



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.



As I write, we still do not know who has won the 2020 Presidential Election. From what I see and hear on the news, through social media, and conversations with friends, the anxiety is high in this country regardless of who you voted for. The majority of the tension is over the election, but there continues to be fear over the pandemic as infection rates soar to new heights around the country. There is also exhaustion - physically, emotionally, and spiritually - that coupled with social distancing from friends and family further isolates a fragile and fragmented society.

The result is a country and people that have focused its attention and energy inwards: focusing on our own needs and wants and looking to secure what we think we must have regardless of its impact upon the lives of others. I think back to the early days of the pandemic, when there seemed to be a paper shortage. The fear of the unknown created irrational behaviors such as buying immense quantities of toilet paper.

I saw this happen one day at the store when an individual had so many packages in their cart that one, under different circumstances, may have presumed that they were shopping on behalf of a large city. The result was price gouging, product scarcity, and rationing in attempt to ensure that everyone was able to secure some. There may now be enough toilet paper, but we, as a society, continue to look after our own interests without as much regard for others.

So, what do we do with this anxiety? It wouldn't be healthy to ignore what is happening, nor to pretend that nothing has changed. First, we must grieve over what we have lost, whether it be a job, loved ones, vacations, school, or even a sense of normalcy. But when the time is right, we can move out of active distress and begin to look outward to the needs, wants, and dreams that exist all around us. We should look to the work that is all around - giving voice to the voiceless, feeding the hungry, fighting for the rights of others, clothing the naked, encouraging others, and building a better world. Because when we look beyond ourselves, whether as individuals or churches or countries, we will be revitalized, our unease will be reduced, and our social spheres will expand. First, let us grieve, then let us come together and make this world better!



Join us for worship on Modesto Church of the Brethren's Facebook page at 11 AM each Sunday.

ONLINE WORSHIP CONCERNS

From the Worship & Spiritual Life Commission

We apologize to the congregation and guests for the inconsistent quality of our online worship services. Our pastor, the newly formed Worship Committee, and others have worked hard to provide meaningful online worship experiences in the midst of the technical challenges. Although many of our services have gone pretty well, the November 1st service for children and youth did not! During the pre-recorded first half, the sound quality was so distorted that it was inaudible to listeners...and that is totally unacceptable.

Our commission has met this week with Pastor Andrew to identify and resolve the technical problems. We are doing research, seeking expert advice, and are committed to taking whatever corrective action is needed to improve online worship for all. Thank you in advance for giving us a little "grace" in the process.



From November 1 Worship:

Please lift up all those who have passed on this year: Gene P., Pat W., David G., Michael F., Maryco G., Chuck L., Tony T. We also remember the families of those who have passed.

Please keep Ken C. in your thoughts and prayers. He has been admitted to UC Davis with COVID.

Allison asks for continued prayers for Brandy and family as they start the hospice process, and for Candace and family grieving their loss.

Luella and Allison send continued gratitude to those who plan and carry out our online worship no matter the technical difficulties.

We remember those who are moving away from Modesto: Karen C. and Eddie and Gayle. We will miss you!

From November 8 Worship:

Monique asks for prayers as she drives home from Solvang in a strong wind.

Elaine asks for prayers for healing and hopefulness in our country in the days ahead.



This year's online PSWD Conference begins Monday, November 9! If you are participating, please consider jotting down your thoughts about your experience and creating a short article to be published in the Chimes after the Conference. Remember, this year's Conference is online! Turn the page for a schedule of Conference activities.

Conference Schedule:

Insight sessions, November 9, 10, and 12,
Three sessions at 5:30 pm and 3 sessions at 7
PM each evening

November 12 BYO Ice Cream Social 6:30 pm

November 13 Time for Children 6 PM,
Opening Worship 6:30 PM

November 14 3 Insight sessions at 8 AM
Business Session #1 9:30-11:15 AM
Business Session #2 12:00-1:45 PM
PSWD's Evening of Music 6:30 PM

Links to the sessions you selected when you
registered will be emailed to you.

PSWD Conference information for all:

Helpful hints at: www.pswdcob.org/distconf/virtual

- YouTube Channel: Several ways to find it
 - Go to www.youtube.com and search on PSWDCob, then click on our conference logo
 - (this does the above)
 - https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=PSWDCob
 - (direct to channel link) https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_9v4N-GBE6UCUENoAylf_g
- (1) Insight sessions: Only the "registered" can see them live
 - They will be available for everyone a week later on our YouTube Channel
- (2) Friday Worship and Saturday concert will be live for everyone
 - On our YouTube Channel
- (3) Business Session, right now only the "registered" can participate and see it live
 - It **might** be available on our YouTube Channel
- (4) Ice Cream Social is closed, only the "registered" can participate



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

September: \$24,721.25

October: \$19,156.00

Total \$219,469.04*

* This total reflects 71.7% of our budget total with 83.3% of the year elapsed. Also, more than half of the Witness budget has already been sent out!

From the Stewards...

You, the congregation, are to be commended for your stewardship. Receipts for the first 10 months of the year total \$219,469.04. For the same period a year ago, the total was \$218,417.84. Expenses have remained virtually the same at just under \$214,000. Those figures are an indication of your faithfulness even as this has been a very different year.

To end the year with all commitments fulfilled, \$48,000 will be needed during November and December, \$10,000 of which is designated for Outreach. This is a reminder to catch up on your pledges before the end of the year. PayPal is available online at the church website: Modcob.org if you wish to use it. The percentage charged is 4%.

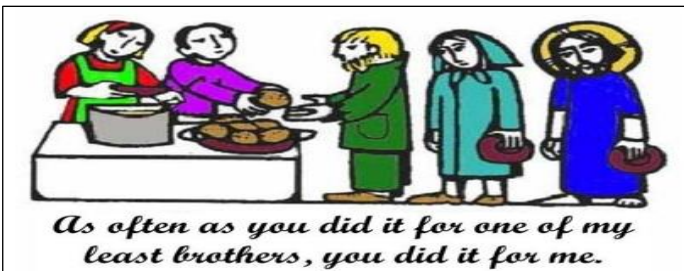


Church Family,

Remember the upcoming council meeting (Sunday, November 15 at 1:00) and the two "question and information" Zoom meetings (Tuesday, November 10 at 3:00 and Saturday, November 14, also at 3:00) regarding the Constitution. The links for the Zoom meetings will be sent out before the meetings.

Be sure to have a copy of the proposed Constitution handy for all three meetings. Also, be sure that you have the most recent incarnation of the proposed Constitution. There have been several printed by the committee at different stages of this process.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon.
Linda Hunter, Moderator



Serving at the 9th and D Shelter

These are dates for preparing food for the Shelter.

Tuesday: November 17

Fridays:

December 18

January 15

February 19

March 19

April 16

May 14

Persons who wish to help by shopping for food, or transporting meals should contact Pastor Andrew.

November Birthdays

- 1 Pat Royer
- 5 Sue Hay
- 8 Evan Campbell
- 10 Doug Harty
- 11 Karleen Daniels
- 21 Eldon Williams
- 22 Rita Matthews
- 24 Emily and Sarah Hazen
- 25 Matt Hazen
- 28 Cal Aukeman
- 29 Pat Easley
- 29 John and TJ Miller
- 29 Maya Wolfe

Don't forget to send Milestones of any type! Especially let me know if your birthday has been left off the congregation's birthday list! Please send celebrations of any kind: graduations, anniversaries, retirements, engagements, marriages, a new job or promotion, moving away or moving to a new house. Please send your Milestones to chimes@modcob.org

Please note the new deadline for the Chimes:





We had a good turnout for our FUN Zoom pumpkin carving party, on October 30. The Jack-o-lanterns turned out great--Here are some photos to prove

it! If your family was there but isn't represented here, you can reply to all and send us some more good photos to enjoy, PLEASE!

We had fun and enjoyed getting to see each other. The Duenas family won the Scavenger Hunt with 100 points! They scurried around and found so many of the Halloween items on our list that we couldn't even keep track! The Gilstrap-Katen's thought they were sliding in way ahead with their live black cat and fake Frankenstein, but they came in a distant but respectable second (60 pts). Lyla surprised us with a find that should have been on the list but wasn't. She got an honorary 50 points for grabbing a fairly good sized toad and showed it off on camera! Of course, the scoring was all done remotely, so we might not have counted everyone's up quite right

. . . sorry if we missed someone's higher score or cooler find . . . It didn't seem to matter, because it gave us all another fun thing to do. It was a great chance to get together with special friends and Shine!



Modesto Church of the Brethren

Board of Administration **MINUTES** **November 4, 2020**

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

Absent: none

- I. Opening Devotion: Karen Cosner
 - a. Giving thanks for changing seasons in the world and our lives.
- II. Approval of Agenda by consensus
- III. Approval of October 12, 2020 Minutes
 - a. approved as corrected, M/S/P Bill Johnson/Linda Hunter
- IV. Treasurer's Report for October Edie Ransom
 - a. questions concerning the Christian Ed budget; Edie and Karleen will discuss
 - b. approved M/S/P: Bill Johnson/Sue Messamer
- V. Study group for Property Use will have their first meeting this Thursday. Ana, Marilyn, Mark Wolfe, Felton and Andrew, with Tamara as consultant
-point of information
- VI. Questions and Answers regarding Constitution changes Committee Members
 - a. Concerns about how the constitution is being presented to the membership were expressed with references to the October board minutes saying the constitution had been approved by the board. Further discussion clarified that the constitution proposal was approved at the October board meeting with the understanding that the constitution committee would add the personnel committee back in.
 - b. Discussion included the upcoming informational meetings for the membership prior to council on Nov 15 and that changes to the proposed constitution would need to come in the form of amendments at council
 - c. Further clarification from the constitution committee explained that they did further work on the proposed constitution after the October board meeting to specifically address concerns about the personnel committee being eliminated. The constitution committee added the personnel committee into the proposed constitution. That information is listed under the board chair's responsibilities. The revised constitution proposal was submitted to the congregation in time for the 30 days required for the congregation to receive council information.

d. Felton Daniels gave an explanation to the board about the various places from which the committee acquired information in rewriting the new constitution, including: Church of the Brethren denomination, other churches and Russ Matteson as PSWD Executive Minister. The committee almost completely rewrote the first draft after some of those discussions.

e. Four issues the committee kept in mind as they worked were as follows:

1. Making the constitution actually fit what the church is doing.

2. Simplifying and reducing the system.

3. Looking toward the future of the church to make the constitution usable as we go forward.

4. Reduced the number of positions due to our smaller membership.

f. Pastor Andrew added that decisions among the committee were arrived at by consensus.

g. Questions/concerns were raised about what happens if council rejects the new constitution and sends it back to committee. One major concern is that the proposed ballot has been based on the proposed constitutional changes.

h. The idea of voting on the constitution on a "trial basis" was discussed.

i. Amendments from the floor could change the constitution at the meeting in smaller parts without rejecting it in its entirety. Those would need to be made in "writing" and could be done through the chat component of Zoom during the meeting. Members would need to have a brief tutorial on that process.

VII. Discussion regarding 1st Virtual Council Meeting

Linda Hunter

a. suggestions: teaching members how to share a chat for amendments and how to mute

b. next council meeting will be more complicated for voting; screenshot or polling for votes

c. Linda and Andrew will identify persons to count for the quorum and voting

VIII. Reports

A. Worship and Spiritual Life, Elaine Forcier

-concerns about technical difficulties in online worship

-possible new software and technology

-prerecording large parts of worship services

-consulting with professionals

-possibly applying for a district grant to purchase worship needs

B. Fellowship and Recreation, Sue Messamer

-31 packets prepared for Halloween that were delivered by Ch Ed to the church's children

-now looking at Christmas event

-still struggling with Covid limitations

C. Building and Grounds, Bill Johnson

-discussed new organization and leadership of the commission for upcoming year

D. Ch Ed, Karleen Daniels

-2nd zoom gathering with children was for Halloween, children enjoyed the event

E. Pastor Andrew Sampson

-Continuing to enjoy working with the worship coordinators
call from a committee at McPherson College about distance education for pastors and lay
leaders; probably beginning in January to participate with them over Zoom

F. Deacons, Marye Martinez

-changes to deacon members will be presented at council
-upcoming project for the congregation as we move through these Covid times

G. Stewards, Jim Martinez

-no report

H. Member-at-large, Felton Daniels

-no report

I. Witness, Jim Costello

-dates for serving at 9th and D shelter have been set; shoppers need to be identified
White Fragility study completed successfully; looking forward to another book study: How
to be an Anti-racist

J. Moderator, Linda Hunter

- no further comments
-questions about council information being distributed to church members

IX. Board Members please prepare your reports for the January Annual Council Meeting with 3
reflections from this year and 3 projections for 2021.

-Reminder to chairpersons of commissions to submit those to the church office before the end
of the year

X. Adjourned at 7:34pm

Notes: **Next meeting Dec. 14 at 6:30**

Meetings to discuss Constitution Changes: Tues. Nov. 10 at 3:00 and Sat. Nov 14 at 3:00.

Council meeting Nov. 15th at 1:00.

New Board Members for 2021 will be invited to attend the December Board meeting. (contacted by
Karen Cosner)

Respectfully submitted by Kim Boardman, church clerk