



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

July 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ

2020 has not been a year that is easy to predict. It seems that about the time a plan is made on one day, it has to change the next day because of new information. It is an emotionally, perhaps physically, exhausting time. The exhaustion comes from the fact that about the time a plan is generated, prepared for and built towards, the necessity to change quickly requires the same amount of work, only in a shorter time period. While change is inevitable, and necessary, when change seems to happen quickly, it can be very difficult to understand what made the change necessary, and why the decision to change occurred the way it did.

In nearly a decade of ministry, one of the questions that I get asked often is a question that I still cannot adequately answer: what is your community like? I usually smile and say, "Depends on which day you ask me." Describing a diverse community, especially one such as Salem, is very difficult to describe. That is not a problem, and I think that the uniqueness and differences that we possess are good and are always preparing us to be able to adapt in God's world to be agents of God's peace.

When decisions are made on behalf of the community, it is often with much discussion and contemplation. Starting July 1st, 2020 you will be asked to complete a survey to help guide the decisions, adaptations and work of the church. You will be provided with a weblink to go to and fill out. If you are unable to complete the weblink survey, a paper survey will be available for you as well. This survey is part of an ongoing conversation regarding the Vision Conversations that we had last year. The cost for this service is being covered by the Southern Ohio and Kentucky District Church of the Brethren.

We are hoping that this survey will provide support and data that will help the trajectory and life of the Salem Church of the Brethren community. The survey is primarily multiple-choice with 5 short answer questions. The survey is confidential. We are not looking for WHO responded, we are looking FOR responses. The survey will be available for the entire month of July. The effectiveness of the survey will depend upon your participation. By answering this survey, you allow your leadership to serve you in ways that continue the work of bringing God's peace.

Artistry Leads, the group who will be administering and compiling the data for us has this to say about the question of "Why should we participate in this survey?" The survey is designed to give you a snapshot of your congregation's life at this moment. It will provide a cumulative reflection on the best experiences and challenging aspects of your congregation's life at this time, as viewed by your congregational participants. The survey report will provoke questions, promote dialog, and spur imagination as a springboard for strengthening your congregation's ministries.

As we have continued to experience the rapid changes of 2020, the work and desire for God's peace has not gone silent. Rather, the opportunity to work for and towards God's peace has been present now in ways that have long been silenced. As we project and plan for the future of Salem Church of the Brethren, the necessity for changes and adaptation will continue. They may not occur on the scale or short time frame that we have now, but they will occur. This survey can help our community answer the challenges and build on the experiences that will bring God's peace.

Blessings Sisters & Brothers,

pastor lee saylor

In Our Prayers

John E., Genevieve F., Bonnie L., Leon & Waneta M., Joy M., Phyllis W.

Long Term Needs: Barbara C., Elois C., Shirley C., Janet H., Bill L., Aaron M., Sam P., Chad P., Kasey S., Reta S.

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/UCy2IR7-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.



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.

July Birthdays-*Happy Birthday!!*

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 2-Kay H. | 26-Wanda S. |
| 2-Reta S. | 27-Brenda W. |
| 6-Mason H. | |
| 8-Jim H. | |
| 8-Doug S. | |
| 9-Bonnie W. | |
| 19-Jennifer S. | |
| 22-Alex A. | |
| 22-Melissa F. | |
| 24-Sarah P. | |
| 25-Sue W. | |



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>

**The Church is not a building.
It's the people**

- Acts 8:3
- Acts 12:5
- 1 Cor. 3:9
- 1 Peter 2:5



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.

Giving to Church of the Brethren denominational ministries as of the end of April has fallen short of giving during the first four months of 2019. The shortfall is significant, with total combined giving by congregations and individuals falling behind last year by more than \$320,000. Congregational giving to the denomination for the first four months of 2020 totaled \$816,761, falling short of last year's giving by \$220,031. Individual giving to the denominational ministries as of the end of April was \$306,961, behind last year's giving by \$103,568. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/giving-falls-behind-we-cant-do-it-without-you.html

Thanks for the BRC! Thank you so much for the goodie bags! You all are so appreciated! What a wonderful act of kindness!

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

Celebrating Community

What is your favorite scripture and why?

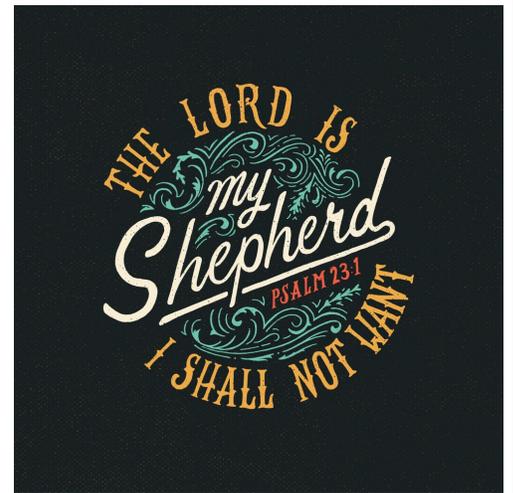
My favorite scripture is Psalms 23. It is one my mom worked with my brother and I to memorize as children, and it is a great source of comfort to me now when I recite it.

-Samantha Ditmer



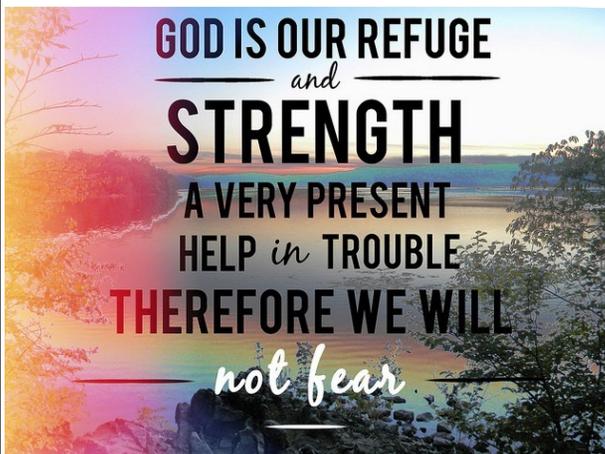
Philippians 4:13 is my favorite scripture. This scripture has been a great help to me through life when I've been ask to do things. -Sharon Walker

Philippians 4:13! Why? Rev. Harvey Hahn shared it with me years ago when I was facing a challenging time in my life & told me to tape it to my bathroom mirror. I was to read it every time I looked in the mirror. It's imprinted on my heart! -Sue Wampler



My favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. I live by this verse daily. I can't do anything without God & Jesus guiding me through each day. Betsy Duncan

My favorite scripture is: Psalms 46, 1-2 - "God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in times of trouble. And so we need not fear even if the world blows up, and the mountains crumble into the sea." I love this scripture, because it's a comfort to me in this very troubling time. -Bonnie Warner



I like Philippians 1:6. I know Jesus continues to work in my life, stretching me to love and live harder, and with more intention. As I get older, I hold to the communal piece of this verse, knowing that God can move in faith communities in powerful, life-giving ways. -Carrie Smith



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

OHIO TORNADO REBUILDING

Local Volunteers Needed

BDM will be accepting volunteers who are Ohio residents for 1 week periods during July 13-31, 2020.



The Dayton BDM site will be opening on July 13, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, BDM is counting on local volunteers to be the workers during the initial phase. In this first phase rebuilding will begin on a smaller scale with a crew of about 8 people. Leadership will call volunteers for a week (Monday - Friday) at a time. During this start up stage, it will be important for volunteers to be available for a full week. Volunteers of all skill levels are encouraged to apply. Contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902.

BDM is anticipating the ability to provide volunteers to support the recovery from record breaking tornado activity on Memorial Day weekend 2019 in the Miami Valley Area of Southern Ohio. BDM will be monitoring the COVID-19 situation prior to these dates and changes or cancellations may be made based on travel restrictions, CDC and governmental guidance, and conversations with local partners.

Volunteering within COVID-19 Guidelines

- No Lodging or Meals provided (must live within driving distance)
- Groups of only 8-10
- Masks & Social Distancing required
- Volunteers during this time period must be Ohio residents
- Volunteers provide their own transportation
- Compliance with additional safety measures will be required and must be agreed to prior to serving



TO APPLY TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:
Burt Wolf in the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District at
southernohiobdm@gmail.com or 937-287-5902



Denominational News

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

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

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE virtual experiences & virtual worship

Mark your family calendar for a 25-minute children's worship experience on Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30 pm, where you'll meet Louise Boid, a colorfully opinionated bird who learns that even the birds she thought were so different from herself are created and loved by God. Louise's change of heart comes about as she discovers both gifts and similarities among birds of every kind. "The Puppet and Story Works" founded by Dotti and Steve Seitz of Manheim, PA bring Louise's story to life on stage through ventriloquism. You'll also experience a storyteller, Linda Himes from LaVerne Church of the Brethren, sharing the message of God's love for each of God's children, yourself included! There will be songs, led by Carol Higgs Elmore, Minister of Nurture and Music at the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, interspersed throughout that will keep you singing and moving. Finally, Louise Boid will sing her latest rendition of Rockin Robin!" We hope you'll join us for a delightful children's worship time, immediately preceding the denominational worship service. Both of these worship times are planned and sponsored by the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee.

On July 1, 2020, a Denominational Worship Gathering will take place virtually at 8:00 pm. It will center around the theme: "New World Coming!" The service will feature the preaching of Kayla Alphonse and Paul Munday, with a wide array of music, including selections by Jacob Crouse, Janelle Flory Schrock and Kendra Flory, the Keister Sisters, Shawn Kirchner, Nancy Faus Mullen, and Josh Tindall. Two of the hymns of the denominational virtual choir will be offered: 'Move in Our Midst,' and 'I See A New World Coming.' General Secretary David Steele will offer prayers for the church. A wide array of persons from around the denomination will offer other expressions of worship leadership. A series of congregational stories will also be featured, lifting-up the missional fervor and outreach of the Church of the Brethren from around the world. In a season of disruption and despair, the service will point to the God in Christ who makes a way where there seems to be no way (Isaiah 43:19) -- encouraging us to build new worlds in God's name (Luke 4:18-19) -- seeing with eyes of faith, the vision of the Lamb (2 Corth. 5:7) -- as a weary earth sings -- nevertheless -- a New Song of New Creation, in Jesus (2 Corth. 5:17; Rev. 21:1-8)!

An hour-long music celebration featuring Church of the Brethren musicians from across the church will be presented online July 2, 2020, the evening after the Denominational Worship Gather and Children's Worship Service at 8:00pm. The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee is securing musical offerings from a wide variety of Brethren musicians, providing a variety of musical styles and instruments. Contributors to the concert will include Brethren singer/songwriters Joseph Helfrich, Michael Stern, Shawn Kirchner, Seth Hendricks, Terry and Andy Murray, Jacob Crouse and Bittersweet Gospel Band. In addition, selections are scheduled from the Miami First Church of the Brethren, the women's choir from EYN Mubi, and several memorable excerpts from recent Annual Conferences. In addition, a long time friend of the Church of the Brethren, Ken Medema, has agreed to write and record a song specifically for the event. The concert will be hosted by Program and Arrangements Committee members Emily Shonk Edwards and Carol Elmore. We hope you'll join us for this cross section of inspirational music from around the church, as part of the 2 day activities in lieu of an actual in-person Annual Conference gathering.