



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.

Advent Reflection

**When this is over,
May we never take for granted
a handshake with a stranger,
Full shelves at the store,
Conversations with neighbors,
A crowded theater, a Friday
night out. The taste of communion,
a routine checkup, A school rush
each morning, coffee with a friend.
A stadium roaring, each
deep breath. A boring Tuesday,
Life itself. When this ends,
May we find that we have
become more like the people we
wanted to be, we were called to be,
we hoped to be. And may we stay
that way - better for each other
because of the worst.**

Kelly's Treehouse
Laura Kelly Fanucci



Please join us for worship on the Modesto Church of the Brethren Facebook page at 11 AM each Sunday.



Jeff G is excited about new ministry ventures.

Allison asks that we lift up her friend Candice as she continues in her health journey. She also asks that we lift up Candice's mother Pam as she has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Bonnie M. asks for prayers for her cousin Rene J. for discerning the right path to healing his prostate cancer.

Sheri S. asks for prayer for friends grieving the loss of their 14 year old grandson.

Monique celebrates her son Marquis's 13th birthday. She asks for prayer for her friend Agnes as her mom and sister have COVID. Also prayers for Agnes' mom who has pancreatic cancer. Monique's son Alex has COVID, but no longer has symptoms.

Sandy and Ed W. are happy to be home from Hawaii.

2020: An Advent like no other. We meet each other online instead of in the sanctuary. We listen to recorded music instead of our choir. We dine alone in our homes instead of together. But in Zoom social connections we learn new things about each other that we might not have known, and we learn new ways of coming together to wait for the coming of the Christ Child.



Luella C.'s daughter Kate's family all had a mild case of COVID and they will be out of quarantine Monday.

Mimsie F. asks for prayers for her father, as she is with him in New Orleans, after he has had several falls and has mild dementia. He needs personal, financial and domestic care. Mimsie prays for his ability to graciously accept the changes in his life, and for her to have God's peace as she helps him. Also pray for Ken, as he stayed in Modesto, because Mimsie doesn't know how long she will be away.

Keep Oscar H. in your prayers as he had a medical procedure last week.

Keep James S. in your prayers, as his health is declining.

From Trish G.: "I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the calls, cards and expressions of sympathy and support the church membership has given me in the last few days. Your kind words have done much to comfort me in dealing with the loss of my dear brother, Merritt Hulst. He will be missed more than I can say.

A virtual memorial service for Merritt will be held on Zoom on December 13th at 11 am (PST). To receive the details if you care to join in please email:

hulstwarn2020@gmail.com



Prayerfully Consider:

"A merry heart is good medicine." Proverbs
17:22

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift."
2 Corinthians 9:15

Both of these verses need to be a part of your prayer and consideration as you make your final tithing gift for this year and celebrate this Holy Season. To have a merry heart during all that we have dealt with in this year of COVID is truly a gift we can all appreciate. What better way to feel some joy and love of God than by giving thanks through our tithes to our church. For most, it is easier to give than receive. In giving we do receive God's Blessing.

The Stewardship Commission along with our Treasurer estimate that to meet the final expenses of our operating budget we will need our giving for December to reach \$20,000.

The Stewards wish to thank our church family for all that you have given this year in time, talent and treasure. We ask one final consideration in your giving as we hope to meet our year-end budget. Blessings to you all as we end this year and look forward to the coming year with all its possibilities.

Please Give and Be Merry!

The Stewardship Commission





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.

For 70 years, our nonprofit has made it a priority to ensure that artisans and farmers living in poverty are treated with respect and dignity, and are paid fairly for their work. With your help, we're connecting families and strengthening communities worldwide.

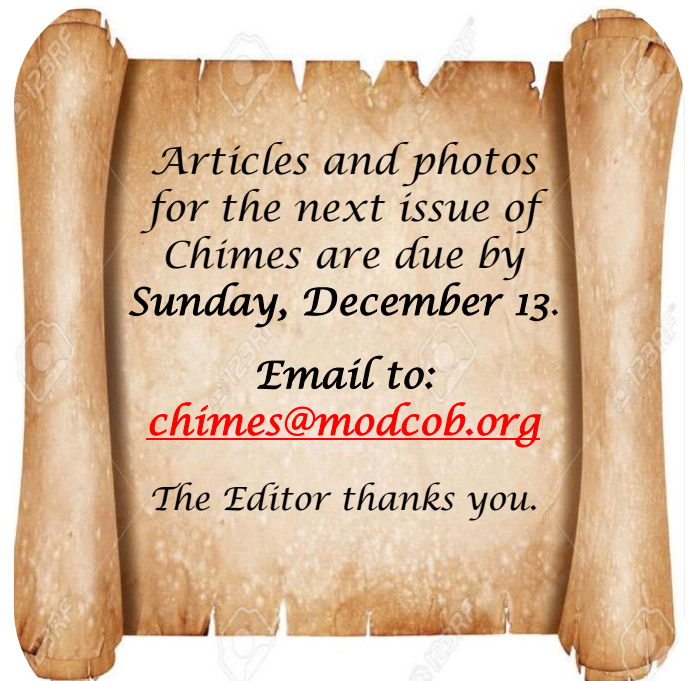
Shopping at SERRV

Call and arrange for your personal shopping experience. Jim and I are available to let you into the SERRV shop at your convenience between now and December 15th. Just call us at 523-0449 and we can set up a time.

~Marye Martinez



Some samples of
SERRV Christmas items:



*Articles and photos
for the next issue of
Chimes are due by
Sunday, December 13.*

Email to:

chimes@modcob.org

The Editor thanks you.