



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 a reminder of where we were as a congregation about a year ago, the following is taken from the **March 23, 2020 Chimes**:
Good morning!

The social distancing and quarantine restrictions have created some new and interesting ways for us to be "together." Wednesday afternoon we had a Bible study using the Zoom app and I think that everyone appreciated seeing each other again. We will have another Bible study using Zoom for all who are interested. Zoom is a free app that can be downloaded to most computers, tablets, and phones. Prior to the Bible study there will be an email sent that includes all of the necessary information to join, and you can call, text, or email me if you have any problems.

This Sunday, I will livestream the sermon with Facebook live at 11am and promise to be upright this week! During the sermon you are encouraged to post comments, questions, and greet others who may also be watching at the same time.

I also continue to work at a way to broadcast videos on YouTube for those who do not have Facebook, and will send out an email about this as soon as possible.

Another opportunity to worship is using the labyrinth. Please continue to observe safe practices - maintain a 6-foot distance from others, do not sneeze or cough on another, etc. as you walk. Aren't sure about how or what a labyrinth is? This article provides a good overview,

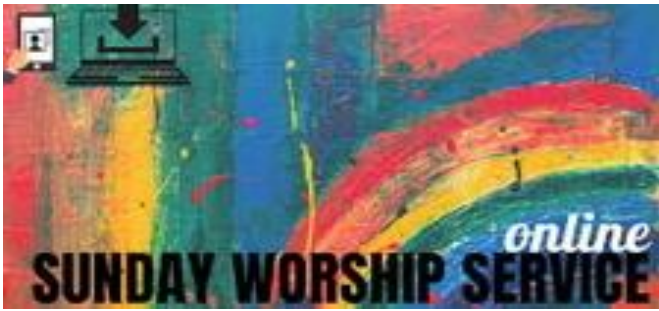
<https://www.peacelabyrinth.org/how-to-walk-the-labyrinth>

Lastly, if it does not present a hardship to you and your household, please continue to send your offerings to the church either with electronic banking or mailing it in. While expenses have been reduced during this time we still have some - especially to our outreach and witness ministries.

As always, be safe and keep washing your hands!

Pastor Andrew

After a year of social distancing and on-line worship, we have learned new ways of being together through the efforts of Pastor Andrew and many members of the congregation. As we look forward to being together in person, we give thanks to all those who have kept us united.



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



Evan Campbell prays that the nation as a whole will be wise during all the upcoming school spring breaks.

Allison asks for prayers for her friends Candice L., Brandy W., and Cheryl B. She is thankful for those who work with the youth.

Sheri Sampson is thankful for God's protection for her loved ones throughout the year. She is happy that Spring is coming.

Luella and Larry Cole are thankful that they have both received their second COVID vaccination.

Sandy Whitby is thankful that her husband Ed has received his first COVID vaccination.

Continue to pray for health and healing for Jeff Glass.

Ginny Hollis is now at Casa de Modesto in room 917C. While she cannot have visitors at this time (due to CA state COVID restrictions) she is able to accept phone calls, Facetime calls and Messenger calls on her cell phone (209) 604-6087. She can also receive texts, but is not able to respond to texts or Facebook messages at this time. She can have visitors outside her window at Casa de Modesto, but visitors need to contact Casa de Modesto activities to schedule an appointment before visiting.

Cash Receipts/Expenses 2021

January \$15,322.00

February \$14,191.00

Total \$29,513.00 *

*This giving reflects 10% of our 2021 budget.

17% of the year is past.

Our disbursements to date have been

\$37,291.96.

From the Stewardship Commission





TAKE-OUT DINNER FUN!

Don't forget to call or text in your reservation for the St Patrick's Day take-out dinner. Contact the church office or Peggy @ 209-815-3095. We are planning a wonderful meal for you, complete with color-appropriate cake for dessert.

Also, if you could enter from the east parking lot, the one off of Dan West Court, that would help with the pick-up process. Dinners will be ready by 5:30. Make your reservation by March 14th to guarantee your dinner. (Yes, the deadline has passed, but you might try!)

Graduation Time is Coming



We have two high school Senior youth, Maddy Beth Harty and Raeann Davis, coming to that very significant time in their lives when they graduate this June. We also have Jacob Johnson who graduated last June when the church was still coming to grips with being in isolation. All three of these youth had been active in the church for many years.

Our congregation has traditionally honored our senior graduates with a gift of our Brethren Hymnal. Inside those hymnals many members would sign with well wishes on a page of their favorite hymn. Seniors last year and this year have experienced great losses due to the pandemic.

We want to make sure that they don't lose out on a chance of receiving your well wishes for them and telling them about your favorite hymn in their own personal hymnal.

Since we are not meeting at the church quite yet, there will be a signing table provided in the foyer for those who are able to come to the church to sign the hymnals. You will need to come between Monday and Thursday. from 9am-12pm while the church is open.

We will also try to have a signing table at the "drive thru meal" March 17th starting at 5:30pm. The table will be on the sidewalk in front of the main doors. If you could sign the hymnals there before you pick up your dinners it would be greatly appreciated.

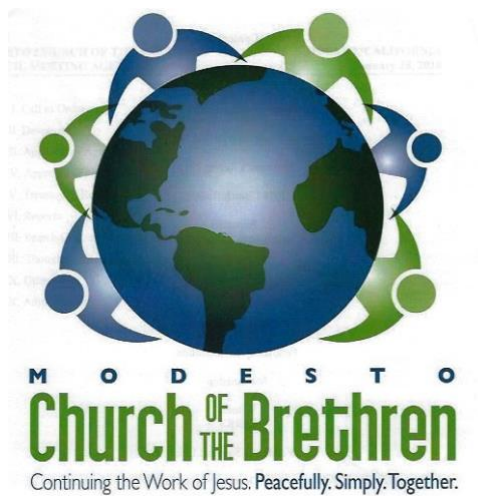
There will also be three 8th graders graduating this year. They are Maya Wolfe, Grace Sesser, and Adrian Bates. We will have cards for those 8th grade graduates as well as the Seniors for you to sign.

Christian Education 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.



See the Minutes of the Church Board on the next several pages.

Modesto Church of the Brethren

Board of Administration

Minutes

March 8, 2021

Present: Kim Boardman, Jim Boardman, Luella Cole, Ann Marie Washington, Jim Costello, Elaine Forcier, Felton Daniels, Karleen Daniels, Linda Hunter, Marye Martinez, Jim Martinez, Bill Johnson, Edie Ransom, Andrew Sampson, Peggy Hoover, Leslie Wilkinson

Absent: None

1. Opening Devotions: Luella Cole - A poem, written by Laura Kelly Fanucci, was read in which the author speaks about what she will not take for granted again, once the pandemic is over, and the positive changes she hopes that may take place within each of us.
2. Approval of Agenda: M/S/P - Marye Martinez/Linda Hunter
3. Approval of February 8, 2021, minutes - Modifications were made:
 - Christian Ed.: Kelsey and Ashley will be working with the *youth* and not the younger children.
 - Building and Grounds: There is no *official* bid on painting the office.
 - Witness: Joe Vecchio, who works at PSWD, will be involved with changing the church's website.

M/S/P - Karleen Daniels, Felton Daniels

4. Treasurer's Report: Edie Ransom - The cash receipts for February were \$14,191.00. Cash disbursements were \$17,605.98. February had a decrease of \$3,414.98. The cash decrease for the year is \$7,778.96.
 - Kim - Was the Future Church Summit payment deducted from line 615 in the Budget?
 - Edie - It was paid through Visa and we have not yet received the bill.

M/S/P - Bill Johnson, Luella Johnson

5. Report from the Future Church Summit: Ann Marie Washington - Ann Marie wrote an article in the *Chimes* about the February 19-20th, virtual Future Church Summit that was attended by eleven members of our congregation.
 - Jim Costello - What other churches participated in the conference?
 - Kim - Churches from all over the country participated.
 - Kim - A coach, Jim Pace, will be supporting our church through "Fresh Expressions." March 18, at 4:00 PM, will be our first meeting with Jim.
 - Ann Marie - The Future Church Summit's emphasis was looking at a hybrid of in- person and online worship, blending the two together. This will likely involve live-streaming our worship services.
 - Felton - The conference also talked about how to bring new people into our congregation.
 - Kim - Reflecting on who we are and what we want our message to be.

6. New Business:

1. Seever-Ruiz family request: Jim Boardman/Andrew Sampson
 - Andrew - Darlene Ruiz, Trevor's mother, asked to install a plaque near the labyrinth in Trevor's honor.
 - Elaine - Could a plaque be made and attached to the bench that is currently there?
 - Bill - Could a brick be made in his honor, instead?
 - Jim Boardman - This type of request has come up before and the church has declined.
 - Discussion about what words would go on a plaque or brick.
 - Marye - A brick could have Trevor's name on it. We should have a formal plan for anyone who would want to honor someone with a brick.
 - Elaine - Suggestions for words for the family to put on the brick. There is a form that was used before.

- Karleen - Shouldn't the family decide what is written on the brick?
 - Jim Costello - Wonders if the family may want more than one brick or something special to honor Trevor.
 - Peggy - Suggests the family meet at the church with Elaine, at the location of the bricks, and see what the family would like.
 - Kim - Asks that Andrew and Elaine meet with Mrs. Ruiz about a brick.
2. Request to support the formation of the Community Police Review Commission: Jim Costello - Jim is on the committee promoting developing a Community Police Review Commission, which would be trained to monitor and investigate policing, as a liaison between the community and the police.
- Jim - Public has oversight over the police. Twelve organizations have signed on to support this commission. An independent auditor will work with law enforcement when an incident occurs. The auditor will report to the community. This auditor has the support of the commission. The benefit is that when an incident occurs, the auditor will ensure incidents are looked into fairly. Davis and other cities have similar commissions in place. Community support is being sought. The police are skeptical and are afraid they may be politicized and not treated fairly. There was a public forum.
 - Luella - The Witness Commission read through the report Jim gave.
 - Felton - Why is there no police department member on the commission?
 - Jim - It is a conflict of interest. The police will have a voice. If the commission were in place, the auditor would write a report letting the community know what had happened.
 - The Witness Commission recommended that our church support the Community Police Review Commission. Board voted and recommendation passed unanimously.

7. Commission Reports:

1. Witness, Luella Cole:
 - People can send in donations to One Great Hour of Sharing.
 - There is a box at the church that people can put donations in for the shower shuttle
 - Because of the virus, the commission has been limited in what they can be involved in..
2. Worship and Spiritual Life, Elaine Forcier:
 - Commends Andrew and others on Black History Month services. Looking for more worship coordinators.
 - The streaming equipment is installed and a run-through will happen soon. Jonathan Goodrich has also agreed to be trained to run the equipment. Andrew offers to give tours to people who are interested in looking at the new streaming equipment.
 - There was a *Messenger* article about the shooting at our church. Elaine read a positive response from the *Messenger* staff appreciating our church's response to the shooting.
3. Member-at-Large, Felton Daniels: Keep in mind meeting in small groups.
4. Christian Education, Karleen Daniels:
 - Karleen is very pleased that Kelsey and Ashley have agreed to help lead the youth group. They will work with Shaun. Bonnie Munson will help Rachel and Josh work with junior high youth.
 - Maddie Beth, Jacob, and Raeann will be given hymnals because they are graduating from high school. Karleen is hoping to have a table sitting in front of our church, or in the foyer, so that people can come by to sign the hymnals. Andrew requests that the delivery of the hymnals be recorded on video.
5. Fellowship and Recreation, Peggy Hoover:
 - Successful Valentine's Day meal take-out. Forty meals were served. There will be another dinner for Saint Patrick's Day.

- There may be Zoom cooking classes offered soon.
 - Senior gatherings may be starting up again, meeting outside. Andrew is recommending that until our county gets to the red tier, before such gatherings begin.
 - The day before Easter, Andrew would like to put out the cross and have people come by and bring flowers to be put in the cross; that way, the decorated cross can be used in our Easter service.
6. Moderator, Linda Hunter: No report.
7. Building and Grounds, Jim Boardman:
- Spring work day: April 17th.
 - The kitchen ceiling has been repaired and textured. It will not be painted at this time.
 - Elaine and Al have repaired the broken bench and are donating some bark to be spread under the redwood trees on our upcoming work day.
8. Deacons, Marye Martinez:
- Today, Marye went to James Singh's funeral. The deacons provided to each person who attended the service for James, a packet that included a cookie, a tea bag, a bible verse, Taize chant, and message from the family. The family was appreciative.
 - An activity for the church will be planned for Maundy Thursday. More information to follow.
9. Personnel, Bill Johnson :No report
10. Stewardship, Jim Martinez - The commission has not met, but Jim has met with Edie to go over the finances. Two of three remaining loans, used to install our solar panels, have been paid off.
11. Pastor, Andrew Sampson:
- Andrew is offering to provide socially distanced visits with congregants. He will develop a list of people to call, who would like to receive a visit.
 - Annual Conference registrations began this week. If someone would like to attend business meetings, virtually, the cost is \$95.00 and interested persons must use their own email address in order to participate. Worship services can be watched with no cost.
 - The church calendar will be put on the modcob.org.
 - Andrew will be away from April 5-11.
 - Sunday is the one year anniversary of going to online worship.
 - The Stanislaus County Interfaith Council will have an event on May 23rd. There will be pre-recorded segments looking at different faiths, with live conversations following.
 - Felton - How many different churches will speak?
 - Andrew - They are hoping to have twelve different groups speak over different days.
8. Other:
- Next meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021, at 6:30pm, by Zoom. Devotions led by Felton Daniels.

Adjourn: 8:07 PM

Notes respectfully submitted by Leslie Wilkinson