



The Chimes

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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.



One of my favorite authors is Henri Nouwen and I recently read this meditation of his:

Solitude is the ground from which community grows. Whenever we pray alone, study, read, write, or simply spend quiet time away from the places where we interact with each other directly, we are potentially opened for a deeper intimacy with each other. It is a fallacy to think we grow closer to each other only when we talk, play, or work together. Much growth certainly occurs in such human interactions, but these interactions derive their fruit from solitude, because in solitude, our intimacy with each other is deepened. In solitude we discover each other in a way that physical presence makes difficult if not impossible. In solitude we know a bond with each other that does not depend on words, gestures, or actions, a bond much deeper than our own efforts can create. . . .

In solitude we become aware that we were together before we came together and that life is not a creation of our will but rather an obedient response to the reality of our being united. Whenever we enter into solitude, we witness to a love that transcends our interpersonal communications and proclaims that we love each other because we have been loved first (1 John 4:19). Solitude keeps us in touch with the sustaining love from which we draw strength. (<https://henrinouwen.org/resources/daily-meditation/page/30/>)

A common disappointment that I have heard expressed by many over the past few months has been the inability to be together as a community, and I can certainly empathize with that feeling. It has been difficult to not be together! However, as I read Nouwen's meditation the line that struck me was, "...in solitude, our intimacy with each other is deepened." I believe that this has, is, and will continue to happen and be a blessing as we move through this time. May our intimacy with one another be deepened even as we are apart for our health and the health of our community.

Andrew Sampson
From the
PASTOR'S DESK



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

The Church Begins to Grow
July 19 - Acts 16:9-21

Online 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)

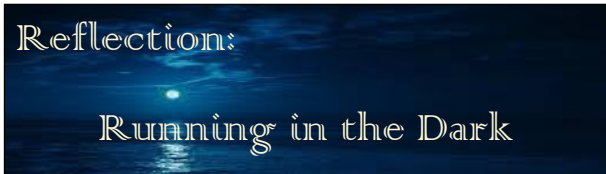


Keep in your prayers Charmaine and extended family of David Garrison, who passed away July 9th. There will be no memorial service at this time.

Please keep Norman Johnson in your prayers as he is at home suffering from Shingles. Cards would be welcome.

Larry Cole is having some medical procedures for his right foot, trying to keep it healthy.

Remember, send Joys and Concerns to
chimes@modcob.org.



Last week, I featured Pastor Andrew's article from the May 2020 *Messenger*. This week, it's Allison's!

This pandemic has affected me on many levels. First and foremost, as a front-line nurse, I am living in the "trenches" daily. I am emotionally, physically, morally, and spiritually drained. In my 20 years of nursing I have never been afraid to come into work. Now I am, every day. And second, it has been a lot to deal with as a pastor's spouse at a new church.

What has kept me afloat is knowing that people out there are praying for healing and praying for us on the front line. Words cannot express the gratitude. Also our new church family is so supportive. Between contacting each other, notes of encouragement, feeding the hungry, and online meetings we are still together even though we are apart. We have continued to grow and keep the community together. Our local congregation is amazing.

My children have also given us a sense of normalcy during this time of change. I love that I can come home and, because they have not been exposed to all the fear, they relay this sense of security and love.

I hope that the faith community continues to reach out to those in need by calling them, writing letters of encouragement, ordering groceries, etc. And *stay home* unless you need groceries! And pray for everyone.

P.S. What Allison didn't say is that she has been an integral part of the online worship services: leading singing, helping with the technical aspects of presenting the worship service, and undoubtedly many other details that come along with having the worship service based in her home! Thanks to Allison!

YOGA IN THE COURTYARD



As you can see from the photo, several folks turned out for yoga in the beautiful shaded area adjacent to our majestic redwoods! You, too, can bring a mat and join us weekly at 9:30 on Tuesdays in the cool of the morning! Through the practice of yoga, you can find inner calm and peace of mind while also improving your balance, strength and flexibility....all helpful ways to cope during the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions? Call Elaine Forcier 345-8015.



1-Trish Galt
3-Chelsea Feeney
5-Dana Roy
8-Larry Cole
16-Sue Messamer
19-Chuck Messamer
20-Caleb Katen
24-Elaine Forcier
27-Shaun Gepley
31-Renee Gokey

If I left out any July birthdays, let me know!

"With Glad and Generous Hearts



Cash Receipts 2020

January \$18,172.65

February \$16,342.00

March: \$8,027.66

April: \$16,061.00

May: \$22,900.00

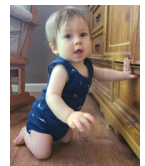
June: \$15,286.00

Total \$119,689.31*

*** This total reflects 39% of our budget total with 50% of the year elapsed.**

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 more than necessary.





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

Monday - Friday

July 20-24

10:15-11:30 AM

\$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.

