



The Chimes

Date: January 11, 2021
Volume 21 Number 2

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.



Cooper at Lake McSwain

I am not one who normally makes New Year's resolutions, but I decided that in 2021 I was going to try something brand new – fishing. Having never learned this art previously combined with the fact that we now live in a wonderful location for said activity convinced me to give it a try. A bonus to fishing is that my older son also decided that he wanted to learn! And so, when neither of us is too busy we have journeyed to nearby bodies of water to get our lines wet, lose some lures, and learn some things that we didn't know before. It is quite the adventure for two incredibly impatient people.

However, I have discovered that what I had hoped to be true, is in fact, true for me, and that is, being in nature is a wonderful place to release anxiety and reconnect with the Creator. Regardless of whether or not I catch anything (and so far I haven't) I have been able use those moments to get some fresh air, put the world's problems on hold, and enjoy the scenery while untangling some lines. It has been wonderful!

I write to you not to try and convince you to fish, but to find a place where you can also reconnect with God, alleviate anxiety, and let the cares of the world ebb away for a moment. There is plenty that warrants our attention, but to be most able to do so requires us to be present. We have to re-center ourselves, breathe, and refresh our spirits. Be well, sisters and brothers, as you work at taking care of yourself. And if you find that having someone to talk or listen to you would enhance your well-being; know that I am available.

Pastor Andrew



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



Remember, the labyrinth is available to walk as you quiet your mind and focus on prayer and spiritual renewal.



Gail Kristaponis, Linda Bustle's cousin, passed away on December 17, 2020 in Chapala, Mexico. She worked in medical labs, and managed the Modesto Family Literacy Program for 7 years. Memorials can be sent to Modesto Church of the Brethren.

Ginny H. is having minor surgery on her leg Tuesday and Oscar is having his second epidural on Wednesday. (week of Jan. 11) They have a caretaker coming to live with them until Saturday or Sunday. Keep them in your prayers.

Allison S. asks for continued prayer for her friend Candice.

Sheri S. asks for prayers for cousin Bruce's family at his passing.

Sandy W. and Barbara S. had joy in delivering face masks to church members.

Monique asks for prayers for a friend whose mother's cancer has spread and is inoperable. Although she is 90 years old, she did recover from COVID.

Luella and Larry regret missing worship on January 3 and the get-together after. We had a fence emergency and are grateful for help fixing it.

Mimsie F. asks for prayers for her father to understand his physical and emotional limitations so he can find acceptance for the care he needs. May she have God's insight and compassion to help him while she is with him in New Orleans. May she come home to Ken soon.

Continue prayers for the local community and the family of Trevor.

Continue prayers for peace after two tumultuous weeks.



January Birthdays (amended)

- Karen Cosner-1
- Harold Dean Canter 6
- Luella Cole-10
- Diana Messamer-13
- Nancy Deal 13
- Barbara Switzer-17
- Joann Ewert-19
- Peggy Hoover?
- Linda Hunter-28

I know there are more January birthdays in the congregation! I received several corrections after the last Chimes. Keep letting me know of any incorrect or missing dates, and please let me know whose birthdays I left out. I will put them in the next Chimes! Belated ones are OK!





It is time to start or renew your *MESSENGER* magazine subscription. This is our denominational magazine and resource for keeping us informed of happenings in the denomination.

Your subscription expiration date is on your mailing label just above your name. If it is 03/2021 you will need to renew, or you can phone Jill (in the church office 523-1438) or Romy (526-5999) to get that info.

Due to our current lock-down situation, you will need to **send your payment to the church office by FEBRUARY 7, 2021**. Jill will have a list of those needing to renew. Make your check out to Modesto Church of the Brethren and in the memo line write Messenger renewal.

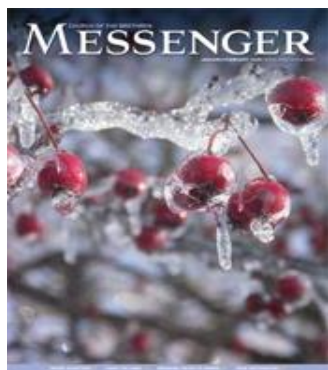
Subscription rates are as follows:

Church Club or gift: \$14.50 - 1 year (\$27. for two years)

First time subscriber - 50% discount for first year (\$7.25)

Student: \$10.50

Thank you for understanding and may we all stay well. ~Romy Mueller, MESSENGER Representative



A Balanced Year End Budget!

Thank you, thank you! On behalf of the Stewardship Commission and our Treasurer, we are so glad and happy to announce that due to our church family's giving we have met the 2020 budget. This is big, as we have not been able to attend in-person services for the majority of the 2020 year. It is a statement of everyone's commitment to our church. "Thank you" is an expression of gratitude that at times we say without much thought. Today we as a Commission say it from the bottom of our heart. We thank God for all he provides in our daily lives and we thank you, his stewards, for all that you do as his followers.

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.

Church of the Brethren General Secretary issues a statement on the events of January 6, 2021

Church of the Brethren Newslines
January 9, 2021

*The following is a statement from David Steele,
general secretary of the Church of the Brethren:*

Wednesday was Epiphany, the day marking the arrival of the Magi, seekers of the young Prince of Peace. Yet the violent actions in our nation's capital revealed the violence of Herod rather than the peace of God. While the Church of the Brethren has always had an ambivalent relationship to institutions of power and government, we have consistently sought *"the things that make for peace"* (Luke 19:42).

Brethren address the government on matters of justice in our commitment to care for all people, and we participate in nonviolent protest when necessary. But the recent actions were not nonviolent protest. They laid bare racism and hatred, and breached the country's democratic processes.

May we together confess our brokenness, that the deep divisions within our country are also present in our church; and commit to pray for the healing of our country and our church as we all together pray and work for the peace of Christ—the *shalom* of God.



Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday is hosting a ZOOM session focusing on the "state of the church." Both laity and clergy are urged to participate. The ZOOM session will use a Q&A format; any and all questions are invited. Joining Moderator Paul will be the other Annual Conference Officers: Dave

Sollenberger, Moderator Elect, and Jim Beckwith, Annual Conference Secretary.

Saturday, January 16, 2021 Session

• 10 a.m. Pacific Standard Time ZOOM link for this session:

• Join from a computer, tablet or smart-phone

• <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83288019105?pwd=V1J0ejgyMjhGUWE2V2c4bnNpeUJzZz09>

• Join from a voice only phone by dialing

• +1 669 900 6833

• Meeting ID: 832 8801 9105#

• Passcode: 091233

