



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.



*From the
Pastor* 

Over the past few weeks I have met with a small group - Annaliese Hausler-Akpovi, David F. Messamer, and Ann Marie Washington - for crucial conversations about moving the church forward to be a more inclusive community. These conversations have been encouraging, challenging, and allow for introspection, and I believe that they will help us to grow as a congregation. During our last gathering we discussed how it might be helpful to further us along by understanding the Church of the Brethren's history with a focus on how we have been complicit to racism.

Therefore, beginning on September 13 at 9:30 am we will have a Sunday school class in which we take a closer look at our history as a denomination. The following week we will have a time for further conversation. At this point, we are planning on having this be a video series that you can watch at your convenience one week, and then have a conversation with Zoom the following week. (but we are watching the pandemic and will modify as needed)

September 13 - An uneasy awareness

September 20 - conversation

September 27 - Adjustment

October 4 - conversation

October 11 - $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$

October 18 - conversation

October 25 - Splitsville

November 1 - conversation

November 8 - Becoming mainline

November 15 - conversation

November 22 - Two worldviews

November 29 - conversation





Church begins to grow

July 26 - Acts 16: 18-40

August 2: Pastor Andrew on vacation; message will be given by Anna Hazen.



Keep the Boardman family in your prayers. Dorothy Tate, Jim Boardman's mother, passed away July 23.

Michael Fletcher has had another surgery for tumors in his brain. Cards are welcome at:

Michael & Becky Fletcher

43100 Palm Royale Drive Apt. 1024

La Quinta, CA 92253

Linda and Bob Sesser are celebrating 55 years of marriage.

Mary Pieczarka asks for prayers for her son Peter who is stationed in Baghdad.

Sue Messamer asks for prayers to overcome depression.

Give thanks for the life of John Lewis and all he did for this country.

Monique gives thanks that Marquis is home after a visit to extended family. She asks for prayers for Hastings, the Golden Retriever that is part of the family and is having health problems.

Allison asks for gratitude and encouragement for all who were involved in planning and carrying out Peace Week.

Please keep in your prayers all those who may have troubles too deep for words.

Outreach Opportunities

Help us to support these organizations in our community and around the world which work to meet direct human need, locally and globally, and challenge injustice that works against the reign of God.

Inter-Faith Ministries began over 40 years ago when a group of people from diverse backgrounds and faiths came together to serve the needy out of two small houses in downtown Modesto. Motivated by love and united by faith, they set out to meet the most basic human needs by feeding and clothing the poor. Our location has changed. Those little houses are gone. The population and need have grown—even our mission has evolved—but our hearts' cries for goodness, justice, and provision have remained the same.

The people we serve experience an atmosphere where they are respected and empowered by the choices and respect, they are given. We consider the physical AND emotional health of every life we touch and do our best to direct our energy into their most foundational needs. As we learn more about those needs, we adapt.

We give healthy food through our Feed Modesto programs, we give clothing and address other emotional and physical needs through our Humanitarian Services, and we provide countless ways to get involved on the front lines of social good through our Volunteer Opportunities.

We serve the equivalent of over 3 million meals a year to our most vulnerable neighbors, where over 20% of our population lives below the poverty line. This includes more than 36 THOUSAND children. Thanks to programs like *Gleaning & Gathering*, and the Free Mobile Farmers Market we are able to distribute over 40 tons of fresh produce each year.

Hunger isn't an abstract idea here. Poverty isn't just something we see on the news. They are quiet and pervasive afflictions that almost certainly affect someone you know. At IFM, we are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with this community to fight for health in a tangible way.

Health is hope. Hope changes lives in more ways than we can count, but without you we are just a building, some lofty ideas, and some furniture. We can't do this without you.

Borrowed from their website, <https://interfaithmodesto.org/>



On Earth Peace is an agency of the Church of the Brethren, a "Historic Peace Church."

While our inspiration is rooted in our faith, our programs can help any church, school, community, group, or individual grow in this work without regard to any or no religious affiliation.

We help individuals, churches, and community groups who are ready to learn and use active nonviolence to respond to conflict, injustice, and violence.

The OEP community is committed to full inclusion of people of all identities, and to the work of racial justice and anti-racism transformation. This open welcome is core to the values, vision, and mission that guide all our work. Everyone from "radical disciples," to "spiritual but not religious," to "nones and dones" find a warm home at OEP to do your work for justice and peace.

OEP is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization committed to financial transparency, and to good stewardship of the time and money provided by our practitioners and supporters.

Borrowed from their website, <https://www.onearthpeace.org/>

**New offering from On Earth Peace:
More information on the next page!**



ON EARTH
PEACE
PRESENTS

RAISING RACE
CONSCIOUS KIDS
SESSION 1:
INTRODUCTION TO
THE PREDOMINANT
METHODS

THURSDAY, JULY 23 AT 8 PM ET



CO-LEADERS: LAURA HAY & PRISCILLA WEDDLE

Laura is the Youth and Young Adult Intern at OEP. She is a rising senior at UC Berkeley majoring in Theatre Performance Studies and minoring in Public Policy. Priscilla is the Children's Peace Formation Coordinator at OEP. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration at Old Dominion University.



To Family Promise Congregations:

I hope you are all staying safe and well as our community continues to navigate so many challenges. Our hearts are encouraged by the generosity that the communities of faith in our network continue to share with our guests through your financial gifts, supplies and meal cards. Many of you have called asking about other ways you can help as we work to find ways to assist families and lower health risks.

We are happy to share that we are in the process of opening our new project. We have secured three apartments in Modesto that we will be using as alternative shelter for families. The two one-bedroom and one two-bedroom units are partially furnished and we've received a wonderful donation of new beds from Ashley furniture.

We know that you and our guests miss the fellowship of sharing meals and visits to your houses of worship so we continue to look for ways that we can share hospitality and connect despite the pandemic.

As we welcome families and support them to overcome homelessness, here are several ways your congregation can help: **(See list of needed items on the next page. Family Promise is one of our Witness outreach programs. Due to COVID, congregations have not been able to give direct help as before. Please donate as you can.)**

One of the leaders is our own Laura Hay. Laura recently joined the staff of OEP.

On Earth Peace is holding a four-week webinar series on how to raise race-conscious kids. Topics will include how parents and teachers can address race, the myth of color-blindness, the role of racial scripts, and the future of racial justice.

We will use the book *"Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children In A Racially Unjust America"* by Jennifer Harvey to guide the discussions. However, reading the book is not required.

This webinar is a space for all community members to join in conversations about raising all kids to be race conscious, not just for people raising white kids.

We will be meeting every Thursday, 8pm-9pm ET, July 23rd through August 13, 2020. The webinar has already begun, but if you are interested contact:
https://www.onearthpeace.org/webinar_series_raising_race_conscious_kids

1. We are in need of a dinette set with four chairs for one of the apartments. Please let us know if you have one to donate or you would like to purchase one for us.
2. Household Items - I've attached a list of the items that we need to stock in order to welcome our first guests.
3. Adopt a room or item (kitchen, linens, bath items) to restock for the next family. We hope that families will be able to move on to their next home in 90-days or less. Please let us know if we can call on your congregation to help prepare for the next family.
4. Sponsor our turnover/cleaning team. Help cover the cost of professional cleaning between families (\$250-\$400 per unit).
5. Offer support for the families with an encouraging Zoom meeting, call or email. Let us know if you'd like to be on our support list to offer a kind word or prayer to our guests. FP staff will assist with connection.
6. Care Package - Perhaps your congregation might like to send a care package on what would have been your scheduled hosting week.
7. Donations to provide supplies. We know shopping can be a challenge so donate Walmart or Amazon cards or cash so we can order household items for delivery.
8. Other creative ideas - Family Promise has always been a place that welcomes new ideas for compassion and creativity. Do you have a skill to share or idea for a virtual workshop?

Is your congregation offering virtual tutoring or children's activities? Let us know and we'll share with our guests.

9. Name our apartment project! We've been so busy with legal, insurance and the other technical needs that we haven't named our project yet. Send us your ideas!
10. Join our team - Family Promise is seeking volunteers in a variety of roles: board; committees; marketing; fundraising; website design and more. Please give us a call or email if you would like an application. Please email Debbie or me or call our office to schedule donated items. Our office is currently open by appointment only due to COVID Blessings, **Tamra Losinski**, Executive Director Phone: 209-549-9454



*Merry
Christmas!*

*Okay, this may seem a little early as it's not quite the end of July, but...
We're looking for favorite*

family recipes, traditions, memories, and a picture (or two) that you would like to share with us. We are looking to create an Advent devotional and would like to add these items.

Please email items to Pastor Andrew (andrew@modcob.org) by October 15 to be included!