno.com

Margaret,

Thank you so much for your bold expression of support for OEP joining the SCN community!

Imagine a denomination whose leaders and agencies refused to stand for enforcement of unjust and exclusionary interpretations and applications of its traditions and policies. Your letter points to that future possibility.

Peace be with you,
Bro. Bill



Milestone Anniversaries!

Art and Shirley Crane will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on June 29th.

Larry and Luella Cole will celebrate their 17th wedding anniversary on June 28th.

Congratulations to the Graduate!

Al Forcier's granddaughter "Brianna " is graduating from Oregon State with an engineering degree.

Please keep the Milestones coming—Joys and Concerns, also!