



The Chimes

Date: July 3, 2020
Volume 20 Number 17

Modesto Church of the Brethren

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

fax: 209-523-1469 ♦ e-mail: office@modcob.org ♦ web site: www.modcob.org

Pastor: Andrew Sampson

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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

Reflection:

Running in the Dark

From the May, 2020 *Messenger*:

Andrew: I feel like I'm running in the dark through a maze at 100 miles per hour most days. Having been at Modesto Church of the Brethren for less than a year, still building relationships, trying to find what services the community offers to those in need, and the "normal" day-to-day has been exhausting.

There has also been some learning on the fly: how to create an online worship service, for example. That is tiring because of its being new. Working more hours from home has also added chef and teacher to the mix of responsibilities and honestly, I've never felt busier.

Relationships, especially relationships beyond the four walls that we call home, have really helped. I've appreciated our deacon body and other caregivers who are calling emailing, etc., with people from the church network. I know that they've been hard at work, and it is helping alleviate a lot of the burden. And the Pacific Southwest District and Russ (Matteson, district executive) offer support through frequent communication and check-ins

The congregation's response has been putting people first. Our first online worship service was March 15, and the decision to go from in-person to online was made largely because of people's concerns during the week. We cut our office hours in half, but the decision was made to continue to pay the regular salary to our administrative assistant and janitorial staff. The executive committee recognized that it was important to keep everyone employed. Even more intentionally, we are asking, "How will this help and encourage others?" as we make decisions in an ever-changing landscape.

I believe that the church, individuals, and family units will come out ahead. How? Because we have pushed the hard reset on our lives and have been reminded of what is really important. I believe that these "new" priorities will play an even bigger role in all those areas I mentioned. We will be changed by this experience, and I pray that it will be for the better.

(Allison wrote an article for the *Messenger* also! Check the May issue!)

Worship Online!

July 5: The Church Begins to Grow:
Scripture: Acts 13:13-16, 42-49.

July 12: The Church Begins to Grow
Scripture: Acts 16:1-10



Keep Romy Mueller in your prayers as she recuperates from a fall.

Maddy Beth is home from visiting family members.

Bill Johnson is home after a medical procedure

Gayle Hernandez daughter is ill

The Reddy's new email address is

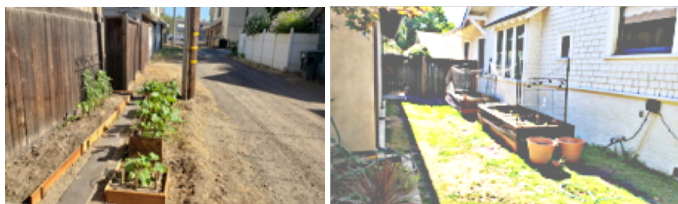
jolindasteveryredy@gmail.com

Annaliese Akpovi's father's wife is in ICU

Many elder members are completely alone during the COVID-19 pandemic; keep them in your prayers and contact them occasionally.

Derek and Jenni Castle have returned from visiting their 3 grandchildren in Arkansas. Before they left, they had developed community vegetable gardens with their neighbors. Some gardens are in the alley and some are between the houses. They returned to successful germination and looking forward to sharing lots of veggies with their neighbors later in summer.

Community Gardens



Remember! Send your Joys and Concerns to chimes@modcob.org by Thursday evenings!

YOGA UPDATE!



In response to recent safety concerns in the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, we've asked church leaders and medical personnel for guidance. The consensus is that a yoga class can be held safely with adherence to safe space guidelines. The beginning class led by Jolie Lapora will meet OUTDOORS in the courtyard from 9:30 to 10:30 in the cool of the morning beginning on Tuesday, July 7. Participants will need to bring their own yoga mats & water bottles. Hand sanitizer is available, but bathrooms are not. Safe space will be maintained at all times. For any questions or concerns, please call Elaine Forcier 345-8015.



I'm sure you are all aware that numbers of COVID-19 cases are going up in our county. We are concerned about keeping you safe, so for now there will be no gatherings in the church courtyard.

We will look at this again in mid-August and hopefully be able to schedule more gatherings. If we think it's safe we can come together again and have some fun. Miss you all. ~Sue for Fellowship and Recreation.





July 4-Independence Day
Harold Canter Navy



Canter's 34th
Wedding Ann.
July 16, 1986
in ALASKA



Larry Cole's Birthday
July 8th

The Chimes has become a weekly newsletter. To maintain it, the editor needs information from you! Please send articles, pictures, Joys and Concerns and milestones to chimes@modcob.org no later than 5 PM each Thursday so the Chimes can be published by Noon on Friday every week!



Welcome Statement

Believing that God's unbounded love and grace, as taught by Jesus, are offered to all and meant to be shared and celebrated by all, we embrace persons of every age, race, sexual orientation, ethnic and religious background, physical and mental ability, and economic means as vital and integral members of God's family. As an Open and Affirming congregation we welcome everyone to participate in the life and worship of our church.

Caregiver Needed!

Kelly and Shaun Gepley are on the search for a small child caretaker for 9-month old Ezra. Interested parties must be willing and able to take him for walks around the neighborhood in his stroller, change him, play gently with him, feed him provided meals and snacks, push him on the swing set in our backyard, and enjoy the company of two small dogs. This position is potentially a 5 day/week position and is paid \$18.00/hour. The hours are from 7 AM - 3:30 PM. Interested parties must contact either Kelly (call or text: 209-918-9892; email: kellycearley@gmail.com) or Shaun Gepley (call or text: 916-529-0555; email: sgephart87@gmail.com). Note: Due to COVID-19, it is required that interested parties continue adhering to guidelines of social distancing, face masks, and avoiding public gatherings while **not** caring for Ezra. Please only respond if you have been adhering to these guidelines, as we want to make sure Ezra is not exposed to more than necessary.



E is for Equity:
Let's Talk about Racial Justice

Monday - Friday 10:15

11:30 AM

July 20-24

\$15 per family

on ZOOM, organized by

Modesto Church of the Brethren
Christian Education Commission

Peace Week has emerged in a new form! We didn't want to miss our annual summer chance to focus on peace for a week with some of our favorite children and more of their friends. We can't do a big group meeting this year, due to the pandemic, but we can connect and play and pray together.

It seems especially important this year, as Black people in our country have once again had to face terrible prejudice and violence and many people are protesting and speaking out. What questions do our children have, and what tools can we give them to respond with love and understanding and courage? We have an hour of activities planned each day to learn and work together toward peace:

Monday - Loving Ourselves and Our Differences

Tuesday - Prejudice gets Personal

Wednesday - Segregation: History hits Home

Thursday - Solidarity: Black Lives Matter Friday -

Activism: Changing our Community

We have found some great books we will be sharing, along with Bible verses, songs, poetry, prayers, coloring, original art, and a little dancing! Please seriously (and quickly; time is flying by!) consider joining us. The first 20 families to register before July 10 will receive their own copy of two of the books in our series.



To register and pay on-line, go to EventBrite.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/modesto-church-of-the-brethren-30605136730>

You can also pay by mail to MCOB, 2301 Woodland Ave., 95358 and complete this Google Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxs9uk-orA4BGirqXWmieJn2naJuW3kSoXLcrGNmhJrAXMyg/viewform>

Questions: contact Karleen at 209 484-3163 or the MCOB office at (209) 523-1438.

Your kids will receive a packet of materials that we will be using during the week. Once your family's registration is received, you will receive an email/phone call about when you can pick up the packets, or how to arrange a delivery, if necessary

