



The Chimes

Date: August 7, 2020
Volume 20 Number 22

Modesto Church of the Brethren

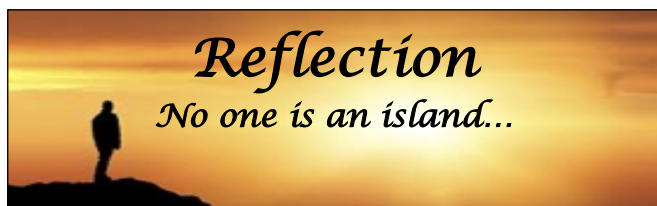
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Pastor: Andrew Sampson

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



Recently, I have been thinking about the lines penned by the English poet, John Donne, in *Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions and Seuerall Steps in my Sicknes - Meditation XVII*:

No [one] is an island entire of itself,
Every [one] is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.

These lines help me through the times when I feel lonely as, for the time being, the pandemic has forced us to be apart. What an understatement it is to say that this summer has been unlike any other. School is out but the number of places one can go are limited, the friends we manage to see must remain at a distance, and the normal hustle and bustle which make the days go by so quickly has been replaced with tedium and boredom.

This stanza helps remind me that I am a part of a larger community. I am grateful to each of you for the encouragement that you have shared and continue to share with myself and each other. However, we still have one another to turn to! We can still call, text, write a letter, Snapchat, Zoom, or even connect a couple of soup cans with some string to be together; to share a funny story or a bad pun or lend a shoulder to cry upon or comfort one who is grieving.

May Donne's lines also bring you some comfort and inspire you if you are feeling forlorn during this difficult time. If you are not then I would encourage you to reach out to someone who may feel alone, and use this poem as a starter if you need to. Because even though it was written nearly 400 years ago; the words ring as true today as they did then! ~Pastor Andrew

The Church Begins to Grow (Continued)

August 9: Scripture: Acts 19:1-12

August 16: Scripture: - Acts 19:13-21

Join us for worship on Modesto Church of the Brethren Facebook account at 11 am every Sunday. **(To join, 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))**



Michael Fletcher is at home, very weak, and is in hospice care, but Becky is also caring for him at home. They have little help other than family. Please keep them in your prayers. Send cards to:

Michael & Becky Fletcher
43100 Palm Royale Drive Apt. 1024
La Quinta, CA 92253

Carole Greathouse is recovering slowly from COVID.
(More on the next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Jim Feeney asks for prayers for his daughter Chelsea, as she struggles with back issues and fluid retention associated with her open heart surgery thirteen months ago. She had to be seen late last night due to angina and swollen legs and feet, which was scary, considering she was within six feet of a potential COVID-19 patient with a fever of 106F. Any cards or phone calls would really cheer her up because of the strict stay-at-home health regimen she has been maintaining.

Evan Campbell asks for prayers for all teachers and students going back to school online.

Dena Hamilton, the daughter of Bill Hamilton, has let us know that Bill passed away on Aug. 1. Bill was a BVS-er from southern California who served at the Brethren Service Center here in Modesto in the early 70's. Please lift Dena, her son Eli, and the whole family in your prayers.

~Linda & Dave Owen

Luella tested negative for COVID.

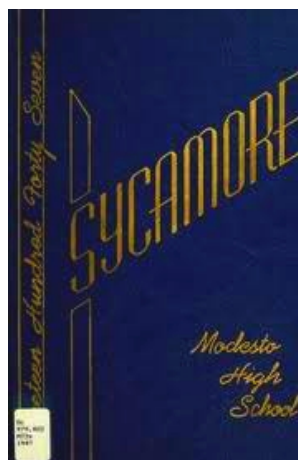
We welcome the Sampsons back from vacation.



LABYRINTH FACELIFT

A 'small but mighty' group of masked volunteers* met early Tuesday morning to help refurbish the labyrinth path. Cal Aukeman headed up this sturdy group as they shoveled decomposed granite to resurface the worn walkway. Another work day is scheduled for 8:00 this Saturday, August 8 in the cool of the morning. If you'd like to help, bring a square point shovel & a strong back and meet at the labyrinth site at 8:00am. Wheelbarrows or push brooms are helpful too.

*FYI - The incognito team: Cal Aukeman, Elaine Forcier, Bill Johnson, Eddie Hernandez & Dave Owen (not pictured)



Someone gave me a copy of an unused 1947 Modesto High Sycamore. I know a lot of you went to Modesto High. If anyone is interested in it please call me and you may have it.~Libby Higgs

Peace Week 2020



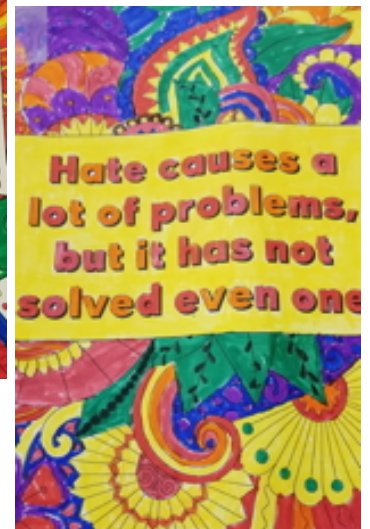
Through the dark doors of racism came a group of 6 leaders and 18 children willing to put in the hard work of learning about our past, mistakes we sometimes make now, and seeking a better way for tomorrow. The leaders, Bonnie Munson, Ann Marie Washington, Kelly Gepley, Annaliese Hausler-Akpovi, Mary Pieczarka, and Kim Boardman, had to learn an entirely new way of teaching virtually, as well as researching resources and determining curriculum. The children, ages 4. to 11, already knew much of the technology, but had to be willing to show up each morning and do their best to give their full attention to the screen in front of them for 1 hour.

There were fun openings of lively music, dancing, and talking about the day before, and showing off their work they did after the meeting. Storytelling, thinking about the messages being told, and crafts to do after the meeting were all part of the day. Sounds like a normal Peace Week, but this was all on a screen. Teachers missed the one on one contact, and the children certainly missed being able to socialize and play together, but everyone did their best. We are all learning and have many ideas on how this could be done better if we have to do it this way again next year.

This was a very difficult subject to cover for this age group, but all the reading and research the committee had done said that racism starts as early as 14 months. We knew we had to try to communicate the problem to our children and help them become part of the solution. There was common thought before we started that we may have just a few children attending by the end of the week due to the advanced subject. However, much to our surprise, only 1 dropped out! A great deal of credit must be given to terrific parenting to keep these kids involved. Many parents were right there with the kids singing, dancing, and helping with the activities.

At the end of the week, I think everyone felt proud of our church, leaders, parents, and children for recognizing the importance of this topic and wanting to do their part to make things better.

Christian Education Commission Chairperson,
Karleen Daniels





August Birthdays

13 Syl Bupp

13 Dave Hunter

16 Steve Miller

23 Jamie Campbell

23 Sara Miller

27 Carole Greathouse

30 Al Forcier

31 Marye Martinez

If you have an August birthday and your name is not in this list, please send your name and special day to chimes@modcob.org and it will be featured in the next Chimes.



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.

*Articles and photos for
the next issue of Chimes
are due by 5 PM
Thursday, August 13.*

Email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.