



The Chimes

Date: February 1, 2021
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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.



The tragic death of George Floyd underscored the need for continued conversation and education within the United States about systemic racism, equity, and justice. Over the months that have followed there has been a surge in discussion about these issues around the country and also within our congregation. An important question that has come up is: How can we live more fully into our 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.

One way, but certainly not the only way to do this is to recognize, celebrate, and honor the cultures and histories of the people within our church. Therefore, we will be observing Black History month by recognizing an African American, civil rights activist during worship each Sunday with respect to their work, legacy, and the challenge they have brought to us as well as concrete examples of ways that we can live into that work for justice. The Scripture(s) that we will be using each week are ones that each activist quoted and was an influence on their activism.

We are also deeply grateful that the Reverend LaDonna Sanders Nkosi, director of Intercultural Ministries for the Church of the Brethren, has accepted our invitation to preach on February 28! We look forward to hearing her message.

Bayard Rustin Georgia Gilmore Audre Lorde





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



Please continue your prayers for Ginny H. Johnathan G. asks for prayers for his grandfather's healing after a fall. He has staples in his face. He is also COVID positive, but has no symptoms.

Rita M. asks for prayers for her family, grieving over the death of her granddaughter.

Renee G. asks for continued prayers for healing and health.

Elaine F. asks for prayers for the family of Trevor Seever.

Evan C. asks for prayers for all the healthcare workers and the challenges they have at their work.

Give gratitude to all teachers and schools.

Habibah H. sends good news: They are able to return to their home in the Santa Cruz mountains. There was no damage, lights are on and all is good after the storm.

Keep Marye M. in your prayers in the hospital for an infection.



February Birthdays

Gary Lawrence 7

Joshua Gilstrap-Katen. 9

Zachary Roy 23

Linda Owen 27



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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

We know you have been missing the regular Wednesday night meals at the church, and we have missed seeing you.

What? Take-Out Dinner

When? Wednesday night, February 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Where? The covered porch at the back of the church. (Wear your mask and stay in your car.)

Price? \$5 per meal/\$12 per family (donation)

MENU

Baked chicken

Roasted red potatoes

Coleslaw

Roll

Valentine cookie. Yummy!

We are excited to start spreading some cheer by providing a meal for the church body. **Don't forget to make your reservation by Sunday, February 7!** All you have to do to reserve a dinner is to call the church office at: 209 523-1438 or call or text Peggy Hoover at: 209 815-3095. (Please specify any dietary needs you may have.)

Let us know how many dinners to reserve and they will be waiting for you at the back door in a transportable container.



Modesto Church of the Brethren
Council Meeting
January 31, 2021

- I. Call to order: Linda Hunter, Moderator
- II. Devotions: Linda Hunter - Meditation - "Where is God in COVID 19?"
- III. Approval of agenda: Amended and approved. M/S/P - Jim Boardman and Elaine Forcier
- IV. Approval of council minutes from 11/15/20: M/S/P - Karleen Daniels, Linda Williams
- V. Treasurer's report: Edie read off the addendum. M/S/P - Jeanie Canter and Kim Boardman

Comments: Met our total expenses. Thank you to Edie for her dedication.

- VI. Reports from commissions:

Christian Education - Karleen - Ann Marie Washington and Rachel Duenas have been appointed to the commission.

Comments: Christian Ed. has done a wonderful job under these circumstances. Children have really enjoyed the activities.

Witness - Luella Cole

Comments - Family Promise - Tamra is the only current staff member as others have left the department. Family Promise is serving homeless people by providing apartments.

Question - Where are we collecting socks and underwear? There is a box at the church to put donated items in. Men's and women's new underwear is needed. Only boxers for men. Jim Costello can pick up donated items from people's homes.

Building and Grounds - Jim Boardman- Hope we do not lose another air conditioner!

Comment: Bonnie Munson suggested that Peace Week tiles, which children have previously decorated, could be used to beautify the north exterior wall of church where bullet holes have been patched.

Comment: The bench in front of the church is broken and may need to be replaced in the future. Ideas were suggested as to where the money may come from for this.

Stewardship - Linda Hunter

No questions or comments.

Worship and Spiritual Life - Elaine Forcier - Virtual worship was the focus for most of the year. The commission added worship coordinators, Kim Boardman, Mary Pieczarka, Kelly and Shaun Gepley, and Stephen Reddy, to help plan worship services; appreciation was shown to these members.

Comments: Thanks to Andrew and Allison for their hard work and appreciation for online worship services.

Questions: Has a District grant been applied for, which would help pay for the new sound system in the sanctuary? Andrew said it has been. Installation work will begin on February 4th.

Fellowship and Recreation - Monique Sanders - Reminder to reserve your dinner for the upcoming Wednesday Night take-out dinner on February 10, at 5:30.

Comments: Prices need to be advertised for the take-out dinners. Appreciation was expressed for all the work the F & R Commission has done for the church this year.

Deacons - Andrew - Thank you to the deacons for contacting members both formally and informally. Appreciation was expressed for all members of our congregation who are putting forth efforts to keep in touch with each other.

Board Chair - Kim Boardman - Thanks were extended to all who attended January's Organizational Board Meeting. Its theme was, "Continue to dare greatly."

Andrew and Kim will be attending the Future Church Summit hosted by Fresh Expressions, on February 19-20th. This virtual summit will focus on helping churches plan for the future beyond COVID-19. Any church member who would also like to participate in this virtual summit should contact Andrew, Kim, or the Church office. Half the cost of this summit will be paid by the District, and half will be paid by our church (per church budget, under professional growth, line 615).

Pastor Andrew - Please let Andrew know if you would like him to visit with you, either outside in person, or by a phone call. He is seeking new ways to connect with members.

Questions - Would someone be available to coordinate people to cook, transport, or shop for the shelter dinners served in downtown Modesto? Andrew and his family have been preparing dinners at the church.

VII. Accept reports - M/S/P Karleen Daniels/Jim Boardman

VIII. Thoughts, reflections, questions: Group recitation of the 23rd Psalm.

IX. Other: Next Board meeting is February 8, at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

X. Adjournment: 1:00 PM

Notes respectfully submitted by Leslie Wilkinson, Church Clerk