



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

October 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers of our Creator God,

As of the writing of this note, I am working on preparing for another digital worship service, while also looking ahead to October 4th, which is when we are planning on gathering together for our parking lot worship service. That day is also World Communion Sunday, so that is factoring into the planning as well. It is an interesting time in the life of creation.

Exodus 20:1- 6 (NRSV) says this: “Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no others gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

What God calls for is worship. What God does not call for is one type of worship. As humans we have preferences, ways of worship that we feel allow us to give worship fully to God. But our preferences are not the only way, worship is flexible, adaptable, expansive and consistent, so long as God is the point of the worship. Some people connect with God through worship, others through gathered community, others through study, others through meditation, others through writing, and so on. Which one is right? The answer is yes, they all are. They all are when God is at the center of their worship.

I reflect on this reality because I have also had to answer this question multiple times this year: “When are we getting back to worship?” I have been quick to reply, “We never stopped.” What the person is trying to ask me is, “When are we getting back to worshipping like we are used to doing?” That is a fair question to ask. That is a question that reflects our preferences and the way that we have grown used to worshipping God. That is a question that is a faithful, honest question, the kind that we should always explore. It is also a question that reflects the anxiety of what we have been experiencing, as the reliability of worshipping on Sunday’s has not been as we are used to having.

I invite you to look back again at the passage from Exodus. In the midst of calling the people to worship God, God states that we should not make for ourselves an idol “whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.” This pandemic year has caused me to dwell mightily on what the gathering act of worship can mean. For some it is a very real manifestation of God’s presence lived among them. It is one sacred opportunity to worship God in community. For some, perhaps gathering for church on Sunday has morphed into an obligation, something that they are forced to attend, or attend because of fear of what might be said if they are not there. It is an uncomfortable thought to acknowledge, but it is possible that Church can become an idol.

As we continue to adapt our worship-style, we use this time as one of the ways to worship God, and recognize that God’s creation is not limited to one particular style. Our worship of God has not ended, even if we weren’t able to gather as we were used too. Our worship adapted, and that adaptation reflects the ability and overall good health to be able to do so. While we get closer to gathering for in person worship, let us not miss the opportunities to worship that God has placed before us.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee

In Our Prayers

We offer prayers for teachers and students as school begins.

Shirley C., Genevieve F., Norma H., Bonnie L., Leon & Waneta M.
Phyllis W.



Long Term Needs: Elois C., Barbara 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/UCy21R7-Re6vMQ092LxcLvyA>

Parking lot worship planned!

Our October 4th worship will be a parking lot worship service. This will mean that you will come to the parking lot on the Phillipsburg-Union Road side of the building and remain in your cars for the duration of the worship service, which will be broadcast through your car radio. You are being asked to remain in your car during the service. There are still many details we are working out for the service, and also, the Board recognized that if there is a shift in the pandemic one way or another, then this target date of October 4th may be changed. If it is changed, you will be notified. The Board also asked for your grace and patience as we are in this pandemic together, and we are seeking to be servant leaders, as Jesus was. This way of life has asked all of us to adapt and adjust quicker than expected. Blessings.

September 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 Schaurer if you need anything.

October Birthdays *Happy Birthday!!*

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1-Doug S. | 21-Tracy S. |
| 3-Kelly S. | 23-Connie T. |
| 4-Addison D. | 24-Sue E. |
| 8-Kent S. | 31-Bud O. |
| 8-Jerry S. | |
| 11-Julie S. | |
| 12-Dottie O. | |
| 16-George S. | |
| 16-Kasy S. | |
| 17-Karen D. | |
| 18-Linda H. | |



This & That

Betsy Duncan is looking for boxes to finish packing her house as she prepares to complete her move to Michigan. She is planning on being back in our area the first week of October to complete packing. If you have any boxes, **please contact Sue Wampler**. Betsy Duncan is also asking for help on **October 9** to help move the boxes and other items to complete her move. **If you are available to help, please contact Betsy directly. Thanks for your help!**

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=MXlCZHI1S092TzIzbVk1M01Bb0dkZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 4380 3031

Password: 022471

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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.

This & That Continued

As I write this, I am feeling a little sad, but “will Praise and not Pout” about it. On September 10, 2020 we suspended all activity with the **Prayer Shawl Ministry**. We have enjoyed a fantastic 10 years starting in March of 2010. In that time we gifted 102 items which hopefully made those recipients feel nurtured, comforted, and blessed. Due to lack of participation the decision was made to cease the Ministry. A very appreciative Thank You to all who crocheted, knitted, or sewed the Prayer Shawls and Quilts. Thanks also to Sue Wampler. She helped me immensely. God Bless, Sharon Walker

We are grateful for Sharon Walker and the love, comfort, and prayers this ministry shared over the years!



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.

2020 District Conference October 9 & 10, 2020 Theme: Christ's Ambassadors Registration forms and a complete conference schedule can be found on the district website. Because of the ongoing pandemic, and our care for the safety of one another, the 2020 District Conference will for the first time be in a virtual online format. Join us for all of conference or some of conference!

Denominational News

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

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

August 1, 2020

Workcamp Ministry shares interest survey for planning 2021 workcamps

By Hannah Shultz

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Workcamp Ministry has developed alternative workcamp options for summer 2021 workcamps. The top priority is the health and safety of workcamp participants and the communities they serve. The ministry hopes to offer workcamp options that reflect this priority while also providing a meaningful workcamp experience. At this stage, staff are gathering information from individuals and congregations to gauge their interest in and comfort with various options. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/workcamp-ministry-shares-interest-survey

