



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.



On Wednesday evening, June 24, I met with several representatives of the Church Board - Karen Cosner, Bill Johnson, Linda Hunter, and Marye Martinez as well as two healthcare professionals from the congregation - Jim Costello and Allison Sampson - to continue the conversation about the pandemic and assess its impact upon in-person worship. This is an ongoing conversation and we meet as needed to assess and reassess the situation in which we find ourselves.

We recognize that there is a feeling of urgency to resume in-person worship, and we balance this concern with the necessity of keeping the congregation healthy and safe. There has been a significant increase in the number of coronavirus cases within Stanislaus County to such a degree that we have been deemed a hotspot within the state.

Therefore, we feel that we are unable to set a date for when we could possibly resume in-person worship because the situation has gotten worse. We will not be returning to worship during the summer months, July and August, as there are too many unanswered questions in regard to the pandemic. The committee will work to keep abreast of developments during the upcoming months to inform the congregation on what is happening and how those events impact the church.

We will be distributing the state of California's revised guidelines to all commissions and committees to help keep the congregation healthy and safe as they contemplate small, in-person gatherings. If you would like to have a further conversation, share a concern, or have a question in regards to the state guidelines, please feel free to contact me or any of the members within this group either by phone or email.

~Pastor Andrew



Percent change in hospital patients

SELECTED CALIFORNIA COUNTIES



Worship Online!

June 28 - Acts 13:13-16, 42-49

"The Church Begins to Grow, Part IV "

Worship begins on Sunday at 11 AM on Facebook. To join us from your Facebook home page, type Modesto Church of the Brethren into the search line. If you don't have a Facebook account, type this into the address bar of your browser:

[Facebook.com/modcob](https://www.facebook.com/modcob)



Bill Johnson had his aortic valve replacement Thursday. Margaret reported that he was already sitting up in a chair soon after the surgery.

We rejoice at seeing people online for worship who haven't been there before

Andrew is grateful for new candles to light for Joys and Concerns

Evan says a prayer of gratitude for everyone wearing masks in public.

Mary Pieczarka asks for traveling mercies for daughter going to Olympia, Washington.

Luella's daughter, Kate Gandy, had carpal tunnel surgery Friday morning and is home.

Please send joys and concerns to
chimes@modcob.org



SAVE THE DATE!

Are you sad about missing **Peace Week** this year? Never fear, Peace Week has been scheduled for **July 20-24th**, via Zoom, 10:15-11:30 each day.

Mr. Rogers understood the necessity of having difficult conversations with children, on difficult topics. That's why he wrote his, Let's Talk about.... series of books to help adults discuss things like divorce and adoption. In the spirit of Fred Rogers, our theme for Peace Week this year is *"E is for equity; let's talk about racial justice."*

We will be using children's picture books each day to help our children develop understanding, empathy and compassion. We will have activities designed along the theme of each book, songs and even a few games thrown in just for fun. **Save your space for Peace Week by calling Karleen Daniels at 209-484-3163.**

Children will receive a packet of supplies for each day's activities before the week begins. Remember, Peace Week is for elementary school age children 5-11 years old.

Please save **July 20-24th** to join us in our **Peace Week** activities. Please check your email next week, if you are a family on our Christian Education email list, for a flyer about registration, or call Karleen if you have questions. More will be discussed on how to register in next week's Chimes.



Brethren Volunteer Service

What is BVS?

Through BVS, Brethren Volunteer Service, people give their time and skills to help a world in need. Volunteers work at issues greater than themselves, recognizing that their efforts may not immediately solve deep-rooted problems. Yet everyone can be part of the on-going work to advocate for justice, work for peace, serve human need, and care for creation.

As a ministry of the Church of the Brethren, BVS has been the hands and feet of Jesus by advocating justice, working for peace, serving human need, and caring for creation for more than 70 years. The horrific recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and a long list of others before them, has brought further attention to the oppression of and violence towards our black brothers and sisters and demands that we continue to be Christ's hand and feet by advocating justice today. BVS stands firmly that Black lives matter and that racism is sin.

As a BVS community, how are we using our voices to advocate justice in this time?

We confess that we have been silent during times that marginalized communities have suffered and that our silence has made us complicit in giving power to white oppression. We repent of these sins and commit to increasing our listening, education, and dialogue about anti-racism.

While working to understand how we perpetuate systemic racism, we will purposefully create space to amplify black and brown voices during our orientations and in our office as a staff. Micah 6:8 says, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." May it be so.

Annual Conference Church of the Brethren



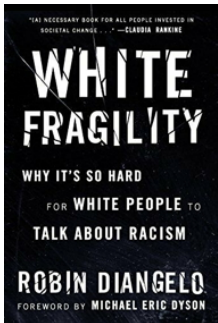
Don't forget! The Church of the Brethren is holding online celebrations for the whole denomination on July 1 and 2, the days when the now-canceled 2020 Annual Conference would have begun. A **Denominational Worship Gathering** on July 1 starting at 8 p.m. (Eastern time) will be preceded at 7:30 p.m. (Eastern) by a **Children's Worship Experience**. On the next evening, July 2, a Church of the Brethren **Online Concert** will start at 8 p.m. (Eastern time). Details are at www.brethren.org/ac/virtual . Links to the online events will be available at <https://livestream.com/livestreamcob/onlineevents2020> .



YOGA ANYONE?!?

News flash! Starting soon in our 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. We now 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 calm we seek during the current storms of life.



New Study Opportunity!

In the light of current concerns regarding 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. Several persons have signed up already. Please call Jim Costello at (209) 402-9191 for more information., and to sign up.

Day & time to be announced.



June is nearly over and I received no milestones for this week's Chimes.

I have a few milestones for July that will appear in next week's Chimes, but I'm sure there are more that I haven't seen yet! Please send milestones to chimes@modcob.org!



Stanislaus County
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL

Annual Prayer Supper Event: Why Pray?

Sunday, June 28th, 2 -4 PM

This year, at this time of physical distancing, you are invited to join us on-line with Zoom for the screening of a brand new, locally produced video featuring many younger people explaining why they pray or meditate in the many spiritual communities represented in our region. We'll break into discussion groups to further explore what these teens and young adults have to teach us.

Go to <https://zoom.us> and enter the meeting ID
#: 882 5008 6819

Please join us, and be prepared to be inspired!



Stanislaus County
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL

A Plea from Stanislaus County Interfaith Council:

"This group has a long and deep history and connection with the Modesto Church of the Brethren. We are currently meeting (on-line via Zoom) on the first Wednesday of each month at 5pm. **We are missing having a rep or board member from your congregation.** Can you suggest someone who would like to participate? Let me know if you have any questions." ~Rabbi Shalom Bochner, Congregation Beth Shalom

