



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

May 2019 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers...

Matthew 18:20 (CEB): For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them.

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

As Spring has finally, well, sprung, we are seeing signs of life all over, reminding us that the cold and dreariness of winter is done. The winter months can be especially difficult as we have less sun in our lives and, because of the cold, we stay inside for protection. Going out in the winter is always more of a hassle and struggle, because you gotta make sure you have your extra layers on, which makes moving around even more difficult.

With the blossoming of spring (and yes, springtime allergies) we are reminded that the dreariness and sorrow of the winter is not the end of the story. It is little coincidence that Easter is a Springtime celebration: life overcoming death. As the new life springs around us, we find ourselves wanting to clean out the house, get fresh air moving, open up the windows and allow the increasing light into our homes.

Recently, as I was driving on Diamond Mill Road south of 40, I noticed a grove of trees for the better part of mile. As I noticed them, I was amazed at how full they looked. How did they grow so fast compared to the other trees near them that were not showing as much as these were? "It's been known for years that forests with lots of different tree species grow better and faster than forests with just one kind of tree."¹

This opening line from an article published in 2017 points out two key truths about healthy forests; diversity and proximity. Forests are places where many trees grow together. Their limbs touch, their roots are far reaching and connected, they communicate and do amazing work together. I think the diversity and proximity is something that Jesus understood clearly. Whenever people gather together in Jesus name, there is strength that none alone could do. There is resilience that allows trees that are connected to one another to withstand the storms that threaten trees that are isolated. That same resilience exists when people are close as well.

Physically close. Over the next few weeks, I have asked the Sew What group to occupy the back two rows on either side of the church and display their works for all to see. I have asked them to do this for 2 reasons: 1) I want to get their work out and in front of people in more places, and 2) I want to encourage us to sit a bit closer together than we have been. We have a beautiful sanctuary, and when we are closer together, the energy is electric.

I have said many times, that I wish people could see church from my perspective. Nothing makes my heart swell more than seeing people from different families, leaning towards one another singing joyful noises to God. Or seeing someone quietly move up to sit next to someone else. Or having someone help out a parent with a child who is either overly curious or overly energetic. (I don't just mean Isaac). When we are closer together we feel closer together.

By the time you read this, one Sunday of worship will have occurred with the quilts on display. Consider this article and invitation to consider what it means to be closer together as a community. Does it mean that we all think alike? Does it mean we just sit closer together to keep the pastor happy? Nope and nope. When we are closer together, it isn't that we start thinking alike, it is that we start appreciating the similarities and the differences in one another, and recognize that when the community is closer together, much like a forest, then we are able to be healthier, we are able to do more good, we are able to weather times of stress, and provide shade in times of heat.

On Mother's day this year, we will be welcoming 3 people as members into our community. They are unique, diverse and come with a desire for God's love to be lived through us. In welcoming them to our forest of faith, we are making room for them, not asking them to make room for themselves. We are eagerly getting closer together with them so that we can support one another. To sum this up, being closer in proximity is one of the ways that we can start to be closer together in spirit. And when two or three are gathered in the name of the risen Savior whose care for all was universal, then God is there with us. Let us welcome God as we welcome our new members and invite others to be closer with us.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee

Those Serving in May

Greeters: May 5--Tom & Kay H, May 12--Doris S & Diana H,
May 19--Jayne S & Sue W, May 26--Jane E & Joy M

Acolytes: May 5--Grant H, May 12--Hope G, May 19--Eric B,
May 26--Rachel P

Ushers: Doug S, Randy S, Stan M, Gary S

Worship Leaders: May 5--needed, May 12--Deo S, May 19--Tom W, Jr.,
May 26--John & Sue E



Mark Your Calendars

Deadlines

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, May 26, 2019

Bulletin Articles: Thursday, 10:00am

Executive Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 7:00pm

Shepherding Prayer Group

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00pm

Sunday Worship

May 5	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 "Peter's Vision: Well that changed"
May 12	<i>Mother's Day</i> Acts 13:1-3, 14:8-18 Paul's Mission: Quite Human
May 19	Romans 1:1-17 "Gospel as Salvation: Surprising Places"
May 26	Romans 5:1-11 "God's Love Poured Out: Hope"

May Birthdays-Happy Birthday!!

3-Norma H	24-Sandy S
6-Bob D	25-Jenna Moore L
8-Jim D	28-Scott F
16-John E	29-Robert S
16-Mildred M	
18-Kimberly P	
18-Thomas W	
22-Taco C	



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

6:00pm Fellowship meal and activities
JOIN US!!

email: salemcob@gmail.com

Lee Saylor, Pastor
Office Hours 9:30am-12:00noon, Tues.-Fri.
937-540-4533

iamleebob@gmail.com

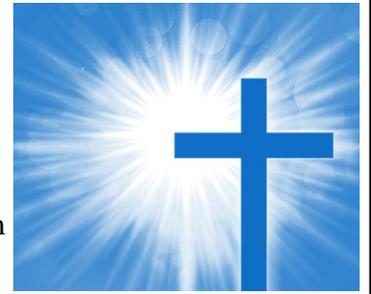
Carrie Smith, Administrative Assistant
Office Hours 9:00am-12:00noon, M-F
Karen Dillon, Director of Christian Ed.

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 Nigh! Saturday, May 4, 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.

All ages are welcome to join us each Wednesday for a **fellowship meal and activities**. The meal begins at 6:00pm.

Sew What meets each Wednesday in the church fellowship hall. Join us beginning at 9:00am as we sew, cut, and tie quilts for missions. No experience is needed! Bring a packed lunch and join us for this time of service and fellowship!



The next **Shepherding Prayer group** meeting will be Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00pm in the parlor. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

2019 Summer Camp registration is open!

Registration is open for the 2019 Peace Works Summer Camp season in Southern Ohio/Kentucky District COB. Finding peace, working for peace and becoming God's peacemakers are themes all the camps will explore. There is a camp for every person in the church, and everyone is encouraged to be a part of the exciting and fulfilling time of faith sharing. Two new camps are being offered: **Junior Discovery Camp June 9 - 11**, and **Beginner Sewing/Quilting Camp June 10 - 14**. Junior Discovery is designed as a transitional camp for children who have completed 2nd grade to 4th grade. Beginner Sewing/Quilting Camp will explore different kinds of sewing, how to use a sewing machine, quilting techniques for beginners. Campers will have all the supplies, fabric, sewing machines provided. This is a day camp with lunch and snacks provided. Campers will return home to rest in their own beds before returning to camp each day. **Intergenerational Service Camp** is a great opportunity for high school students to earn their community service credits as the camp visits sites to volunteer their labor. All the other traditional camps are still being offered. **Descriptions of and registration for all camps can be found on the district website.** Family Camp and Quilting Camp have their own registration forms. Hard copies of the camp information can also be found in all church offices. Scholarships are available by contacting Karen Dillon.



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.

Desserts and Dialogue: Sharing Together with District Leadership

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 10:00 AM at Painter Creek Church of the Brethren (8593 State Route 571, Arcanum, OH 45304)

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.

Young Adult Conference

Enflame us with your love; Empower us with your Spirit! will be held May 24-26, 2019 at Camp Blue Diamond near Petersburg, Pennsylvania. Young Adult conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-3 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible Study, service projects and more . . . with other fantastic young adults! If you know of young adults who are planning to attend this event or who may be interested in more information, contact Laura Brown (937- 267-0965) or by email at mbsae37@hotmail.com so that car pooling arrangements can be made.

Southern Ohio Disaster Ministries Update

Register now for Youth BDM Trips! – Youth oriented trips to Lumberton, NC are set for June 16-22 and July 14-20. Youth fifteen years and older are invited to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. It's not necessary to have building skills, just a willingness to learn. In the evenings there will be recreation and group building activities. A full crew is ten youth and five adults. Transportation is provided in the BDM vans, and expenses are covered. For more information or to register, contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com. It's important to register by April 15, 2019.

Three Volunteers Needed for Puerto Rico – June 8-22 S. Ohio/KY BDM is scheduled to have a crew of five to seven people working in Castaner, PR, rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Maria. Volunteers need to be able to work in a hot humid climate. Assistance is available for airfare. For more information and to volunteer, contact Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

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!

Denominational News

Some articles adapted/taken from Church of the Brethren Newslines. 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. Non-delegates 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 Beckwith. “Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion” is the theme,

inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. Registration and hotel reservations can be made at www.brethren.org/ac. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2019/annual-conference-2019-registration-to-open.html.

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

Brethren programs begin response to flooding in Midwest and plains states

By Roy Winter of Brethren Disaster Ministries with Loretta Wolf of Material Resources

Heavy and widespread mid-March snowstorms led to the beginning of major flooding in the US Midwest. Rivers are still rising and flooding may worsen with the expected heavy rains that may fall in the next several weeks. District disaster response coordinators from Western Plains District and Northern Plains District report no known damage to Church of the Brethren buildings or member homes.

The Material Resources program at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., has made shipments to areas of Nebraska affected by the flooding, on behalf of Church World Service. On April 5 and 6, Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) sent a team of volunteers to care for children at the Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) established in Valley, Neb. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2019/brethren-programs-begin-flooding-response.html

Planting potatoes, harvesting choirs in Rwanda

By Jeff Boshart

In 2012, the Global Food Initiative (GFI) began supporting a potato project of Evangelistic Training Outreach Ministries of Rwanda. The founder of ETOMR, Etienne Nsanzimana, is also the leader of the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda. He tried for years to make inroads with the Twa in order to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, but without success. After two years of working with Twa leaders and teaching them how to grow potatoes and peas, he and the Brethren had their first breakthrough. Several people gave their lives to Christ. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2019/planting-potatoes-harvesting-choirs-in-rwanda.html



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