



Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

September 2020 Issue

Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ

When people ask me about Salem Church of the Brethren, I often respond with something like this, “We are a varied community. We have people who are staunch Republicans and some who are staunch Democrats. We have some who are in the middle. But what makes Salem unique is that they are able to care for one another even though they have differences.” In an age that seems to want to be defined by division, what makes Salem stand out is that we are different than the drive to be defined by division.

That does not mean that we always agree, or that we are never frustrated with one another. In fact, it often means that when we have honest, candid conversations about topics that are tender, it takes time to hear and to speak clearly. This is a hard way of doing community. However, I think that it is the best way to do community. As an example, I look at the work of our Board during the pandemic.

When they agreed to serve, they responded to being asked by sisters and brothers of our community, and followed what they felt called to do. In responding to serve, they had no way of knowing what was going to happen. Yet, they have faced this pandemic and its consequences bravely. During the conversations regarding church business, some of the work done was “routine”, while the struggle regarding what our community should do during the pandemic mandates required grace, wisdom and patience. I want to take this space to tell the Board, thank you.

Thank you for showing that in a world that seeks to divide, minimize and label, you have modeled that people with widely different opinions can gather in faith and share differences of opinions and serve one another in a deeply faithful and loving manner. Your model of servant leadership, the model that Jesus set before us to follow, has been a blessing to witness and work with. Working with you has made me glad to be your pastor.

The work of church boards often has a very negative association. For some the work is tedious and boring, for others they remember board meetings where there was heated debate over the color of carpet, for others the work of the board was often seen as a farce where the few people who were the “powers” of the church made all the decisions and the church just went along with them. Salem Church of the Brethren, your board has consistently modeled none of those associations for as long as I have worked with them.

I invite you to please thank your board members. If you aren’t sure who they are, ask around, find out. I debated about putting the names here, but I think that it is better for us to explore and find out the people who serve so we can thank them. They have consistently modeled grace, wisdom, mercy and peace in trying to answer the routine and unique situations of our day and age. I come away from the meetings tired and thankful. Thankful that I get to be the pastor for a group such as this.

Special announcement on page 2
concerning in-person worship.



Blessings,

Pastor Lee

In Our Prayers

We offer prayers for teachers and students as school begins.

Shirley Conklin, John E0 Genevieve F0 Norma H0 Bonnie L0 Leon & Waneta M0 Phyllis Warner

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/UCy2lR7-Re6vMQ092LxcLvyA>

Parking lot worship planned!

On August 13, 2020, the Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting using Zoom. Among other items of business, one particular item of business was when our community could gather together again for in person worship. Recognizing the varied opinions that exist a healthy conversation brought the Board to decide that we are targeting **October 4 for our in person worship**. Further conversation brought the Board to decide that 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.

August 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.

September Birthdays *Happy Birthday!!*

3-Meagan H.	25-Bill H.
4-Ashley S.	25-Jeff O., Jr.
6-Waneta M.	25-Thomas S.
10-Leon M.	26-Stan M.
12-Kellan W.	30-Sophie D.
14-Sharon W.	30-Hazel C.
18-Sandy S.	
19-Phyllis B.	
20-Joann L.	
22-Janet H.	
23-Charlie W.	



This & That

A BIG thanks to Doug Shade for helping Kent and the Warner family put in a ramp at their house for Phyllis, as she transitions back home. Your generosity is appreciated.

Thank you to all for the concerns, prayers and cards during and after our loss of Deo. Our faith in God will continue to sustain us.

With Christian love,

The Seibel Family, Theo, Kent, Shelley, Jana

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/UCy2lR7-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=MXICZHI1S092TzIzbVk1M01Bb0dkZz09>

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.

Helen and Jim H. have moved to the Brethren Retirement Community (assisted living). Call the church office for their new phone number

Jane E. has a new address and phone number. Please call the church office for more information.

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.

The Program and Arrangements Committee has been working on ways we can have our conference in the virtual format and still hold all of the elements of conference which we hold dear. It will be a challenge, but one we are willingly accepting. Registration is now open and we can't stress enough the importance of early registration. The technological complexities of allowing for delegates to share comments and vote, necessitate that each delegate have their own personal email address, and their own device to connect to the conference. We are asking that you please register before August 31, 2020.

One advantage when having an online format is that folks can participate in all or any part of the conference, including the Friday evening district worship and all fellowship sessions, from the comfort of your own home, whether or not you are a delegate. Simply go to the district website (www.sodcob.org) and register. We will send you a link so that you can log in to the conference.

Denominational News

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

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

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August 1, 2020

Brethren Disaster Ministries is directing grants from the denomination's Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to Church of the Brethren congregations and districts in the US and Puerto Rico that are carrying out pandemic-related humanitarian relief work. As of the end of July, 25 congregations across 9 districts have received grants totaling \$104,662. The following grants, totaling \$46,562, were approved between May 27 and July 29: Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/covid-19-pandemic-grants-to-11-more-churches.html

August 22, 2020

Brethren Press is publishing a book in which Nigerian Brethren who have suffered violence at the hands of Boko Haram tell of their experiences and their heartache. Titled "We Bear It in Tears," the book is a collection of interviews recorded by Carol Mason, with photographs by Donna Parcell. It may be pre-ordered from Brethren Press at www.brethrenpress.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=9780871782915. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2020/we-bear-it-in-tears-book-with-nigerian-stories.html

