



The Chimes

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Modesto Church of the Brethren

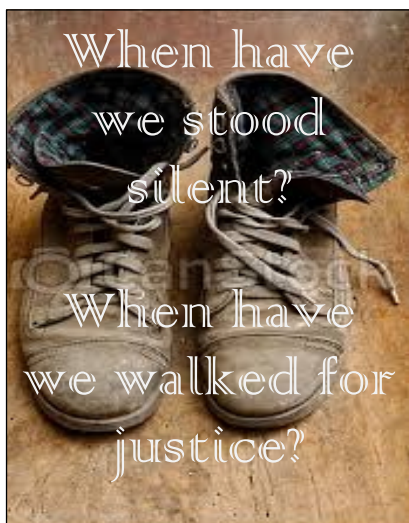
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Pastor: Andrew Sampson

Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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



This coming Monday, September 14, will be the first installment of "When have we stood silent? When have we walked for justice?" a class

in which we take a closer look at the Church of the Brethren history and how we have been complicit to racism at times and at other times, outspoken. Those wishing to participate will be sent a private link by email to view on YouTube at their convenience. If you would like to join please email the church office, office@modcob.org, to ensure that you receive the link.

Next Sunday, September 20, at 9:30am will be a private, Zoom conversation for those who wish to discuss and process the previous week's video. Again, please contact the church office to confirm your participation. Questions? Please contact Pastor Andrew, andrew@modcob.org or by phone.

Scriptures for Worship

September 13 - Micah 6:8

September 20 - Luke 18:15-17

September 27 - Acts 2:42-47

October 4 - Genesis 1:26-28

World Wide Communion Sunday

Anna Hazen speaking

October 11 - Galatians 3:26-28

October 18 - Luke 1:46-55

October 25 - Revelation 7:9



Keep in your prayers all those who have been affected by the many wildfires. Jaime Campbell and her Dad evacuated from her Dad's home in Berry Creek which has been devastated.

Joann Ewert's sons Steve and Burton and their families live in areas near wildfires, but are all right so far.

From Becky Fletcher:

Dear Modesto Church Family,

Your cards, calls and gift have meant so much to me. All the kind messages about Michael's ministry in your lives were so special to read. Michael told me many times how blessed he was by all of you as well. I am at a loss for words to truly express how I feel and how much I have been blessed by your outpouring messages

The Celebration of Life for Michael Fletcher Virtual Service will premiere on YouTube on **Saturday, September 19 at 10 am** Pacific Time (1 pm Eastern Time). We would love to have you join our family to celebrate at this time or you may view the service later at your convenience.

The video is available from the La Verne Church of the Brethren YouTube Channel and will be available for about 1-2 weeks. Here is the link to the page

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvcqyPyMmxWaVW9FFow-HHQ/videos>

We appreciate this opportunity to celebrate a husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend with you. Blessings, Becky Fletcher

Prayers for the Kleman family on the loss of their 35 year old son.

Kelly and Shaun Gepley are relieved that they both tested negative for COVID.

Greg Forney tested positive for COVID, but his fever has broken.

David Messamer is home from the hospital and is doing better.

Norman Johnson is home from the hospital without having surgery, and feeling better.

Keep in your prayers members of the congregation who are feeling depressed and isolated due to the necessity of social distancing.

Monique asks for prayers for her friend Agnes P. who had hand surgery after a fall. She has 3 family members with COVID.

Luella is relieved that her illness last week was not COVID and thanks all for the prayers and well wishes.

Ginny Hollis called this week and reports that she and Oscar are doing well with their daughter Judy's help.

*With Glad and
Generous Hearts*

"Glad and Generous Hearts" has been the theme for this year's Stewardship Commission. We as a commission can affirm that indeed as a congregation we have demonstrated Gladness and Generosity. We have been meeting our budgetary goals despite the interruption of our normal church activities due to COVID-19. It has been a challenge but also a validation for all of our congregation to maintain contact with each other as a church family and to be mindful of the need to continue our giving to our church, whether it be our time and talents or our monetary giving.

Having said this, it is now time to plan for the upcoming year. The Stewards will be sending you pledge cards to be returned to the church office. We use these estimates of giving to develop our budget for next year.



Thanks again for your Gladness in tithing and Generous giving of your time and talents this year. Please continue in this vein as you complete your cards that so greatly help the Stewards give vital input to the Church Board in developing next year's budget.

We are looking at completing our stewardship budget work by the last week of September, so it will be helpful if you return your pledge cards promptly.

With Glad and Generous Hearts of Thanks!
The Stewardship Commission

"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
July: \$36,781.48
August: \$19,121.00
Total \$175,591.79*

* This total reflects 57.4% of our budget total with 67% of the year elapsed.

We are trying out having a PayPal account for easier donations. You will find the PayPal button on the first page of the church website, modcob.org. You need to have a PayPal account to use it. If you have been finding it difficult to get your gift to the church office, please try this.
(Pay pal does charge 2.9% for the service.)

Since March of 2020, Pastor Andrew, with the help of a few very faithful assistants, has been planning and implementing our distance worship services. We all owe a great deal of thanks to all of those that have worked so hard to make sure the Modesto Church of the Brethren has had an online worship presence.

Many things have been learned through this process, but there is more to explore. So, a new worship committee has been formed. We hope to bring new ideas and possibilities to the Modesto Church of the Brethren online worship experience and beyond. Our goal is not to recreate what other churches are doing, but to plan meaningful, creative worship services that represent us as a unique community of believers.

We would sincerely value your input. Keeping it simple, here is what we want to know:

- 1) What do you **love** about our virtual worship?
- 2) What would you **throw away** about our virtual worship?
- 3) What do you think **needs to be fixed** about our virtual worship?
- 4) What would you **like to see/have happen (suggestions)** during virtual worship?

We are providing several ways for you to share your thoughts:

(Continued on the next page)

- 1) Google Forms: Just click on the link below. It should direct you to a page on which you may type your responses directly.
<https://forms.gle/896SCMnoWxwSbcaq7>
- 2) Contact any of the members of the committee by phone or email. You may find the contact information in the church directory.
- 3) Contact Pastor Andrew or the church office.

We thank you in advance for your comments and suggestions. We are all excited to be serving our beloved community in this way.

Worship Committee members:

Kim Boardman, Kelly Gepley, Shaun Gepley, Mary Pieczarka, Stephen Reddy, Ann Marie Washington and Pastor Andrew



On October 4th Anna Hazen will be bringing the message to the 11 am service of the Modesto Church of the Brethren. The focus will be communion and during our gathering the rite of communion will take place. You have a choice in how you want to participate.

You may want to utilize something already at your house (bite size pieces of bread and a small glass of juice) or you may not want to go through the physical actions but remain as a part of the gathering.

The deacons have purchased prepared packets containing the bread and juice. If you are going to use the packets and can come to the church to pick them up, they will be available Monday through Thursday, September 14th through October 1st, from 10-11 AM. We can deliver packets to you if you would let us know by September 28th. Call the church 523-1438 or Marye Martinez 523-0449 with the number you need.

Please feel free to invite anyone you might think would appreciate getting a chance to join in this process.

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.

Board of Administration

MINUTES

August 10, 2020

Present: Linda Hunter, Jim Martinez, Marye Martinez, Andrew Sampson, Karen Cosner, Karleen Daniels, Felton Daniels, Bill Johnson, Elaine Forcier, Edie Ransom, Sue Messamer

Absent: Jim Costello

- I. Opening Devotion: Sharing around the "table"
- II. Approval of Agenda: Accepted as printed
- III. Approval of June 8, 2020 Minutes: M/S/P: Bill Johnson; Linda Hunter
- IV. Treasurer's Report for June and July
Edie Ransom
 - changes to be made to Peace Week reimbursements
 - changes to be made to Fellowship and Rec account
 - questions concerning Buildings and Grounds
 - treasurer's report approved with pending corrections: M/S/P- Elaine Forcier/Sue Messamer
- V. Discussion: Possibilities for back property Andrew Sampson
 - A local architect shared a desire to do some pro bono work for the development of our back lot property for/with Family Promise. Rough drawings have been shared. Property ownership would be maintained by Modesto Church of the Brethren. Questions about project expenses, church responsibilities and liabilities, and many other concerns were expressed. Much conversation took place about concerns and possible issues.
 - Suggestion to invite Tamara Lozinski of Family Promise and the architect to attend the September board meeting.
- VI. Discussion of Sail coverings for courtyard Bill Johnson
 - Bids have been received for courtyard sail coverings. Building and grounds commission were not happy with the designs and bids (very expensive). The idea is not being pursued at this time.
- VII. Constitution Report Karen/Andrew
 - The committee is close to moving forward. They are waiting for Russ Matteson to forward some further information concerning a congregational meeting via zoom or in person.
 - A zoom council meeting will need some practice meetings to help members learn the technology.
- VIII. Reports
 - a. Witness -no report
 - b. Worship and Spiritual Life Elaine Forcier
 - new worship committee being formed soon
 - refurbishing of labyrinth in progress
 - yoga class under the trees with Jolie Lapora has begun
 - c. Member At Large Felton Daniels
 - many small group activities are continuing and new ones have begun
 - no known Covid-19 cases within our members!

- d. Christian Education Karleen Daniels
 -Virtual Peace Week with 10 families/18 children; many obstacles, tough topic but very successful
 -Children's church concerns have been expressed; plans to start August 30
- e. Moderator Linda Hunter
 -no report
- f. Building and Grounds Bill Johnson
 -Current conditions of the building are being addressed; garbage collection, Covid-19 signage to be purchased
 -Work day on October 3: solar panels, rain gutter, other winterizing
- g. Deacons Marye Martinez
 -no meetings, but deacons continue to be in touch with members
 -thank you to many people, besides deacons, who are calling members
- h. Personnel Bill Johnson
 -reviews begin this month
- i. Fellowship and Rec Sue Messamer
 -wanting to box up old dishes for donation; board OK
- j. Stewardship Jim Martinez
 -concerns about giving continue even though there was a large donation in July
 -electronic donations will not be used due to fees charged by banks; suggestions to check with other churches
 -CHIMES articles concerning budget use are being written
 -some solar loans may be paid off early
- k. Pastor Andrew Sampson
 -district conference will be held virtually; registration is \$100/church
 -first edition of the directory is just about complete
 -beginning September 13, a new Sunday school class about COB and racism will be offered

IX. Other

- Bill Johnson: room 11, proposal-Edie Ransom is requesting use during the week to do social distance learning for school children in her childcare; board OK
- Bill Johnson/Andrew Sampson: suggestion to allow families to borrow tables and chairs for virtual school work at home, sign out sheet will be available; concerns about keeping track of equipment and not allowing use of the lighter weight tables
- suggestion made that members might be willing to purchase a table for families, if requested

X. Next meeting, September 14, 2020 at 6:30 pm by zoom

XI. Adjourn at 8:12 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kim Boardman, clerk

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Hooray! The labyrinth pathway has been successfully resurfaced, thanks to the good work of many hands. Three workdays were organized by Bill Johnson in coordination with project leader Cal Aukeman. Thanks also go to Kim & Jim Boardman, Felton & Karleen Daniels, Dave Owen, Elaine Forcier, Shaun Gepley & Rich Harvey for all their time & efforts! You're invited to 'come & see'...and maybe even walk the newly renovated labyrinth. Consider taking a few moments to relax on a conveniently located bench to prayerfully reflect on the quiet beauty that enfolds you here in this place.



We are still scheduling a work day for Saturday, October 3rd, but due to the coronavirus outbreak it will be in a scaled down manner. We will not have food for lunch or even donuts or coffee.

We will be putting together teams of folks to come and complete a project and when they are done they would just go home. Masks and social distancing for those working would be required. Hand sanitizer will be provided.

I would ask that those wanting to work on a project to give me a call or an email since we will not have a signup poster at the church. Planned work areas are listed below:

- ✚ Cleaning solar panels: 2 teams of 3 (should finish in a little over an hour)
- ✚ Cleaning gutters getting ready for fall: 3 to 4 folks(can complete in maybe 2 hours)
- ✚ Some window washing for entrance windows and pastor's office. 1 or 2 needed for this.
- ✚ Some back field pick up: Late this fall we will either be mowing the field or having it sprayed again. To do this we need to have the field cleared of downed limbs, rocks, boards etc.