



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

July 2019 Issue

Greetings Brothers & Sisters

Psalm 37:1-22 - But the righteous are generous and giving.

It is the Wednesday before Annual Conference. I am working on getting work done ahead of schedule so that when I get back from Conference, life is not as chaotic as it has been in the past. My goal, while admirable, may prove to be fruitless. It so often happens that my best plans rarely come out the way that I hope. When I look back on plans that have not worked the way that I had hoped, I often try to determine if I could have done something different.

And the answer to that question is, yes. Yes, I could have done something different. Life is fundamentally about the choices we make and then a sign of maturity is how we engage the results of our choices, whether we learn from them, get angry at them, blame someone for them, or accept the results. Sadly, I see more and more blaming between people when plans do not go as anticipated. More often than not, rather than identifying what we can do, we are really good at saying what we can't do and who has been the cause of our inability to complete our tasks.

I am tired of blame. I am tired of trying to figure out where the root of a problem resides, because the pursuit of the root often fails to lead to follow through in an effort to improve. We know there are problems. There is wisdom in understanding the root of a problem, but as we see the divisions that exist within our communities of faith, and witness the continuing exodus of people from the church, finding the root of the problem will not bring renewal and reunification. We who are left within the church are often like squabbling children who are in trouble and are clamoring to lay blame at the feet of the other, while we ourselves claim innocent victimhood.

This year Annual Conference is different in that there is no new business being discussed. There will be reports as mandated by our polity from the various agencies, offices and institutions that are connected to us. But the rest of the time, a significant amount of the work of our conference will be focused on conversations with one another, seeking to identify where we are connected, where we are similar, seeing where Christ is at work within our denominational community. Or, put another way, we will be engaged in "conversations designed to help us discern God's call for us as the body of Christ."¹ Some have wondered if this conference was a "test" to see whether or not our denomination should stay together, or if there should be a split.

The problems and struggles that exist within our denomination are not unique to us. The United Methodist Church is undergoing similar struggles and questions of identity. I am intrigued by the conversations that exist between those who are divided, because there is an instinct to assume that each side has been victimized by the other side, and the other side is callous to the pain that they have inflicted. There is a righteous indignation for all who are involved. Righteous. What a word. Seriously, who among us can claim that we are righteous?

Psalm 37:21 (CEB) says "the wicked borrow and don't pay it back, but the righteous are generous and giving." I wonder if we are generous and giving. Are we? Yes, we do participate in outreach programs, special offerings, we have our daily offering, we volunteer in different places, we help where we can. That type of generosity is important. But have we been generous with those who we disagree with? Have we been giving of God's grace? God's grace is given to each and every one of us free of charge, and we are asked to do the same to others. But we don't. We live in a world in which we are quick to blame someone, attack someone, demonize someone who disagrees with us. And, in the spirit of transparency, Jesus seemed to engage in this as well. Matthew 12:34 and 23:33 show Jesus calling the religious leaders a brood of vipers, which is not a compliment.

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Those Serving in July

Greeters: July 7--Joy M. & Jane E., July 14--Dawn & Gary S., July 21--Kent & Phyllis W., July 28--Carla D. & Tom D.

Acolytes: July 7--Finn H., July 14--Aiden B., July 21--Thomas S., July 28--Grant H.

Ushers: Brain P., Doug S., Randy S., Gary S.

Worship Leaders: July 7--Tom H., July 14--Deo S., July 21--Tom W., Jr., July 28--Kent W.



Mark Your Calendars

Deadlines

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, July 21, 2019

Bulletin Articles: Thursday, 10:00am

Executive Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 7:00pm

Shepherding Prayer Group

Tuesday, July 16, 7:00pm

Sunday Worship

July 7	<i>Annual Conference Worship Streaming</i>
July 14	from Luke 10:35-37 "Samaritan Heaven"
July 21	from Amos 8:1-12 "Prophecy of Destruction"
July 28	from Luke 10:38-42 "Distraction of the Same"

Sunday Sermons

July Birthdays--Happy Birthday!!

2-Kay H.	22-Melissa F.
2-Reta S.	24-Sarah P.
6-Mason H.	26-Wanda S.
8-Jim H.	27-Brenda W.
8-Doug S.	
9-Bonnie W.	
19-Jennifer S.	
22-Alex A.	



Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00am Adult, Young Adult, and High School Sunday School with Childcare

10:00am Morning Worship

10:15am Children's Sunday School

Nursery (ages 2 and under)

Wednesday Meal & Activities

Fellowship meal and activities will resume on

September 11, 2019

JOIN US!!

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

Office Hours 9:00am-12:00noon, M-F

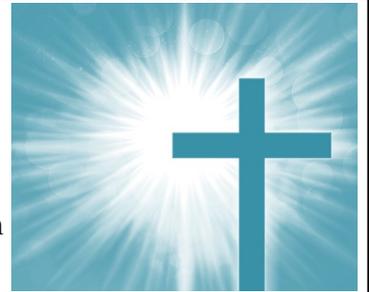
Karen Dillon, Director of Christian Ed.

In Our Prayers

Barbara C., Shirley C., Janet H., Leon & Waneta M., Jayne S.

Long Term Needs: Elois C., Aaron M., Sam P., Chad P., Martin S., Reta S.

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



This & That

All-Church Game Night! Saturday, July 6, 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us! Bring a snack and a friend!

If you have a **prayer request** you'd like to go through the prayer chain One Call, please call Sue Wampler at 286-4590. If she cannot be reached, please call Pastor Lee at 836-6145.

Wednesday fellowship meal and activities & Sew What will resume later this Summer/Fall. Wednesday meal & activities will resume Wednesday, September 11.

The next **Shepherding Prayer group** meeting will be Tuesday, July 16 at 7:00pm in the parlor. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Our next **Bring-A-Friend Sunday planning meeting** will be 7:00-8:00pm on Thursday, July 18. We want your ideas! Contact Pastor Lee with any questions.

Pastor's Note Continued *from page 1*

But this is the same Jesus who on the cross in Luke 23, called for them to be forgiven. Jesus disagreed with the religious leaders of the day. He argued with them, debated them, sensed their motives behind their questions, ate with them, blessed them and then at the end of his earthly life called for the wrong that is being perpetrated on their behalf to be forgiven. He wasn't blaming those who he did not agree with, he wasn't attacking them, he wasn't yelling at them. He was yelling for them. Yelling for their forgiveness, yelling for grace to be showered upon them.

I have no idea what the future holds for the Church of the Brethren. But I do hope that we can be generous and giving of God's grace, modelling the love of Jesus in all that we do. I hope for this reality to happen, not because the world seems to be imploding by doing what we are doing now, but because the righteousness of Jesus called out for forgiveness and gave of himself for all, and because of that reaction to pain and suffering, we have hope. What if we all did like Jesus did? What a generous and giving world this would be.....

Blessings,

Pastor Lee Saylor

¹ <http://www.brethren.org/ac/2019/business/compelling-vision.html> accessed 6.26.19

District News

Some articles adapted/taken from the district newsletter. You can email sodcob@brethren.org to receive the district newsletter.

Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

The District Newsletter for May is available at sodcob.org or hard copies are available on the narthex table.

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

Local Tornado Response -S. Ohio/KY BDM is helping homeowners in Harrison Township (Northridge) and Dayton. So far, 350 volunteers have worked about 2,165 hours for 145 families. The homeowners are very appreciative. Thank you to all who have served, made donations, and remembered this ministry in prayer. There is still much work to be done. In July we will be working Thursdays (except July 4), Fridays, and Saturdays. These are the days that we have been having the most volunteers. This change makes a more manageable workload, as we move from early response to the recovery phase. Volunteers are needed for brush and tree removal. Meet at Happy Corner COB at 7:30 AM for filling out registration forms, and orientation. On Saturdays a continental breakfast is served. There will be carpooling to the worksite. Arrangements can be made to meet us there. Workdays will end at 4:00 PM. To volunteer, call or text Burt Wolf (937-287-5902) or Sam Dewey (937-684-0510) or send an email to SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. Volunteers need to bring a sack lunch, work gloves, chain saws, etc. If workdays are cancelled due to the weather, we'll post this on the S. Ohio/KY District COB website, and notify the volunteers who are scheduled to come. Donations are very much appreciated. Expenses are being incurred daily for gas for chain saws, backhoes, trucks, and the BDM van. Make checks payable to: S. Ohio/KY District COB. On the memo line write: BDM Local Response; Mail to: S. Ohio/KY District COB, P. O. Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331

West Milton Congregation Tornado Relief

The West Milton Church of the Brethren has become a warehouse for donations for individuals who need clothes and other supplies as this area recovers from the storms. If other churches know of individuals and families in need of clothes, the clothes closet at West Milton is open each Saturday 10-noon. They can also leave a message at 937-698-4395 and one of the congregation will meet them at any time that is convenient to them.

Help Needed at Refugee Warehouse

Volunteers are needed to receive donations at the Refugee Warehouse on July 6 from 10 AM-1PM. There will be a member of the Refugee Resettlement Task Team to lead the session. In addition to receiving donations you might be separating donations to be put away, taken to Goodwill or put in the trash. If you have questions and/or can help, please call or email Linda Brandon at 937-667-0647 or lbrandon@woh.rr.com before July 6.

Young Adult Gathering

July 13, 10 AM

Come join us at the Columbus Zoo!

Any wanting to carpool or caravan can meet at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren at 8:30 AM. A flyer with more information can be found on the District Website or call Laura Brown at 937-267-0965 with any questions or to RSVP.

Sewing Bee – A Sewing Bee will be held on Saturday, July 27 at Greenville COB, 421 Central Avenue. Bags will be sewn for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. A flyer with all the 2019 Sewing Bee dates is on the district website, or contact your church office. For more information contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

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Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

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Cleanup Bucket Assembly – You're invited to help with the assembly of 500 Cleanup Buckets for Church World Service. Come on **Thursday, July 25, at 7:00 PM.** to Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. Cleanup buckets are mainly used after flooding. Some have also been used in Dayton to clean apartments and houses as tornado survivors relocate. S. Ohio/KY BDM is purchasing supplies for these buckets and 2,500 **School Kits** which will be assembled on **August 22.** The estimated cost for this project is \$33,000. Donations enable us to purchase supplies in bulk, which is cost effective. Make checks payable to S. Ohio/KY District COB. On the memo line, write BDM/CWS kits. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331. Donations are welcomed and appreciated!

13th Annual Ice Cream Social – On Saturday, August 3, plan to attend the annual BDM Ice Cream Social. It will be from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at Happy Corner COB. Come for supper, ice cream, and fellowship. This is the major fundraiser for S. Ohio/KY BDM, raising funds for rebuilding trips and Church World Service kits.

Golf Scramble – On Saturday, August 10 at 8:00 AM, a golf scramble will be held at Turtle Creek Golf Course located in Greenville. Now is the time to register or to become a hole sponsor. Registration/sponsorship forms are available on the district website or ask at your church office. All proceeds benefit S. Ohio/KY BDM and Camping & Retreat Ministries.



Dessert and Dialogue: Sharing Together with District Leadership August 13, 2019 at 1:00 PM

Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren

Many times when we gather together, we feel like our time is limited. Our times together as a District are infrequent and there is much to be shared. Due to time restrictions, leadership is not able to hear adequately from YOU. Your District Leadership hopes this event will provide a venue which will give opportunity for you to share your thoughts and reflections, joys and concerns, etc. The event will be casual and relaxed over coffee and desserts. A few guiding questions may be provided but it is hoped that you will direct the conversation. There may be one big conversation, or many smaller ones, depending on attendance. Everyone is invited!!!! But don't feel badly if it's too far away or you can't make it, this is a quarterly event that will change locations each quarter. We hope you will join us as we strive to continue the work of Jesus . . . peacefully, simply, together.

Women's Retreat Announced

September 27, 28th, 2019 at Bergamo Center

Theme: Love Like an Ocean

Announcing: 2019 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

Theme "God provides"

October 11 & 12, 2019 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren

Watch for more information!

Gifts Discernment-- 2019 District Slate

The Gifts Discernment Commission will soon be meeting to begin work on the 2019 District slate to present to District Conference. You are encouraged to offer suggestions for the various district offices that come open this year. A list of positions and a form to offer suggestions are available on the district website.

Denominational News

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

Peacefully. Simply. Together.



Annual Conference 2019 will be a very different event this year, according to Conference director Chris Douglas. Instead of a usual business schedule, the delegate body will spend much of its time in compelling vision conversations. Nondelegates may reserve seats at tables during the business sessions in order to fully participate in those conversations. And the Conference will hold a love feast for the first time in decades. Annual Conference 2019 takes place July 3-7 in Greensboro, N.C., at the Sheraton/Koury Convention Center. It will be led by moderator Donita Keister, assisted by moderator-elect Paul Munday and Conference secretary Jim Beck-

with. “Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion” is the theme, inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Look for updates and live streaming at www.brethren.org/ac.

Join others from the denomination in prayer as the Church of the Brethren gathers in Greensboro, North Carolina!

New registration open date is announced for National Older Adult Conference

May 1 has been announced as opening date for registration for the 2019 National Older Adult Conference. This year’s NOAC takes place Sept. 2-6 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center in western North Carolina. The theme is “Reaching Across Generations, Beyond Differences, Through Conflict, into Joy.” Early registration for those who need handicapped accessibility and the most convenient housing in the Terrace Hotel will be open April 22-30. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2019/new-registration-open-date-for-noac.html



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Save the Date

July 22-26, 2019, 6:00-8:00pm

Joint Vacation Bible School

@ Happy Corner Church of the Brethren

Animals Becoming Blessings

The Heifer Project

Questions please contact:

Jodi Brown, Happy Corner COB (jbrown@daytonchristian.com)

Karen Dillon, Salem COB

Susan Fitze, Trotwood COB

JOIN US FOR A FUN TIME!!