



# 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.*



Last week, I gathered with Kim Boardman, Bill Johnson, Marye Martinez, Jim Costello, and Allison Sampson along with input from Linda Hunter to continue the conversation about the safety and well-being of the congregation, the state of the pandemic, and finding a collective way forward. This has been the overall purpose of this group since I called them and Karen Cosner at the beginning of the Covid pandemic, and I want to express my gratitude to them for their individual and collective wisdom, guidance, and insight. We had a purpose, lots of questions and concerns, but little idea of how long this situation would last and with minimal direction from the denomination. However, we met many times over the past 13+ months trying to stay abreast of the situation, navigate as best that we could, and now we are beginning to see that the end is near!

Therefore, we would like to invite you to in-person worship in the sanctuary at 11:00 on May 2, 2021. The service will also be live streamed to the church's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/modcob](http://www.facebook.com/modcob), and later uploaded to YouTube and emailed to the church email list. If attending in person, please respect the following guidelines for your well-being and the health of the congregation.

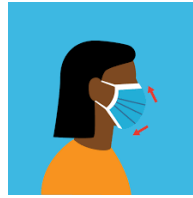
- We highly recommend that you receive the vaccine and that you do so for your own safety and wellbeing and for the safety of others.
- Join us online if you are not feeling well.
- The doors will open at 10:45 so please enjoy your coffee at home as we will not be serving any before (or after) the service.
- Wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth. We will have extras in case you forget yours.
- Use only the front doors for entering and exiting the church - even if you have a key.

*(continued on the next page)*

## Returning to in-person worship

- Have your temperature checked and then sanitize your hands before entering the sanctuary. Don't worry! We will wait for you.
- There are tables especially for the families of our youngest friends as we will not have childcare until further notice.
- Keep a 6' distance from those not living at your address.
- Use "hellos," bows, 🙌 and other non-touch greetings.
- In accordance with health guidelines, we will have a limit of 75 people which is 25% of the sanctuary's capacity.
- Leave after the worship service ends, and don't get stuck in the back of the line at one of the many delicious, local restaurants.

We appreciate the kindness and thoughtfulness that you have shown over the past year, and we pray that you continue to bear with us as we still face an unknown future. There will be more changes to come. Some will come quickly, and others require more time and consideration before they are achieved more fully. We ask for your prayers and participation as we faithfully venture forward.



Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose

Only the front doors will open at 10:45. Please stop to have your temperature checked and sanitize your hands. Don't worry you won't miss worship!



Use "hellos," bows, and other non-touch greetings

Keep a 6' distance from those not living at your address.



We will not be having a coffee or snack time before or after the worship service.



In accordance with health guidelines, capacity for worship will be 75 (25% of the capacity)



**Get the vaccine as soon as you can!**

*From Pastor Andrew*



If you do not choose to join our in-person worship, please join us for worship on the Modesto Church of the Brethren Facebook page at 11 AM on Sunday.



Darlene Mathias asks for prayers for her mother-in-law Roberta, who is in despair from so much isolation.

Shari Sampson asks for prayers for friends Don and Karen in the loss of Don's mother.

Allison Sampson is grateful for our youth leaders.

Maren McCourt asks for prayers for her friend Ruth who will be going to Texas for 2 weeks with Children's Disaster Service to work with migrant children.

Joann Ewert says we are fortunate to have access to medical care and vaccines. Remember those countries that are struggling, especially Brazil and India.

Remember Ginny Hollis, who is now at Casa de Modesto in the nursing wing.

Pat Royer is back at home at Casa and is feeling well enough to host the knitting group this week.

Please remember Terhesa Gamboa's nephew-in-law, Eugene, recovering from an accident.

Continue to remember the family of Trevor Seever, who celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday at our labyrinth last Saturday.

Please remember all those who may have troubles too deep for words.



Thanks to all who picked up their dinners last Wednesday night. We served up 44 meals to smiling faces in cars, and one who made a picnic out of the evening by tailgating close by. (His name rhymes with Pup)

Our next take-out event will be May 12th. The details are still being worked out, but we are thinking about a walk-up pick-up at the back doors of the Gathering place and social distancing on the back lawn as we eat our dinners. You can, of course, get your dinner to go also.

Look for more information in the next Chimes and get ready to sign up for this in-person event, weather permitting.

Peggy Hoover, for the Fellowship and Recreation Commission

## LABYRINTH SIGN PROPOSAL

It's hard to believe that our beautiful labyrinth has been around for almost 6 years. During that time, there has been talk about having a labyrinth sign there, not only from folks in our congregation but also from some of our neighbors.

Finally, the Worship & Spiritual Life Commission decided to take up the challenge this year. We came up with a design for a handicapped accessible 'welcome' sign which includes background information on labyrinths and an explanation of various ways to walk the prayerful path. Next to this article is an artist's rendering of the proposed sign from City Signs. It's made of durable aluminum and angled like a podium on a single pole. Monies remaining in the labyrinth beautification fund are available to pay for it.

The WSL Commission is recommending approval of the sign at the May 10 board meeting. Feel free to share your comments with our commission or the board.

The Worship & Spiritual Life Commission,  
Felton Daniels, Linda Owen, Elaine Forcier,  
& Andrew Sampson, Pastor

In the next column is the artist's rendering of the proposed sign. The editor took some leeway in changing the size and shape of the original, so the sign could be easily read.





## April Birthdays

Stephen Reddy - 1  
Harold Mueller - 19

## May Birthdays

Michelle Beaton - 6  
David F. Messamer - 26  
Jaime Farrar - 31  
Cindy Cearley - 31



At the open house at the labyrinth April 24 to celebrate Trevor Seever's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, many guests decorated rocks, walked the labyrinth and placed them on the large rock in the center of the labyrinth as a remembrance.

I appreciate the Milestones, including birthdays, that some have shared with the Chimes. I'm sure there are more birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other Milestones that haven't been shared. Please send them along and I will add them to the Chimes and we can share your Milestones.

## 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

