



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.

REFLECTION SYLLABUS From Pastor Andrew

School has started, or is about to, for many of our young people, families, educators, and administrators! However, the beginning of this school year is quite different from years past and everyone involved has done remarkable work in adapting, creating, and implementing the new ways of learning. Our prayers and thoughts go with those who are in the midst of this extraordinary time. The new ways of going to school are unlike anything that most of us have experienced - logging into a computer or tablet along with one's classmates to join a lecture or lesson, not having to ride the bus or in a car to get to school, and almost being able to go to school in one's pajamas. Yet, there are some things that have stayed the same - reading books and writing papers, learning how to write and spell our names, and the teacher giving out a syllabus at the start of class.

Personally, I appreciated the syllabus as it helped me to know what we were going to be doing and when. It provided a look into the future and tied together what sometimes felt like a series of random or unrelated topics. The syllabus also helped me to stay on task by gently encouraging me to the next task or slowing me down from jumping too far ahead.

So, I have created a syllabus of sorts for the next two months of Bible texts that I feel are important to the church as we move forward. We spent the last few weeks looking at our past to what and how the Church emerged in the early days of Christianity. Now we are going to look at some scriptures and topics which I believe will be crucial in helping us to be relevant, encouraging, and challenging in the years ahead. These texts are listed here and some of the topics include community, equality, environmentalism, and inclusivity. The list may grow and spill into November, but for now it will just include the months of September and October. The Church needs to have a game plan and here is one way that we can do that. May we consider who God is asking us to be for ourselves, our neighbors, and the wider Church.

September 6 - Matthew 22:36-40

September 13 - Micah 6:8

September 20 - Luke 18:15-17

September 27 - Acts 2:42-47

October 4 - Genesis 1:26-28

October 11 - Galatians 3:26-28

October 18 - Luke 1:46-55

October 25 - Revelation 7:9



Oscar Hollis is home from the hospital after suffering a stroke. Please keep Oscar and Ginny in your thoughts and prayers.

Terhesa Gamboa's friend David had his cane stolen and needs help to walk--a cane or crutches.

Evan Campbell asks for prayers for teachers doing their best with distance learning

Larry Cole's son Brandon is quarantining at home after being in the hospital on oxygen for COVID-19

Chelsea Feeney is home from the hospital quarantining in her bedroom

Prayers for Allison's friend Candace and family

Annaliese Akpovi's father's wife passed. Keep Annaliese and her father in your prayers.

Rich and Habibah's and their son Kenneth's homes in the Santa Cruz mountains are in danger from the wildfires. They are evacuated to Ken's home in Oakland.



Michael Lynn Fletcher, 65, born November 18, 1954, in Ephrata, PA, passed away August 13, 2020 in his home in La Quinta, CA. Michael fought a valiant battle with cancer over the past two years. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Rebecca; daughter Amy (wife of Luis Wright and granddaughters Hadley and Jovie Wright); daughter Alison Fletcher. He is also survived by his mother Dorothy Warfel and sister Ashley (wife of Phillip Yohn.)

He was an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and served churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and California.

He was passionate about sports, especially Penn State football. He enjoyed reading a wide variety of books and enjoyed having political discussions with family and friends. In lieu of flowers he requested donations to two causes that meant a lot to him; Martha's Village & Kitchen in Indio, CA (marthasvillage.org) and New Community Project in Blue Ridge, VA (newcommunityproject.info)

Thanks to Becky Fletcher for sharing Michael's obituary with us. It was not possible to share the entire obituary in the Chimes, but you may click on this link to see the online obituary, and possibly leave a message:

<https://www.legacy.com/funeral-homes/obituaries/name/michael-fletcher-obituary?sid=108493193&v=forestlawn&pid=196645706>

2020 Deacon Assignments

Church Family,

We hope you are doing well. Here's a reminder of which Deacon has been assigned to you. Pages refer to the directory. The new directory will be available soon.

Marye Martinez- pages 7&8, Adkins-Campbell

Linda Owen-pages 9&10, Canter-Davis, Jason

Lynda Sesser-pages 11&12, Davis, Russ-Flores

Bob Sesser-pages 13&14-Forcier-Greathouse

Eddie Hernandez-pages 15&16-Hardy-Johnson, Bill & Margaret

Gayle Hernandez-pages 17&18-Johnson, Jacob - McDermott

Bonnie Costello-pages 19&20-Messamer, Chuck & Diana-Mueller

Steve Reddy-pages 21&22-Munson-Royer

Jim Martinez-pages 23-25-Sanders-Wolfe

Giving Through July

CASH RECEIPTS FOR 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
July: \$36,781.48
Total \$156,470.79*

*** This total reflects 51.1% of our budget total
with 58.3% of the year elapsed.**

From the Stewardship Commission

A BIG ROUND OF THANKS!



Kudos to all the hearty volunteers who braved the hot weather last Saturday morning to shovel & level decomposed granite on the labyrinth pathway. They were rewarded for their hard work with yummy donuts from Mr. T's (courtesy of Felton & Karleen). Another work day will be scheduled to apply the stabilizer as soon as the order arrives. Stay tuned for the next update.

*Articles and photos for
the next issue of Chimes
are due by Thursday,
August 27.*

Email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.

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.

Outreach Opportunities

Please donate and 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.

The **Mission and Ministry Board** of the Church of the Brethren is composed of elected representatives from the districts in the United States and Puerto Rico. The Pacific Southwest District has two representatives - Thomas Dowdy (Imperial Heights) and Lauren Seganos Cohen (Pomona)

Vision

The Mission and Ministry Board envisions the Church of the Brethren wholly engaged in the reconciliation of all people to God and to each other.

Mission

The Mission and Ministry Board is called by the Church of the Brethren to extend the church's witness around the world. It leads out in God's mission, serving as a bridge between the local and the global and creating opportunities for service and partnership.

The Mission and Ministry Board supports congregations in their task to create joyful communities of faith that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, cultivate discipleship, respond to human need, and make peace.

The Mission and Ministry Board cares for the whole fabric of the community, building up the Church of the Brethren as a distinctive part of the body of Christ, cherishing its unique heritage, and strengthening its witness.

Core Values

Christ-likeness: Reflecting the love and heart of Jesus.

Servant leadership: Serving the church with both humility and boldness.

Discernment: Seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the gathered community.

Community: Cultivating relationships and building up the body of Christ.

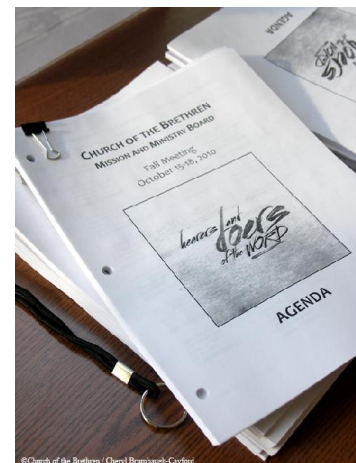
Stewardship: Caring for all God's gifts and the resources of the Church of the Brethren.

Simplicity: Living simply so that we have room in our lives for God and for others.

Hospitality: Following Jesus' example of respecting all people and inviting them into his fellowship.

Peacemaking: Acting as instruments of reconciliation and justice.

Borrowed from their website, <http://www.brethren.org/mmb/>





On the third Thursday night of each month, from November through April, we provide the evening meal at the **9th and D Street Homeless Shelter** which is operated by the Salvation Army for the city of Modesto. It takes many volunteers each time to make this ministry happen. Below are the roles needed each month. Email or call the office to get your name on the list for a specific month. It also takes a large budget to buy this much food!

Shoppers

When cooking for 140 people it takes a lot of groceries! The lead coordinator will develop a menu and a list of ingredients needed to make the meal. We are then looking for individuals to get the groceries and safely transport them back to the church a day or two beforehand. Grocery expenses are paid for by the church.

Kitchen Help

In the midst of the pandemic the meal is prepared at the church. We need 3 to 4 volunteers to work in the church kitchen to help cook the meal. A lead cook is in place, if you can chop, stir, wash, and mix, we can train you for the rest. Once we can safely return; the meal will be prepared and cooked at the shelter. This helps to decrease clean-up and transportation times.

Desserts

A volunteer or two prepares dessert for 140 people and needs to have it at the church by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday of meal preparation. Ideal desserts include cookies, brownies, cupcakes, items that can easily be served without a lot of work. Homemade desserts are a real treat!

Serving Help

During the pandemic we are not serving the meal, but we can use 2-3 vehicles to transport it safely to the shelter. Directions on how this is done will be provided to the drivers. However, once we can safely enter the facility, we will need people to serve the meal.

Volunteers do not need to be of a certain age or experience level to help! The only age requirement is that drivers must have a license to do so. Excluding shopping it takes 3-4 hours from start to finish to prepare, cook and serve a meal for 140 people. Volunteers also may have a meal if they would like. It is a fun time to interact with your church family and meet new people.

Borrowed from our website, www.modestocob.org, and https://modestocitadel.salvationarmy.org/modesto_citadel_corps/

