



Salem Church of the Brethren

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Continuing the work of Jesus: Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Salem Church of the Brethren

April 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ

John 13:7 “Jesus answered, ‘You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand’ “

I hope that as you read this, you are physically feeling well. I recognize that emotionally that may be a harder question to ask. We are a social people, created to be in community, and yet, our normal and learned approach to community has been built on face-to-face interactions, physical interactions of handshakes, hugs, laughing, crying together, and gathering in the same spot at the same time.

Yet, now, we are unable to do that. Salem Church of the Brethren is following the recommendations of Federal and State guidelines for communities, postponing our face-to-face interactions. It is not an easy decision to make. It is not a comforting decision to make. But it was a decision that was made with faith and wisdom as our guide. It would be dishonest if I acted as though that decision didn’t carry with it a large amount of anxiety.

There are many unknowns that we are having to respond to with faith, grace and wisdom as our guide. We are also preparing to do a Digital Love Feast service. This is going to be something new for our community and there are many unknowns that we are working to respond to. If you are wanting to participate in this Digital Service, there will be information made available to you by April 3, 2020 that you can access that will help guide you through that service.

As we have been working on this, my spiritual imagination has wandered to Peter at the footwashing. Foot washing was not a new act. It was something that wasn’t just common, it was expected, but anyone who had any status, or position in society would not be the one doing the footwashing; that job was for those who had no power, no prestige, nothing to offer. This was a job for servants. Yet Jesus washed the feet. Peter could not understand this. His confusion led to him initially rejecting Jesus’s offer to wash Peter’s feet.

Jesus responds with this line, which sticks with me each and every day: “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” (John 13:8). Jesus knew that what he was doing would not make sense to anyone. He also knew that what he was doing was so important, that even if others couldn’t participate in what he was doing, then they would not be able to be a part of what he was doing.

I have thought about this interaction a lot over the past month. We have had to respond to this pandemic in new ways. As we continue to worship together in a digital way and work to expand and explore other ways for our community to come together and interact, may we work to embrace these challenging times not with fear, but with hope, trusting that we don’t yet know what God is doing, but later we will.

If you are unable to connect to our digital services for any reason, please let us know. We will do whatever we can to help you.

Blessings sisters and brothers. Please continue to actively reach out and connect with one another, either with ways you know, or perhaps in a new and interesting way.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee Saylor

In Our Prayers



Barbara CQ Shirley CQ Janet HQ Bill LQ Leon & Waneta MQ
Earl M0

Long Term Needs: Elois CQ Aaron OQ Sam PQ Chad PQ
Reta S0

Churches and more: Our district churches, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Godiya Bitrus), Bethany Theological Seminary

Sermons

April 5 **Palm Sunday**

Message from Luke 16:14-15- *Beautiful Palms*

April 9 **Maundy Thursday**

April 12 **Easter Sunday**

Message from Matthew 28:1-8- *Empty and Hopeful*

April 19

Message from Numbers 22:22-35- *Bright Sunday*

April 26

Message from Acts 3:1-10- *Giving What You Can*

You can access the March 15, 22, & 29 worship services via our Facebook page and YouTube. Here are the links.

<https://www.facebook.com/salembrethren/>

<https://youtu.be/0NS5Bqm87oE>

<https://youtu.be/xXY8XNG3IUU>

<https://youtu.be/iG6W3ffJ7EY>



Sunday Morning Schedule

We are continuing to follow the State and Federal guidelines for this pandemic. This is a fluid situation and we will continue to communicate and make changes as necessary. We look forward to when we can meet face to face again!

email: salemcob@gmail.com

Lee Saylor, Pastor

Office Hours 9:30am-12:00noon, Tues.-Fri.

937-540-4533; iamleebob@gmail.com

Carrie Smith, Administrative Assistant

Karen Dillon, Director of Christian Ed.

Tom Hissong, Board Chair 937-931-

3099; Tanger15@aol.com

Randy Schauer, Deacon Chair; 937-231-7627

Pastor Lee and Carrie, the secretary are working from home. Email and phone messages are checked regularly. Please don't hesitate to call Pastor Lee or Randy Schauer if you need anything.

April Birthdays-*Happy Birthday!!*

10-Kinsey S0

21-Tim S.

14-Aubrey H0

24-Phyllis W.

14-Thomas W0III

26-Darryl S.

15-Greg P0

30-Keith F.

16-Carol U0

18-Lois D0

18-Tom"J 0

18-Bill L.



This & That

Worship, Sunday School, Sew What, Wednesday meal & activities, District events, etc. will resume per the State guidelines. We look forward to joining together again. Until then, connect with your church family via phone calls, One Call, emails, and Facebook. You can view the Sunday worship services via Facebook and YouTube. These are the links for our Facebook page, and the March 22 & 29 worship services.

<https://www.facebook.com/salembrethren/>
<https://youtu.be/xXY8XNG3IUU>
<https://youtu.be/iG6W3ffJ7EY>



1000+!! More than 1000 quilts have been made and have or will be distributed to those in need through our Sew What ministry. What an incredible gift of love!

Keep up to date with various information by having your number added to our **One Call system**. Announcements, meetings, and special events are communicated through One Call. Contact Carrie in the office at 836-6145, if you'd like to be added.

If you have a **prayer request** you'd like to go through the prayer chain One Call, please call Randy Schaurer at 231-7627. If he cannot be reached, please call Pastor Lee at 836-6145. If you'd like to get prayer requests, please let Carrie in the office know.

The special **One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be taken at a later date**. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you support: Families rebuilding their homes after disasters, Farmers who share food and agricultural training with their communities, Youth who attend faith-forming events, Volunteers who serve for a week or year. Your gifts do great things!

Did you know?? **The District sends a monthly newsletter via email**. You can sign up at sodcob.org or pick up a hard copy on the narthex table (or call Carrie in the office).

The Church of the Brethren sends out news and such via email. You can sign up for a number of communications by going to brethren.org .

Does Carrie in the office have your **updated email address**? Email her at salemcob@gmail.com to stay informed.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and visits during my operation and recovery. Thanks also to Pastor Lee for his visits. –Bill Leland

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, and prayers. I was released from SpringMeade before the Coronavirus outbreak. I've had 2 back surgeries and 1 knee surgery and a knee surgery to be scheduled soon. I would appreciate continued prayers. Thank you, God Bless, and keep on praying for our world and country! - Barbara Comer

Dear Salem Church of the Brethren & Pastor Lee, We would like to thank you for the use of the Fellowship Hall for Ray Malone's funeral dinner since Happy Corner was not available. We appreciate your willingness to let us use it. Thanks, The Family of Ray Malone

Easter Traditions

We don't know what is going to happen in the next few weeks. We know we are being held in the Light of God in this time of uncertainty. We don't know if we'll meet for Easter face to face or if we'll worship online and at our homes. But with each uncertainty we are reminded of God's goodness. One way we can celebrate God's goodness is through memory and tradition. Below you'll find some church member's Easter traditions. May you read them and reflect on your own cherished memories and traditions.

Easter Traditions at my home growing up was coloring eggs and receiving Easter baskets with a big chocolate bunny & yellow marshmallow chicks. One year, we bought "real" yellow chicks. And, we had "new" clothes to wear to church -- so blessed!
-Bonnie Warner

We always have the boys find their individual Easter baskets that have been hidden around the house first. Their baskets have an egg with their name on written on it that they had decorated and left with the eggs to be hidden. After getting the baskets, they then do the Easter egg hunt. This year is extra special because Finn and Grant's 9th birthday falls on Easter! -Kyle & Linda Hinlkeman

We all (6 kids) dyed Easter eggs together the day before Easter. We always attended Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services together. We had an Easter egg hunt at the local park & A special one at home on Easter. The Easter bunny hid our baskets & we had to hunt for them. We weren't to tell if we found someone else's basket. Dad got Mom & all of us girls an Easter corsage for Easter Sunday. We all had new Easter Sunday outfits. And we wore Easter hats. We read the Bible together every night before bedtime during Lent. We also had services on Friday nights at church - Stations of the Cross. -Sue Wampler

As a child growing up in Old Clayton my sister and I always had a new outfit for Easter because it was a time of renewal and new life. It was always exciting! I continued that tradition with my own children. When the Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren came along there was always an egg hunt & getting together for Easter Dinner. Most Easters were very cold & some with snow, but we prevailed !! No Easter Egg Hunts this year but praying all stay safe. P.S. We always went to church. God Bless You Everyone! -Sharon Walker

My mother always knew how to make Easter special. She was a creative baker and loved to try new things. Two of our favorite Easter desserts were a bunny cake and a basket cake topped with decorated cake eggs bearing our names. Mom loved to make candy, too. Each person selected a flavor for a fondant filled egg she would decorate, personalizing them for us. All her tasks took a lot of time, but that creativeness was her delight. Since I was the only daughter, Mom spent extra effort making my Easter dresses. She and I would shop for the fabric and pattern as a girl's day out. Then she cut, sewed, and fashioned my outfit using her artistic touch to add unique decorations, fancy bows, special accessories like a hat, purse, spring coat, and all the frills of the season. I was always very proud to go to church on Easter morning, knowing that I looked so good because of my mom's talent and loving heart.
-Karen Dillon

District News

Some articles adapted/taken from the district newsletter. You can email sodcob@brethren.org to receive the district newsletter. There are also hard copies available on the narthex table.

Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

Most District events have been suspended or cancelled. Check out sodcob.org for information.

Camping and Retreat summer camp! *As of now, Summer Camp is on!* Brochures and registration forms for Summer Camp are on the district website at www.sodcob.org. Please contact Karen Dillon with any questions.

Denominational News

Some articles adapted/taken from Church of the Brethren Newline. You can sign up online to receive these newsletters and other communications at brethren.org.

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

A release from the World Council of Churches

In a historic joint pastoral statement released on March 26, the World Council of Churches and regional ecumenical organizations affirmed the urgency of standing together to protect life amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. [The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA is one of the regional ecumenical organizations joining in this statement.] For the first time ever, all regions in the ecumenical movement around the world are standing together with a common message that urges both prayers and action for one world to protect life. Read the WCC release at www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/joint-statement-of-wcc-and-regional-ecumenical-organizations-affirm-to-stand-together-to-protect-life

