



# Salem Church of the Brethren

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

Salem Church of the Brethren

September 2019 Issue

## Greetings Brothers & Sisters

*Isaiah 58:1-9a - "Is this what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?"*

I am working on a Bible Study for a Stewardship group, and this passage was one of the passages that I was asked to write about. It is a famous passage, in that, in some form or another, we have heard this passage, or at least this phrase in a sermon before. This passage is unrelenting. This passage is choked with emotion. I hear it spoken from the prophet Isaiah with tears and a voice broken down asking...wondering...frustrated...angry...hurt...bewildered...tired. I think that those are emotions that we can understand. Well I know that I can.

Isaiah is writing to a Jewish people, the ones set apart by God, as God's people, who are devastated. Terrible things have happened to them. They have been conquered, and their temple, the very place where they believed that God lived, a sign of strength and power for them, was destroyed. The prophet finds that the Jewish people have been conquered, where many have been killed, many stolen into slavery, and those left behind in Jerusalem are left in a city defined by ruins. A perfectly reasonable question to ask in that situation is "Why? Why did this happen?" Isaiah answers. The people have been treating one another terribly. They have not engaged their faith in an authentic way.

I love cars. I love old cars, new cars, just about any car really. But there are a few that I loathe. That when I see them on the road, I begin to wonder about the type of person who made that car and wonder if they were sick. As I like cars, I notice car designs, car upgrades, and car shows. I have learned to have an eye for those who put on the shiny bumpers, the noise maker exhausts, fresh coats of wax and that is it. They have made a show of the car. But they have done nothing to the performance. They have done nothing to improve the handling, the stability, the transmission, the motor. They have done nothing to bring out the actual best in the car. And I am frustrated at that. I have a phrase that I use in those times. Those who care more about appearance than they do performance are all show and no go.

Not the wittiest, or wisest proverb ever mentioned, but true nonetheless. This is one way to understand what Isaiah is angry about with the Jewish people. They are putting on the works of appearance, they are going through the motions to look like they are doing as God wants, but they really aren't. Isaiah uses their own actions against them to prove his point. "Yet on your fast day you do whatever you want, and oppress all your workers. You quarrel and brawl, and then you fast; you hit each other violently with your fists. You shouldn't fast as you are doing today if you want to make your voice heard on high." The appearance is nothing when the performance of God's people is so broken and flawed.

We are God's people. Because of the love of God, shown to us through Jesus, we are God's people. The critique of Isaiah to the Jewish people should echo in our hearts today. Are we a people concerned about performance or appearance? If we are concerned about performance, then we must admit that there are parts that we can add that will improve our performance. There will be other parts that need to be changed out, for newer parts. There will be maintenance, oil changes if you will, that will allow for the performance to be what defines God's people, not the appearance.

When the focus is on appearance, it can be assumed that there is no performance, or at least little performance available. For Isaiah, the performance of God's people is highlighted by, "releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them and not hiding from your own family?" It is doing the hard work to care for people.

Performance takes time. It takes work. It takes planning. It takes getting dirty. It takes practice. Whether we are talking about cars, or being God's people, performance is always the best way to go. Are we more concerned with appearance or performance? Are we willing to be focused on performance? Are we willing to live the fast that God wants us to live?

Blessings

*Pastor Lee Saylor*

# Those Serving in September

**Greeters:** Sept. 1—Kent & Phyllis W., Sept. 8—Carla D. & Tom D., Sept. 15—Diana H. & Doris S., Sept. 22—Jayne S. & Sue W., Sept. 29—Jane E. & Joy M.

**Acolytes:** Sept. 1—Thomas S., Sept. 8—Finn H., Sept. 15—Aiden B., Sept. 22—Thomas S., Sept. 29—Grant H.

**Ushers:** Dawn S., Jane C., Doris S., Quentin W.

**Worship Leaders:** Sept. 1—Tom H., Sept. 8—Deo S., Sept. 15—Diana B., Sept. 22—John and Sue E. Sept. 29—Jane E.



## Mark Your Calendars

### Deadlines

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019

Bulletin Articles: Thursday, 10:00am

### Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 12, 7:00pm

### Shepherding Prayer Group

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7:00pm

## Sunday Worship

Sept. 1	"Moving Love" from <i>Hebrews 13:1-3, 7-13</i>
Sept. 8	"Appointed Over Fear" from <i>Hebrews 13:1-3, 7-13</i>
Sept. 15	<b>Bring-A-Friend Sunday</b> "A Changing God" from <i>Exodus 32:7-14</i>
Sept. 22	"Prophetic Memory" from <i>Amos 8:4-7</i>
Sept. 29	Message from <i>Luke 16:19-31</i> & <i>Timothy 6:6-19</i>

## Sunday Sermons

### 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

Fellowship meal and activities resume on Sept. 11th  
6:00pm Meal, with activities following

## September Birthdays-Happy Birthday!!

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

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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



## Newcomer Funeral Homes - North Chapel Obituary for Linda Greeno

Linda was born on January 19, 1941 and passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. She graduated from Randolph High School in 1959 and maintained a lifelong love of learning. Linda worked in Editing for the Wright Patterson Air Force Base Foreign Technology Division for over 40 years, and upon retirement became a member of the National Air Intelligence Command Alumni Association. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations (to be put towards the purchase of a headstone and eventual interment in the church/family cemetery) may be given to Lisa Loveland-Mullins at the time of the memorial service. Visitation will be held Sunday, September 1, 2019 from 1-2 pm at Newcomer North Chapel, 4104 Needmore Road Dayton, OH. A memorial service will begin at 2 pm.

## This & That & Special Events

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-Church Game Night!** Saturday, September 7, 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us! Bring a snack and a friend!

**Sew What** resumes **September 11, at 9:00am**. No experience needed! Just come and tie, sew, and press, blankets and quilts to be donated to people around the world. Bring a packed lunch. See Carol Shroyer with any questions.

**Wednesday Meal & Activities resume September 11, 6:00pm.** All ages are invited to join us. See Karen Dillon with any questions!

**The Annual Denominational Mission Offering will be taken on September 15.** This offering allows the Church of the Brethren to support missions here in this country as well as all over the world.

**September 15 is Bring-A-Friend Sunday!**

The next **Shepherding Prayer Group** meeting will be Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00pm in the parlor.

**International Day of Peace is September 21, 2019.**

Mark your calendars now for **September 23-27 for Adult Bible School**. More information to come.

Mark your calendars now for **CROP WALK on October 6**. Watch for more information.

I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude for your kind and **thoughtful donation** to Brethren Retirement Community. We are mindful that we are not in ministry alone. Thank you for your contribution. God's Blessings, John L. Warner

Thank you Salem for your **financial support of the Southern Ohio District** and partnering with us in the ministries we provide. Blessings, Dave Shetler, District Executive.

# District News

*Some articles adapted/taken from the district newsletter. You can email [sodcob@brethren.org](mailto:sodcob@brethren.org) to receive the district newsletter.*

## Working Together...Empowering Disciples.

***The District Newsletter for May is available at [sodcob.org](http://sodcob.org) or hard copies are available on the narthex table.***

**Local Tornado Response** - Work continues in September on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays with tree and brush removal. The need is for volunteers who can operate chain saws. Soon we're wanting to start small home repairs. Please call or text Burt Wolf (937-287-5902) or Sam Dewey (937-684-0510), if you're able to help.

**Church World Service** –Thank you to the many people who helped with the cleanup bucket assembly in July and the school kit assembly in August. 523 cleanup buckets and 2,500 school kits have been completed and are being sent to the Brethren Service Center. We appreciate the donations from individuals and churches that help pay for the supplies that Ohio/KY BDM has purchased in bulk. Donations may be made on-line at SOD-COB.org. When sending a check, make it payable to S. Ohio/KY District COB. On the memo line, write BDM/CWS kits. Mail checks to S. Ohio/KY COB, PO Box 785, Greenville, OH 45331.

**13th Annual Ice Cream Social** – Thank you to all for your support of the BDM Ice Cream Social held August 3rd. There were about 440 in attendance. The final figures are not yet in for this event. We still have hand packed vanilla ice cream to sell. It's \$5 for a quart, \$12 for a gallon, or \$22 for three gallons. Contact Burt Wolf (937-287-5902), Helen Wolf (937-902-3475), or [SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com).

### **13th Annual Charity Auction**

The BRC 13th Annual Charity Auction and Dinner will be held on September 13, 2019 at Romer's. The theme this year is "The Greatest Gala of All Time" which is a circus theme. As in past years, we are seeking donations for the live and silent auctions and would like to ask congregations to consider a donation. Please contact Todd Reish at [Todd.Reish@BHRC.org](mailto:Todd.Reish@BHRC.org) .

**Sewing Bee** – There will be a Sewing Bee on Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 AM at Greenville Church of the Brethren, 421 Central Avenue. Bags will be sewn for Church World Service school kits. Bring your sewing machine, an extension cord, and a sack lunch. For more information, contact Barb Brower at 937-336-2442.

### **Brethren Retirement Community Bake Sale**

Brought to you by the Ladies Auxiliary  
Friday, September 20, 9:00am-2:00pm  
Lunch and Baked Goods for sale!  
In the Brick Room at BRC

### **Young Adult Gathering**

On September 21st at 5 PM we will visit a corn maze at the Idle Hour Ranch in Troy, OH. A flyer with more information can be found on the District website.

Planning ahead:  
October 26@ 6 PM at the Brethren Heritage Center  
November 9@1PM at the Dayton Peace Museum  
December 21@ 7 PM at Carillon Park

# District News Continued



## BRETHREN Disaster Ministries

**Pork Festival Parking** – Many volunteers are needed for this fundraiser! On Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22, BDM will park cars at the Pork Festival held at the Preble County Fairgrounds. To volunteer for a shift, please call Burt Wolf at 937-287-5902. Please share this opportunity with others.

### District Youth Event

The afternoon of Sunday, September 22, 2:30-4:30 is the next District-wide youth event for those in grades 6-12. It will be held at the East Dayton Church of the Brethren, 3520 E. 3rd St, Dayton. We will have a time for a devotion, playing shuffleboard, playing Wii Bowling, and offer coloring activities. A flyer with more information can be found on the district website or ask in your church office. If you have questions contact Susan Liller at 937-202-2240 or via email at [susan.liller@gmail.com](mailto:susan.liller@gmail.com).

### Women's Retreat Announced

September 27-28, 2019 at Bergamo Center

Theme: Love Like an Ocean

Information is on the district website or by calling the church office.

### 2019 Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

October 11&12, 2019 at Happy Corner Church of the Brethren

"And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Jesus Christ". -Philippians 4:19

Registration is now open! This year the SOKD Program and Arrangements and the SOKD Resource Development Commission are teaming up to offer several excellent workshops for the educational portion of our conference which support our theme, "God Provides". These workshops will benefit everyone: Church Treasurers, Board Chairs, Board Members, Stewardship Teams, Pastors, anyone who has a family budget, anyone who doesn't have a family budget, if you preach about stewardship, wish you could preach about stewardship, if you spend money, save money, earn money . . . yes, we will be talking about money! Descriptions of the workshops and registration for delegates, display space, lodging requests and child care requests as well as a brochure with more information can be found on the district website.

### Gifts Discernment-- 2019 District Slate

The Gifts Discernment Commission will soon be meeting to begin work on the 2019 District slate to present to District Conference. You are encouraged to offer suggestions for the various district offices that come open this year. A list of positions and a form to offer suggestions are available on the district website.

### Cost of Poverty Experience

You are invited to a free workshop/experience at Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00-11:30am. This event offers individuals to experience what it's like to live in poverty and the many obstacles that entails. Register at [www.popcob.org](http://www.popcob.org) or call Carrie in the Salem office with questions or to register.



## Denominational News

*Some articles adapted/taken from Church of the Brethren Newsline and eBrethren. You can sign up online to receive these newsletters at [brethren.org](http://brethren.org).*

# Peacefully. Simply. Together.

### The way of Jesus

By Joshua Brockway, director of Spiritual Formation

Earlier this year, I picked up March, a graphic novel by Congressman John Lewis. The first volume of the series sketches the plotline from Lewis's early life to the first success of the Nashville sit-ins in 1960.

One of the pages, in particular, caught my eye. On the day of the first arrests of the Nashville protests, a white student named Paul LaPrad was pulled from the lunch counter and beaten. The page stood out to me, not because LaPrad was white, but because I heard his story during my undergraduate studies at Manchester College. LaPrad was a Church of the Brethren young adult and would later graduate from Manchester. He attended James Lawson's weekly workshops on nonviolence, heard the experiences of Jim Crow and racism from his black peers, and learned to withhold a violent response to verbal and physical attacks.

Since reading March and other accounts of the Nashville student movement, as well as talking with Paul LaPrad, I have come to one conclusion: Peacemaking is a way of life.

We talk about peace often in the church—and rightly so—but when I read about Lawson and his nonviolence workshops, I realized how counter-intuitive nonviolence truly is. Violence, whether through fists or words, is ingrained in us at an early age when we are taught to stand up for ourselves. We are encouraged to share witty retorts to insults. We are entertained by verbal sparring on news channels and by retributive violence on big and small screens.

So in order to live nonviolent lives—and like Jesus—we must be re-formed. This means that peacemaking is not a means to an end but, rather, the result of a long and intentional process of formation. Through our discipleship, we are made into the likeness of the Prince of Peace.

Our ministries, from Sunday school classes using Guide for Biblical Studies to youth groups gathering to raise money for National Youth Conference, keep us in the path of the “long obedience in the same direction,” as the late Eugene Peterson would say. Our ministries don’t just teach the ideas of peace, but they invite us to read the Scriptures through the nonviolent life of Jesus. Our practices of mutual aid and service are not a means to happy living or random acts of kindness, but are acts of obedience to Christ. And our witness and advocacy in our communities and nation are extensions of our relationships with those pushed to the edge of our culture through unjust laws and policies.

Thank you for the ways you disciple others in the nonviolent way of Jesus. Thank you for the ministries you lead and support in your congregation, district, and the denomination. And most of all, thank you for promoting the practices of discipleship and peace through your gifts to the Church of the Brethren.

Learn more about Discipleship Ministries at [www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin](http://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin) or support them today at [www.brethren.org/givediscipleship](http://www.brethren.org/givediscipleship).

# Denominational News Continued

## In Response to the Shootings in El Paso and Dayton

August 5, 2019— David Steele, General Secretary

“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more” (Matthew 2:18).

Today, like far too many days before, we are grieving with our country at the news of two horrific mass shootings, one in El Paso, Texas, and the other in Dayton, Ohio. At a time when it is hard to find words to soothe, we turn to the balm that heals us in the scriptures and our commitment to Christ’s peace. In the words of Romans 14:19, “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

We reaffirm the words that Mission and Ministry Board said in last year’s statement, “Lukewarm no more: A call for repentance and action on gun violence.”

“The work of the church is pastoral and public. We must preach the Gospel in word and deed. [...] We have fallen short of discipleship in the way of Jesus, lost sight of Christ’s reconciling work, grown weary in doing good, become numb to shootings, and tolerant of widespread violence in our nation. We call ourselves into greater and more energetic care for all people through direct service, bold peacemaking, and the work of challenging policies that do not lead to well-being and God’s shalom.”<sup>1</sup>

We are in the midst of a crisis, one caused by violent white supremacy fueled by prominent hateful rhetoric. It is such a time as this that requires the bold peacemaking to which our historic pacifist stance calls us. Our 1991 Statement on Peacemaking says, “Just as peace is broken when injustice and unrighteousness reign, so peace is threatened when fear and hostility exercise control.”<sup>2</sup> Fear and hostility provided the foundation for these domestic terror incidents to occur, and it is an act of hope and trust in God to call for peace in the wake of violence.

The statement goes on to say that “[i]n the tradition of Moses to Malachi, prophetic proclamation and action has been a distinctive part of our heritage. The prophetic, whether a word of judgment, a cry of anguish, a symbolic act of resistance or defiance, a confession, or a vision of hope and promise, always presupposes that Yahweh is active in our time.”<sup>3</sup>

If we seek to bring God’s peace to earth as it is in Heaven, we must proclaim the prophetic, this act of resistance to the violence we see around us every day. We believe that Yahweh is active in our time, which calls us to lament and grieve for all those who feel the sting of violence and to seek true justice and peace for a hurting world.

**The Church of the Brethren director of Ministry, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, wrote a letter to pastors across the denomination after the shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.** Her letter followed on that of general secretary David Steele, and encouraged pastors in their work to reduce violence in their own communities. Heishman personally joined the vigil in Dayton on the evening following the shooting where, she wrote, “we shared our grief and anguish while proclaiming hope and resolve to act to end the violence in our country.” Read more at [www.brethren.org/news/2019/director-of-ministry-writes-after-shootings.html](http://www.brethren.org/news/2019/director-of-ministry-writes-after-shootings.html)



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