



# 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.*



Some of my favorite events are happening in just a few weeks - the Paralympic and Olympic Games! I look forward to both the winter and summer games, and the different events that each has. Needless to say, I am hoping to be able to attend some events or maybe the opening ceremonies when Los Angeles hosts them in a few years.

I do realize that the Games are not perfect; there are athletes who have suffered abuse at the hands of adults who were to be coaching them; international politics have overshadowed many accomplishments by the athletes; and the exorbitant costs to host the Games have excluded many countries.

However, I am still amazed at the abilities, dedication, and effort that the athletes display for the world to share in. Have you seen the strength and power of Simone Biles? Amazing!

But she should also be praised for her role in ending the Larry Nassar's reign of terror, be respected for increasing diversity within gymnastics, and for being a strong role model. We will learn the stories of countless athletes from the United States and around the world.

We will be inspired by them, but for how long? Take, for example, Mary Lou Retton, the 1984 gold medalist in the women's all-around gymnastics. (Whom I remember by name but not why, as I was only six--many thanks to Wikipedia.) But what did she do after the Olympics? I know that at one time she was a spokesperson for an orthopedic company because of a friend who worked at that company. Otherwise, I don't really know what has happened to her in the past 37 years. It is not that we do not care about our old idols; rather that we live in a fast-paced world. We move on quickly unless it makes a lasting impact on our lives.

Therein lies the mission of the church - to make a lasting impact in people's lives. How have we done this in the past, and how might we go about doing this now and in the future?

These are questions that we continue to ponder as a church, and you can contribute to the answers. So if you have some ideas, please email ([andrew@modcob.org](mailto:andrew@modcob.org)) or call me, 209-523-1438. I look forward to hearing from you!



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.



Renee Gokey asks for prayers for faster healing for the bilateral fracture in her left shoulder. She fell on June 28, and the fractures are healing slowly.

Joy at seeing people who we haven't seen in months.

Bonnie Munson asks for prayers for the family and friends of one year old Ivanna Cortes, whose muscular atrophy took her life last Thursday.

Elaine's joy is that Al was feeling well enough to join her for worship this morning

Joy for David Messamer's continued healing, and joy also for his cousin Brian Shook and his wife Caitlin, who have welcomed a new baby, Genevieve Simmons Shook, born July 8<sup>th</sup>, weighing 8.5 pounds.

Lauren Andree had a bad fall Jan 5 and is now confined to a wheel chair and also confined to her apartment, since she can no longer drive. She wants to chat occasionally on the telephone or in person, since she has no friends or family closer than 1,200 miles away. Her telephone number is 209-416-0456--after noon is best

Prayers for Pat Easley as she goes in for surgery today which will hopefully restore hearing in her right ear.

From one unnamed, special prayers for healing of my little ones and me to accept myself



The Wednesday Night gathering for July will be on the 28th and it will be a Potluck Dinner.

So, dust off your recipe cards and bring something delicious to share. No charge!!

Meet in The Gathering Place at 5:30 and we will spread out around the round tables in there.

Looking forward to seeing many familiar faces -- but feel free to bring new friends too!!

Peggy for Fellowship and Rec



## July Birthdays

- 1-Trish Galt
- 3-Chelsea Feeney
- 5-Dana Roy
- 8-Larry Cole
- 16-Sue Messamer
- 19-Chuck Messamer
- 20-Caleb Katen
- 24-Elaine Forcier
- 27-Shaun Gepley
- 31-Renee Gokey

**Future Church** is the name of a planning service our congregation is using to develop an intentional plan to help us move into the future after the pandemic. Much of the conversation has to do with relating to others, especially those living around our church building. At our last meeting our leader, Jim Pace, suggested three priorities for us to work on. The list is:

1. Develop training classes to help us talk to others about our faith and our congregation using either a book or a trained leader.

2. Study the existing demographic material of the neighborhood around our building to try to better understand what needs and interests our neighbors may have.

3. Have a few volunteers actually walk around the neighborhood and look for indications of interest.

There are eleven of us attending these zoom meetings and we are eager to include everyone in this discussion, so if you have thoughts or questions please call the church office and one of us will get back to you.

Felton Daniels

## MORE



On July 17<sup>th</sup> Bob and Lynda Sesser will celebrate 56 years of marriage!

**Please keep adding milestones to the Chimes! Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, new jobs, retirements. Send any other milestones in your life that you would like to see here.**

Items for the next Chimes are due by 5 pm Sunday, July 18. Send to [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)

Congregation Beth Shalom - The Center for Jewish Life's



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**Sunday, July 25**

**11am - 2:30pm**

1705 Sherwood Avenue, Modesto, CA

*Free Live Concerts*

*Kosher Deli Sandwiches*

*Bake Shop*

*Gift Shop*

*Beer, wine and soft drinks*

*Sanctuary Tours*

To pre-order deli sandwiches and bake shop items:  
<https://www.jotform.com/form/211804706798161>

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