



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

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August 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Almost 10 years ago, I was living in Richmond Indiana. Ashley was very pregnant with a child that we weren't expecting for another month and a half. But to look at her, you would think that he was overdue. The child, whom we would name Thomas was a big boy. At that point, we had gone through parenting classes, we were being seen by a high-risk pregnancy specialist in Indianapolis because of Ashley's medical history, and we were almost done with the nursery, which would share space with my office while I was finishing up my Master's degree from Bethany. We had a plan. A good plan. A well researched and thought out plan. Looking back on it now, I think that I heard God laughing.

As we have persisted each day of this pandemic living, I have searched for stories, experiences, realities from scripture and human history to help provide hope, wisdom and guidance to help us get from one moment to the next. When people have asked how I am doing, I have expressed that about the time I felt like I had a handle on what was going on in the past 5 months something radical would change and I would no longer have any idea what to do.

In September 2009, as we entered the final trimester of our family being Ashley and I, Ashley noticed and expressed some of the pains and struggles that her body was going through as a result of the pregnancy. We went for a regular check up 5 weeks before he was scheduled to be born and the Doctor listened, noticed some of her vitals, and then indicated that we were going to be parents a good time before we thought we would. Turns out Ashley was experiencing preeclampsia. When the doctor said we would need to have Thomas sooner, because of this preeclampsia, we asked how soon he meant, he asked what we were doing the next day. Ashley's response was not surprising and also deeply humorous, "But we aren't ready yet. The nursery isn't done. I haven't sewn the curtains yet!" (FYI...I don't remember us having a sewing machine at that time, but what do I know) To his credit, the doctor gave us an extra 2 days, but then, on September 24, 2009, we entered IUPUI Hospital in Indianapolis to become parents. Again, I think that I heard God laughing.

Since March 2020, our world has engaged in a shared experience like none other. Many parts of the world have dealt with viruses before, which have been limited to a geographic region. North American's have been largely been spared any experience like this. Yet, by March, it became clear that COVID-19 was not something that was to be scoffed at. All the plans that had been made, all the strategy that had been set in motion, all the everything was now out the door. The rush for toilet paper had begun, because no one knew how long this would take. There were some estimates that said 2 weeks, others said 2 years. Terms like social distancing, flattening the curve and contact tracing became newly understood phrases.

We weren't even off the hospital property with our newborn red headed boy when Ashley made me stop the car. I hadn't installed the car seat correctly. This whole parenting thing was not getting off to a good start. Yet after some tense moments and tense words between this new mother and new father, the journey back to Richmond and trying to understand this new life, this new reality, this new everything for us was starting to sink in. Quickly, it became clear...we had no idea what we were doing. I can safely say that nearly 11 years later...we still have no idea what we are doing. Sure there are some parts that we made it through; he can walk, he can talk, he can bathe himself, etc. We felt so confident in this, that we decided, let's do this again. God can stop laughing anytime now.

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What I have learned during this pandemic is very similar to what I learned and continue to learn as a parent...this only works when I trust in GRACE. As a parent of 2, one nearly 11 the other nearly 4, I can safely say that I know little, and the only way I am able to get from one moment to the next as a parent is when I rely on my wife, my friends, my family, my church family, my community to help me get through the ups and downs. When I read the story of Jesus, I see that his community are not people who always understand what they are doing, but rely on one another and Jesus to help them get through the one moment to the next.

Our community has had to adapt to how we are Salem Church of the Brethren. We have had to shift to an online model for worship, but we have shown that we can be Salem, that we can be God's people through different ways; perhaps we have made bags to go to BRC to support the staff, perhaps we have made a quilt square, perhaps we have helped out with the District Summer Camp that was done online, perhaps we have written notes of encouragement to people, perhaps we have called others more often, perhaps we have done any number of things. What is certain is this; our community continues, even when we aren't sure what is going to happen tomorrow, we continue existing today. And today we will be God's grace

Blessings Sisters & Brothers,
Pastor Lee Saylor

Celebrating Community

What have you missed during this pandemic time?

I miss seeing people's faces - their whole face, their smiles, their frowns, and whatever other face they may be making. -Diana Binkley

Missing the entire worship experience; especially miss exchanging smiles and hellos to the many friends at church. -Julie Stickler

I miss seeing everyone face to face. I miss all the hugs & handshakes & close contact. -Betsy Duncan

I have missed worship services in our church sanctuary and being with our church family. Miss Sunday school, too. Working on quilts and helping work on Wednesday church meals, always gave me a sense of accomplishment. I miss that! Saturday church game nights were fun and a way of getting to know our church family. Have appreciated our Weds. church "zoom" get-togethers, although, it would be fun to give everyone a hug. Fondly, Bonnie Warner



Being in Brookhaven, no one has been able to have any visitors at all, until July 1st. All activities have been canceled, but the good part, we've not had any virus. -Phyllis Bowman

In Our Prayers

Carl Deo S0 was born on June 26, 1936 and passed away on July 19, 2020 and is under the care of Tobias Funeral Home - Belmont Chapel. Services will be scheduled for a later time. Prayers for Theo and the S0 family.

Shirley C0 John E0 Genevieve F0 Bonnie L0 Leon & Waneta M0 Joy'O0
Phyllis W0

Long Term Needs: Elois C0 Barbara C0 Janet H0 Bill L0 Aaron M0 Sam'R0
Chad P0 Kasey S0 Reta S0

Churches and more: Our district churches, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (Godiya Bitrus), Bethany Theological Seminary, for those struggling in various ways during this pandemic



Worship

You can access previous worship services and services to come via YouTube. The link is below. Simply copy the link in your internet browser. If you would like a CD or DVD of any worship service, please contact Pastor Lee.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy21R7-Re6vMQ092LxcLvyA>

A **heartfelt thank you** to all who have contributed or participate in online worship services! Leadership continues to be in conversation about when worship can move back into the building. Until then, extend grace, patience, and prayers; and find ways to continue to connect to your church family.



Offering

You can still mail in your offering. Your offering continues the work of Jesus in our community and world!
For more detailed offering information, you can contact Doug Schaurer.

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 continues to work mostly from home. Carrie, the Admin. Asst. has resumed her in-office hours of 9:00am-12:00noon. Email and phone messages are checked regularly. Please don't hesitate to call Pastor Lee or Randy Schauer if you need anything.

August Birthdays-Happy Birthday!!

3-Joey S0

4-Carla D0

7-Kyle S0

8-Chad P0

9-Jill P0

12-Helen H0

16-Carson W0

17-Jennah H0

18-Paul H0

18-Dominic S0

27-Ashley S0



This & That

In person worship, Sunday School, Sew What, Wednesday meal & activities, District events, etc. will resume at a later time. We look forward to joining together again. Until then, connect with your church family via phone calls, One Call, emails, and Facebook. We miss seeing everyone, but we can still be a community doing the work of Jesus! You can view the Sunday worship services via YouTube. You can also access the services through our Facebook page.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2IR7-Re6vMQ092LxcLvyA>



Below is the link for the **Wednesday Zoom check-ins**. All are welcome to join each Wednesday or whichever Wednesdays you are available. It's simply a chance to say hi to other Salem friends and connect online. The link below will work for each Wednesday! Join us! If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lee. Wednesday Night Check in from 7:00-8:00pm each Wednesday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85143803031?pwd=MXlCZHI1S092TzIzbVtk1M01Bb0dkZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 4380 3031

Password: 022471



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.

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

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.

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.

Helen and Jim H. have moved to the Brethren Retirement Community (assisted living).

Thanks to our Salem friends for the many notes and cards while Phyllis continues to recover at Grace Brethren Village. You all are so much appreciated. –Phyllis and Kent W.

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.

Check out sodcob.org for current information.

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

The theme of 2020 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference is to be Christ's Ambassadors. Our conference scripture comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20. The Apostle Paul during his time in Corinth encountered challenges in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. He met these challenges head on and continued to lead the church far into the future. We are willingly tasked with sharing the gospel and caring for one another. For such a time as this, we continue the work of the church and take care to ensure safety and health of those we love. Because of the current pandemic, the Program and Arrangements Commission in concert with the District Leadership Team brought a recommendation to the District Board at their meeting on May 23. **This recommendation was to hold the 2020 District Conference (October 9 & 10) in a virtual online format.** The recommendation was unanimously accepted by the board. A technical team is currently being formed for the purpose of bringing the conference online. I trust the creativity and expertise of those that will bring the conference to life. It is a challenge but one we will meet with Christ-insight. I know we will miss being together. Our decision was not made lightly. As Christ's Ambassadors we embrace the calling to continue the work of the church. I thank you for your understanding and will gladly hear your questions and concerns. Keep the conference and those that are working behind the scenes in prayer. We are truly are in this together.

In Christ,
Sandra Jenkins
2020 District Moderator
jmozart40@aol.com
937-725-7149

"Monies or Masks" is our service project for this year's conference. We invite congregations to donate monies for the purchase of masks or make masks for staff and residents at the Brethren Retirement Center. Send monetary donations to Southern Ohio/Kentucky district marked "Monies for Masks". If you choose to make masks or purchase them you may send them to BRC at 750 Chestnut, Greenville, OH 45331. Mark them "district conference service project." Let's spread the love and compassion of Jesus Christ as we care for all our BRC folks.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky Disaster Ministries Updates: Ice Cream Social, Share-a-Meal Donations -

You're invited to make a donation of the amount that you would usually spend/donate at the Ice Cream Social for dinner and Share-a-Meal tickets. We're unable to have these events, but your gifts will enable the ministry to continue reaching those in need. In 2020 we're working with national BDM and local long-term recovery groups rebuilding tornado damaged homes in Dayton and flooded homes in Pamlico County, NC. For Church World Service 1,000 clean-up buckets and 1,000 school kits will be assembled. [Click here to donate on-line.](#) Checks can be made out to S. Ohio/KY District COB, with BDM on the memo line. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Thank you for your donations, as we serve Christ by serving others together.

Denominational News

Some articles adapted/taken from Church of the Brethren Newslite.

You can sign up online to receive these newsletters and other communications at brethren.org.

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July 7, 2020

Three online denominational events back in early July brought a new level of virtual experience to the Church of the Brethren: a children's worship and a denominational worship service on the evening of Wednesday, July 1, and a Church of the Brethren concert on the evening of Thursday, July 2. Both worship experiences were available in Spanish as well as English. These virtual events were timed for what would have been the first two evenings of the now-canceled 2020 Annual Conference. Recordings of all three events including the worship experiences in Spanish are at www.brethren.org/ac/virtual. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/denominational-events-bring-new-level-of-virtual.html

Seven interns are serving as a part of Ministry Summer Service (MSS) despite alterations to the program due to COVID-19. Instead of meeting in-person for a week-long orientation and then spending nine weeks serving alongside a ministry mentor in a local setting, interns are meeting weekly for education, formation, and fellowship sessions via video conference. Interns offer leadership to their home congregations, as possible given local COVID-19 guidelines where they live, or to another congregation through technology. This year's interns and more information are at www.brethren.org/news/2020/ministry-summer-service-2020-interns.html

July 18, 2020

Brethren Disaster Ministries is celebrating completion of a rebuilding project in Puerto Rico in partnership with the Puerto Rico District of the Church of the Brethren. The project worked on homes that were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Maria, and completed 100 homes. Brethren Disaster Ministries also celebrates the opening of a new project site in Dayton, Ohio--the first resumption of volunteer work since a shut-down due to COVID-19 that began in mid-March. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/brethren-disaster-ministries-celebrates-projects.html

July 25, 2020

Two members of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) were among the five humanitarian aid workers who have been killed execution-style by a faction linked to Boko Haram. The two EYN members were Ishaku Yakubu and Luka Filibus. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/eyn-members-and-aid-workers-are-killed.html

Due to Annual Conference budget shortfalls, Jon Kobel will conclude his work with the Church of the Brethren as conference assistant on July 31. He has worked for the Church of the Brethren denomination for 21 years, serving at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Kobel began his work with the denomination on June 21, 1999, as manager of the Office of the General Secretary. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/jon-kobel-service-with-ac-ends.html

In June, Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) made the decision to transition the summer orientation for Unit 325 from in-person to virtual. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in communities around the country, the staff have made the decision to also offer a virtual orientation for the fall orientation for Unit 327. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/bvs-fall-orientation-goes-virtual.html