



The Chimes

Date: June 21, 2021
Volume 21 Number 25

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.



What are the Children of the Church Thinking About?

Last Sunday, rather than having a lesson during children's church, I gave the children a chance to ask any question about church they wanted. I thought I might get dead silence, but no, their hands shot up right away!

The first question was "We know the creation story about man and the animals etc., but who created God?" WOW! I did not promise I could answer their questions. THANK GOODNESS!

After a few attempts on their part to try to answer the question, I told them how impressed I was with that question and that there have been people writing books about that very question for many years. However, I had no real answer for them.

Next question. "What was the very first animal created?" WOW again!! "Well," I said, "again you are asking questions that have required many years of study and research by very educated scientists, but I think it was probably a one celled animal." Help!!

Finally, someone asked what the Biblical saying printed on the wall in their classroom meant. "The Lord is my shepherd...I shall not want" Ah, finally a question I could answer!

I was the one who got the real lesson last Sunday on how much and how deeply our children are wondering and thinking.

Karleen Daniels, Children's Church teacher



Sunday in-person worship continues weekly at Modesto Church of the Brethren. If you prefer, you may continue following the worship service online at the address below.

Visit
www.facebook.com/modcob
on Sundays at 11:00 PST for
worship! No account
required!



Pastor Andrew is away for a few days and will be back in the office on June 24.



Elaine Forcier has a joy that Maddy Beth is visiting family in Nevada. She asks for prayers for husband Al Forcier for energy and healing from pneumonia in both lungs.

Jeannie Canter's prayers were answered that Harold Dean's daughter is visiting from Alaska to spend time with her dad. Jeannie is able to drive to Oregon to spend time with her sisters for 4 days. Prayers for safe travels for daughter Kathleen as she flies home to Alaska.

Monique Sanders has a great joy-having a great time in Hawaii.

Rita Matthews has a joy-her daughter Suzie and her husband Mike are visiting from Utah.

Please welcome Lloyd Snell, a Brethren family member currently living in Iowa, but working here indefinitely. He was a long time Peaceful Pines camper.

Gratitude to Felton Daniels for stepping up to the pulpit today to share a Father's Day message.

Bonnie Munson asks for prayers for the families she sees whose tiny children have developmental challenges. A couple of children are heavy on her heart: Ivanna, who has spinal muscular atrophy, and Cesar, who has a rare and severe seizure disorder. Pray for miraculous healing and wise, strong circles of support.



June Birthdays

Cica Akpovi - 1
Jeanine Ewert - 9
Emily Matteson - 12
Allison Sampson - 12
Monique Sanders - 12
Kelsey Boardman - 17
Jolie Lapora - 17
Felton Daniels - 17
Lyla French - 17
Kelly Gephart - 17
Emily Gilstrap - 17
Tony Bates - 22
Margaret Johnson - 23
Mary Pieczarka - 23
Bill Johnson - 24
Terhesa Gamboa - 25
Josh Roy - 27

MORE



Cameron Ewert, grandson of Joann Ewert, son of Burton, has been working hard to become a firefighter. After experiencing disappointments along the way, such as graduating from High School in 2020 and not having a formal graduation service and no football for the next season, he has finally achieved the goal of being a firefighter at the age of 19. Please pray for him as he may face other stumbling blocks along the way.

M O R E



Felton and Karleen Daniels will celebrate their 59th anniversary on June 30.

Larry and Luella Cole will celebrate their 18th anniversary on June 28.

Jeannie and Harold Dean Canter celebrate their 35th anniversary on July 16.

YOGA

We're taking a brief pause in Yoga. When we resume it will be early morning in Jolie's beautiful shady back yard. We'll let you know when that begins. ~ Elaine Forcier



If you have reserved a dinner for Wednesday night, don't forget to come by the church at 5:30. There will be lots of potatoes to stuff and salads to assemble. Be prepared to eat inside or dine in the yard outside. (Others may take their dinners to go) Bring your own chair and/or table service if you wish. The temperature should be very enjoyable! If you haven't reserved a meal yet, give Peggy a call 209 815-3095, there will be plenty. ~Fellowship and Recreation.

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



A conversation with Tamra Losinski, the executive director of Modesto Family Promise, revealed that while families are being housed in apartments and motels rather than congregations, there are many things church members can do: donate gift cards for restaurants and groceries, buy bedding, donate toiletries, and donate the cost for cleaning the apartments after a family leaves. Dick Ehrler, the president of the Family Promise board will be visiting congregations to let them know how they can help.

Chimes Deadline

Items for the next Chimes are due by 5 pm Sunday, June 27. Send to chimes@modcob.org

Modesto Church of the Brethren
Board of Administration Minutes
June 14, 2021

Present: Kim Boardman, Jim Boardman, Elaine Forcier, Felton Daniels, Karleen Daniels, Jim Costello, Bill Johnson, Andrew Sampson, Edie Ransom, Jim Martinez, Luella Cole, Peggy Hoover, Linda Hunter, Jim Costello, Rachel Gilstrap-Katen, and Leslie Wilkinson

Absent: Marye Martinez

Opening Devotions: Bill Johnson – “Come to the Lake”

1. Approval of Agenda - M/S/P - Linda Hunter/Karleen Daniels
2. Approval of April 12, 2021, minutes: M/S/P - Bill Johnson/Elaine Forcier
3. Report on May email vote for labyrinth sign: Kim Boardman - The vote to approve the sign located in the labyrinth area passed unanimously. The sign has been purchased and installed. Billie and Gordon Switzer have donated money towards the labyrinth sign.
4. Treasurer's Report: Edie Ransom - The total cash receipts for April were \$25,724. Cash disbursements were \$21,099.51. April had an increase of \$4,624.49. M/S/P - Bill Johnson/Linda Hunter. The total cash receipts for May were \$27,417.63. Cash disbursements were \$21,039.04. May had an increase of \$6,418.59. M/S/P - Bill Johnson/Jim Boardman.
 - Discussion: When phone systems were redone, the internet and phone service were separated out. The internet service in current use is Comcast. Beginning in June, the phone service is Circuit Savers. Should services be renegotiated? Currently, the phone service cost is \$220.00 per month. Service for the internet is \$190.00 per month. Can we bundle everything with Comcast? There is no budget item for phone service currently. Building and Grounds Commission will talk with Jill and look into this matter.
5. Business:
 - A. Annual Conference delegate change approval: Linda Hunter will be the Annual Conference delegate for 2021. This appointment was approved unanimously.

B. KCBP Radio Station room rental: Jim Costello, Jim Boardman - Modesto Peace/Life Center lost its office space downtown. The radio station is in need of a new location. The Center is asking to rent an empty classroom at our church to use.

- There needs to be a line of sight from our church to the tower at Ray's Radio, and Ray will need to come to the church to see if that is possible.
- A dish on a mini tower may need to be installed. There may need to be a building permit for the tower.
- Transmitter equipment would be located in the classroom.
- Room 5 may be an ideal space.
- Comcast internet service is currently being used by the Modesto Peace/Life Center and this would continue to be paid by the MPLC.
- Soundproofing may be involved.
- Room 5 does not currently have its own thermostat for air conditioning.
- The Buddhist group would need to change rooms as they are currently using Room 5 and are paying rent to the church.
- Any modifications to the building would be paid by MPLC.
- There was a motion by Building and Grounds that we approve use of a classroom at our church for the radio station to use, in spirit with the Modesto Peace/Life Center, and work out the details later. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Future Church update: Felton Daniels - The committee consists of eleven members and is meeting to talk about priorities of our church, including what we want to add and/or take away from our current programs. There have been three meetings with a coach. Discussion is centered around who are we as a church, and what we want to say about ourselves to the community.

6. Reports:

A. Witness, Luella Cole:

- The radio station to use a church classroom has been discussed.
- Tamra, with Family Promise, said they are currently housing many families using local apartments and motels. Family Promise will not be able to house their clients at church facilities any more. The program still needs financial support. Discussion: Suggestions for items that are in need for Family Promise should be placed in the *Chimes*. Rooms 7, 8, and 9 are still being used by Family Promise, and rent is being paid by them.

B. Personnel, Bill Johnson: No report

C. Stewardship, Jim Martinez:

- Quarterly statements will be out this week.
- \$5,000 has been budgeted toward the Witness Commission.

D. Worship and Spiritual Life, Elaine Forcier:

- Felton - The City of Modesto is forming a committee called the Citizens Review Board. Our church has signed an approval of this Board. There are openings for four citizens to serve. Church members interested in serving on this Board should inform Felton or Elaine. Jim Costello previously served on a committee that proposed forming a Citizens Review Board. The police chief is in conversation with other cities who have formed similar boards. Modesto's Citizens Review Board may start within the next three months.
- Elaine - The Worship and Spiritual Life Commission is in support of the Mental Health Response Team. Input is requested.

- We are getting a lot of "views" of our church service online. The sound quality for the music is not great. The music heard on Facebook is fine. Someone will be coming by to work on it.
- Money has been allocated to replace our projector. A laser projector would be preferred, but is the most expensive. A lamp-based projector would cost less. A new bulb has been installed to help with the quality until a new projector can be purchased.
- Discussion: \$5,000 has been approved towards purchase of a projector. Laser and lamp projector quotes will be emailed to the Board. There are Memorial Funds that can be used towards this purchase.
- The new software purchased for presenting our Sunday services has been challenging to work with. Matt has given additional sessions with how to use the equipment. Everyone who will be using the equipment needs to be present to receive the training. The goal for using the new equipment during a Sunday service is the first Sunday in August.

E. Member-at-Large, Felton Daniels: No report.

F. Christian Education, Karleen Daniels:

- Peace Week - Outreach was conducted prior to Peace Week, resulting in one new child attending.
- Children's Church has had 5-6 regular members.
- Discussion about getting additional help for youth leadership.

G. Fellowship and Recreation, Peggy Hoover:

- Serving dinner on June 23rd.
- Perhaps an ice-cream social and harvest festival in the future.
- Discussion: Should a meal be served when our church convenes our Constitution Committee's discussion?

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H. Moderator, Linda Hunter:

- A council meeting is set for September 19th to talk about Constitution.
- Wednesday, August 25th, and Sunday, August 29th, are days scheduled for discussion about changes to the Constitution. Concerns were brought up that two days may not be adequate to complete discussions. A final decision needs to be made in order for the Nominating Committee to move forward for next year.

I. Building and Grounds, Jim Boardman:

- An unspecified budget category is overdrawn, and the issue will be discussed with Jill and Edie.
- Discussion about room allocations for both the youth and the Peace/Life radio station.
- The church's air-conditioning is now working.
- Sprinkler issues need to be resolved.

J. Deacons, Marye Martinez:

- Members, please contact the deacons regarding any concerns you have about church members.
- Discussion: Members have asked that communion be held more often during worship.

K. Pastor, Andrew Sampson -

- There has been a significant uptake in pastoral care needs.
- May counts for the worship service averaged 161 people online per week. There has been an average of 45-50 people attending in person.
- Positive comments have been made by people worshipping with us online, such as: "We have been looking for a progressive church."

- Discussion: Are replies made to people who are making online comments? If people are anonymous, we cannot reply back to them.
 - PayPal is occasionally used for tithing by church members.
- L. Other: Rachel Gilstrap-Katen - The high school and junior high youth groups need a space to gather and store their items.

Discussion:

- Rooms 7, 8, and 9 are being used by Family Promise for storage. Formerly, tenants had exclusive use of the bathroom located near that area.
- Would the library be a good place for the youth to meet? The library gets used for many other purposes. This would be a central place in the church and would show that the youth are a priority.
- Room 6 is currently not in use.
- The Fine Arts room is an under-used room.
- Rooms 1 and 2 are currently not in use. These rooms would be ideal for the youth because one group could meet in each, and then be opened up into a larger area for both groups to meet together.
- Is there a youth fund? Can some of that money be used to buy items for the youth room? Can Memorial Fund money be used for items in the youth room? The youth currently have over \$5,000 in their budget.
- A motion was made that Rooms 1 and 2 be used for the youth to use as a gathering place pending youth approval. M/S/P: Linda Hunter/Elaine Harty. Vote: 1 opposed, 2 abstaining. The motion was approved.

Next meeting: Monday, August 9, 2021, at 6:30, *live* in the church library. (No July meeting.)

Adjourn: 8:55 PM.