



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

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June 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ

On March 13, 2020 I started a YouTube channel for our community and uploaded the first video explaining the rationale and reasoning behind the decision to postpone our in building worship services. It was a difficult conversation, but a good conversation, and one that I took gratitude from, as we were able to have a conversation with different opinions and thoughts, and were able to work to a place of consensus.

Since that time I have found my mind going back to the Exodus story, specifically the wandering in the desert, the wilderness, the unknown. I find myself thinking about Moses, not because he was the leader, but because he was also part of the group. He was the leader, and he was also part of the community that felt nervous, that felt worried, that felt frustrated. As we have navigated this pandemic life for nearly 3 months, I sense that we may have gained a greater appreciation and deeper understanding for what life may have been like for the Exodus community.

How many times did the community feel afraid? How many times did the community think that their journey was almost done, when it wasn't? How many times do you think they thought about going back to Egypt, even if they knew it was impossible? How many times do you think they were angry and distrustful of what they were being told? 40 years they wandered. 3 months we have been in pandemic living.

There was a sentiment that I saw many pastors express, and resonated with me, at the early stages of this living: Seminary did not train us for this. There are many aspects of ministry that Seminaries and other Ministry based higher education institutes teach and prepare the students for. The initial shock to the work of ministry is that you have to make connections between what you are taught, what you feel, what you sense with the community you are with and what God is calling you to do, in such a way that you can adapt. There are many things that ministers experience that aren't taught in Seminary. But there was no teaching of pandemic ministry. As a pastor, I am part of the group that is wandering, nervous, anxious, unclear what the next steps will be.

Prayer and asking for guidance from God has always been a constant reality for me, and this pandemic living has seen an increase in those spaces in my life. I hear numerous opinions, thoughts and feelings regarding what we should do next, or how we should proceed. Often, in the span of two phone calls, I can hear two completely different opinions, spoken with sincerity, conviction and evidence to support their opinion. I trust that those opinions are also rooted in prayer and guidance from God. Why then are there so many different opinions?

We do not know yet when we will be able to gather together again, but we are developing guidelines for when we will get back together and any precautions we will have to follow to allow our time of worship to be a place of celebration, not a place of worry for the physical health of one another. I am humbled by your patience, grace, and flexibility in this time of forced adaptation. While I look forward to being able to gather together for in building worship, I am honored by what we have been willing to do to assure that our community and desire to live God's peace continues.

Blessings,

pastor lee saylor

In Our Prayers

John E0 recovering from major eye surgery on May 28. Please be in prayer for him and Sue.

Genevieve F0 fell and broke her hip and a vertebrae

Bonnie L0 Sam P0s sister in Florida has been diagnosed with Covid-19

Joy M0 recovering from kidney an infection and kidney stones. She had a stint removed on May 28.

Phyllis W0 recovering from a stroke

Other Prayers: Barbara CQ Janet HQ Bill LQ Leon & Waneta MQ Kasey S0

Long Term Needs: Elois CQ Shirley CQ Aaron MQ 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, 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.

CONGRATS to all the graduates! We celebrate in your accomplishments! We will recognize our grads On Sunday, June 14th, If you are grad or know a grad here at Salem, please be in contact with Pastor Lee or Neva Dancer.

April/May 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 Schauer.

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.

June Birthdays-Happy Birthday!!

1-Kitty B0	13-Shelley S.
5-Tom D0	14-Wes S.
6-Andrea D0	18-Gary S.
6-Maxine M0	19-Carly W.
8-Ken D0	
12-Megan E0	
12-Wendi N0	
13-Teri S.	



This & That

Thanks to all for your kind expressions of sympathy for our Brother -in-law Jim P. For cards, prayers and especially the Love you showed at this time. It's wonderful to have a church family. May God bless you. –Sharon Walker

Phyllis and Kent W. are so thankful for the many prayers and cards! Phyllis continues to recover from her stroke. She is at Grace Brethren Village doing Rehab. Thank you church!



A note of thanks from Norma H.

It was sure good to hear from friends at Salem Church. I miss all of you so much. I surely was blessed with cards, telephone calls and so forth. Guess you all know that I am quarantined up here, because of the Coronavirus. It sure is not fun being in your room for so long by yourself. Gets pretty lonely. Several of you have sent cards, pictures and so forth, which really helps. Just remember that when this virus is over, my door is always open for you to come see me at BRC room number 272.

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. 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=MXlCZHI1S092TzIzbVklM01Bb0dkZz09>

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.

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.

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

Celebrating Community

Why is Salem my church home...

Why is Salem CoB my church home? When I married my husband, Lynn Warner, in 1969, I joined Salem CoB in 1970. This is the church he attended all of his life. A number of his family attended Salem CoB, and I loved being with these people. Everyone was so friendly and welcomed me. A nice thing, also, is the church has been and is located close to our/my home. All of our preachers have been an inspiration to me. I, especially, like Pastor Lee Saylor & family. Thank you, so much! -- Bonnie Warner



I grew up at Salem Church if the Brethren, the people at Salem are very nurturing. I am very happy to be a member at Salem -Diana Hanes

I (Joann Leland) was taken to the church when I was 7 days old. I have been in the old church and the present church for 88 years. I know no other church. Salem has always been my home church. Bill started going to Salem in 1957 and we were married in the church in 1958. -Bill & Joann Leland

Salem is my home church because it's the only place I've ever known. I have great memories growing up in this church and I love seeing how excited my own children get when it's "church day". I love the sense of community and the genuine caring people show for each other. It's special to me that my parents were married there and so was I, and I look forward to continuing to grow there with my family. -Samantha Ditmer



I consider Salem my home church for many reasons. I have called Salem home since I was 12 years old. Salem is full of people that I gladly call my friends. They reach out to support others whenever needed, they have friendly smiles and hugs (when allowable, that is). And....I miss them! -Julie Stickler

I love to worship God together with everyone at Salem. Along with Bible Study and prayer, it renews my spirit to go out and serve others throughout the week. The support of Christian friends encourages me to grow spiritually. Thanks to everyone at Salem for trusting God at this challenging time! Peace, Love, Joy, Sue Wampler

Thanks to Bonnie Warner for the photos.

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 current information.

JOIN US! Southern Ohio/Kentucky District COB will still be having summer camp with the theme “This



Is Our Prayer.” Our 2020 summer camp won't be an overnight, away from home camp. Instead it will be a virtual camp using zoom meetings for the gatherings. Each age group will have a certain day and time to meet. Family camp, open to anyone, will be on Friday evenings at 7:00. We will begin the week of June 8, and continue through July 27, an eight week timeframe. Campers will need internet access with an email they can connect to camp. Click here for a flyer which will give you most of the details. All registrations will be online (see below) The cost is only \$10 per camper. We will be delivering or sending all the needed materials, craft supplies, and worksheets in bags to the registered campers.

Southern OH/KY Disaster Ministries Updates

PPE Gowns for BRC - Thank you to all who responded to the need for PPE gowns for BRC. The word was passed widely, and we now have sufficient sewers to make the gowns.

Sewers Needed for Cloth Masks - Sewers are needed to make cloth masks for BRC and for BDM rebuilding sites. Kits have been assembled with pre-cut fabric, elastic, and instructions. Each kit is for 30 masks. Contact Barb Brower at barb-brower51@yahoo.com. Arrangements can be made to pick up the kits or to have them delivered.



Volunteer! BDM Site in Dayton - The current timeline schedules a rebuilding site for tornado recovery to be set up in July in Dayton. Not knowing how open or closed things will be, BDM is developing a new model for the initial phase of this project. Due to the uncertainty of travel between states and Montgomery County Health Department housing/ meal regulations, BDM is counting on local volunteers to be the workers during the initial phase. There will not be any overnight lodging or meals provided during July. The number of volunteers and the type of skills needed will vary from week to week. Rather than putting out an open call for volunteers in July, we are being asked to create a “Wait List”. This list will identify volunteers, their skills, and their availability. From that list, leadership will be able to call no more than 8-10 people for a week (Monday - Friday) at a time. If you would like to be added to the “Wait List” contact Burt Wolf (SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com, 937-287- 5902). There will be additional opportunities to volunteer as the project moves forward. Later, volunteers will be able to serve for less than a week at a time.

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.

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Recently, Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday announced plans for a denominational virtual choir. Three hymns are projected to be a part of the overall project: “Blessed Assurance,” “I See A New World Coming,” and “Move In Our Midst.” The three hymns will be used in the Virtual Denominational Worship and the Virtual Denominational Concert on July 1 and 2. You can find more information about them at: www.brethren.org/news/2020/denominational-worship-service-to-be-virtual-event.html Now we need your participation, as we join together to worship the Living God, in Christ, during these challenging days! In summary, a virtual choir is produced by each individual person recording themselves singing along with the hymn, and then all those submissions are painstakingly put together into one grand compilation that includes all the voices. Each of us gets to contribute our small part to help make up the whole (much like with the church!). As it is with large choirs, individual voices will not be heard, just all of us together. We’ve set ambitious goals for this project, and are working on three hymns at once. We welcome your submissions as soon as possible! The Early-Bird Deadline is June 7, 2020; The Final Deadline is June 14, 2020. Please pay careful attention to these deadlines for sending in your submissions, because we are on a very tight timeline as we hope to have the final choir pieces ready for our worship celebration July 1. To make your submission go to the following web link: www.brethren.org/VirtualChoir For general questions about the Virtual Choir project, please contact cobvirtualchoir2020@gmail.com. For technical assistance, please contact: assistance@LivingStreamCOB.org. Please pray for the project overall, and the project core team consisting of Enten Eller, Paul Munday, and Dave Sollenberger.

Thirteen graduates of Bethany Theological Seminary have received their diplomas, becoming the newest alumni of the 115-year-old institution. Bethany canceled its in-person commencement activities due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, but each graduate was presented with a box that included a diploma as well as a variety of celebratory gifts and mementos to mark the occasion. Read the Bethany release at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/celebrating-the-class-of-2020>.

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference moderator Paul Munday has announced plans for a Moderator’s Town Hall on June 4 at 7 p.m. (Eastern time), held in online webinar format. The topic will be “Faith, Science, and COVID-19” with leadership from Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen, professor in the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University, Fairfax, Va. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/moderators-town-hall-on-faith-science-covid-19.html

With the news that Annual Conference has been cancelled this summer, the Compelling Vision Working Group has outlined a plan for continued engagement around the compelling vision even as affirmation by the Conference body has been delayed. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/compelling-vision-process-now-extended.html

The Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has announced plans for a series of denominational virtual events on July 1 and 2. Although the 2020 Annual Conference that would have taken place in Grand Rapids, Mich., has been cancelled, the committee decided it is important for the denomination to gather, albeit in a different way, in recognition of the church’s ongoing life together. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/denominational-worship-service-to-be-virtual-event.html