

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 25, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (5/22)**, Craig is going to be preaching from Hebrews 4 and 5 about Jesus' role as the high priest who mediates between God and humanity.

**This Sunday (5/29)**, Brian is going to be preaching on the concept of the atonement as presented in Hebrews 9-10.

**Next Sunday (6/5)**, Brian will be preaching on faith from Hebrews 11

Full bulletins for Sunday morning worship services will be resumed this week. In addition to the order of worship, Sunday School information, birthday/anniversary notices, calendar, etc., a section will be available for announcements. We ask that the announcements in the bulletin would pertain to Shalom congregational events; announcements for Journeying Together would be for broader community-based information.

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

Sunday May 29 worship at 9:30 am no Sunday School. Masks now required in worship again, please see notice in the VAT section.

Monday, May 30 - Brian's Roving Office CANCELED (Rescheduled for June 13)

Monday, June 6 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

Monday, June 13 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Monday, June 27 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, July 11 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St, Unit A, Fishers, IN

Monday, July 18 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Midtown Panera Bread, 6055 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN

**Fall Retreat.** Shalom is scheduled for our annual fall retreat for Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> 9 am at Jameson Camp on the west side of Indianapolis. CLC is asking for volunteers to help plan the retreat. The theme for this year is Celebrating Life Together after Lock Down. If you would like to help plan for this retreat contact Herb Troyer, Rose Love, or Craig Oury.

There will continue to be a virtual zoom option available for those who will be at home or away. A link will continue to be sent out each week. At this time, we will not be able to accommodate active participation from home. If you have a prayer request or announcement you would like to share, there will be two options. You can either **email** the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [pastors@shalommennonite.com](mailto:pastors@shalommennonite.com) with the request by Saturday night and a pastor will share the request at church, or you may **type your request live into the chat** feature on zoom and someone on the tech team will read it to the congregation at church.

## Celebrations

Fri, May 27 -- Alexandra Bither

Fri, May 27 -- Carlos Reyes

**Here are a list of small groups** that are meeting. Feel free to contact one of them if the timing suits and you would like to meet and talk. There is also the possibility of forming your own small group by asking others to join you around a hobby or passion. There is one member of shalom who suggested having a Zoom group around the theme of a sermon response group sometime during the week. If interested let Herb Troyer know.

Wednesday Breakfast Group Rod Maust contact person Phone 317 593-4355.

Email [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month at 7am via zoom. We had been meeting at the Illinois St Emporium for breakfast but have not yet resumed that since COVID came about. Our conversation can include sermon responses, our Shalom journey, broader church issues, personal sharing, and general news concerns.

Martha Maust is the contact person for this small group.

Members are Brenda Smith, Barbara Longoria, Bob and Rose Love, Bill and Mary Albrecht, and myself. We meet once a month on Zoom at 1:00 PM on Sunday. The meeting date depends on our schedules. We focus on sharing and praying for each other. Sometimes we also talk about things that are going on in the congregation or things we have been studying. I'm the contact person and my preferred email is [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com).

Herb Troyer is the contact person for our Wisdom around the campfire small group

We meet about every other week depending on our schedules. the next meeting due to schedules of all the families is on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM to about 7:30 at the church. We try to meet outside when the weather is cooperative and at times we continue to have a campfire. We often have someone lead in a small devotional and then have sharing and prayer before we leave. the members are Herb and Joyce Troyer, Cheryl Martin , Laura Harms and at times other family members , Becky and Mike Wiggington, and Chuck Dunn

## DISCIPLINE: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Sunday School classes offered:

PreK class for 3-5yr olds not enrolled in school - Taught by Carol Weaver

Early Elementary for K-3rd grade - Taught by Debora Akotonou with Rose Love

JYF/MYF for 6th-12th grade - Co-taught by OlaJowon Turentine and Frank Kandel with Julie Sanders

Older MYF students will also be invited to join an adult class if they prefer.

For any questions you can contact Laura Harms

Summer Children's Sunday School

Part 1: Song Time for Kids

We could use a couple more singers or musicians to help with Children's Song Time. We'll be trying this out for the first 15-20 min of the Sunday School hour this summer (starting in June).

Part 2: Nature walks, Sorting Caps, and Connecting with our kids in creative ways:

After song time we'd like the kids to have another activity. Would you be willing to sign up for one Sunday a month (or even just one Sunday over the summer!) and plan for a 30-45 minute multi-age activity? Find a partner and plan a craft. Grab a teen and organize a scavenger hunt. Bring a stack of books. Plant some flowers or vegetables.

Email Laura with the dates you can cover. [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

May 29: No Sunday school for adults or children

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**AWANA: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION, DIALOG AND AWARENESS OF ASSISTANCE**

On Monday, June 23, Becky, and I attended the AWANA monthly meeting. This meeting was the first in-person, which was at EASTERN STAR CHURCH CARE CENTER, located at 5719 Massachusetts Ave. There were ten of us in attendance at this meeting. Mask were required and seating arrangements were per COVID 19 guidelines. After an opening prayer by Mr. Mosley, the following agenda items were discussed:

·Update on the New Rock Youth Center. Dr. Renee Bacon, the director for the New Center announced the date for the ribbon cutting, which will be on **June 13, - by invitation ONLY.**

·Grand opening of the New Rock Youth Center will be **on Thursday, June 23 (mark your calendar)**

·The plan to host the Summer – “Rooted at the Rock Indy Summer Learning Lab” is moving forward and as of this date over 100 youth have signed up. Still looking for more volunteers.

·We spent a lot of time on the topic of open dialog - general comments and discussion. We spent over an hour discussing concerns about trash, drug issues, gun violence, boarded up houses, and many more important issues for this neighborhood. Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach

**As you** are probably all aware, there has been another mass shooting in Texas. Mass shootings are horrible, but they only account for **4% of gun deaths** in Indiana and the US. I am including an email letter I have sent to our two Indiana US Senators, urging them to support HR 8 and HR 1446, which would expand background checks to cover nearly all gun sales in the US. (Both of these passed the House of Representatives over a year ago, but Republican Senators have stalled action in the Senate.) This would help to keep guns from getting into the hands of persons who may not use them responsibly. I also asked them to support President Biden's nominee to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. This Federal agency is very important in getting illegal guns off the streets, controlling gun trafficking, and doing research on gun violence, and has not had a confirmed director **since 2015**. If you are so inclined, you may borrow any or all parts of my letter to cut/paste to Senators Young and Braun. You could also call the Senator's offices at the provided numbers.

Senator Todd Young  
400 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202-224-5623

Senator Mike Braun  
374 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 21510  
202-224-4814

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I appreciated your giving a message of condolence last year to the families of those who were killed in the mass shooting at the FedEx facility in Indianapolis. That was important for all of us who grieved those killings.

But here we are again, with at least 21 more people dead from gun violence in Texas. I urge you to support **HR 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021**, and **HR 1446 the Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2021**, and to work to recruit at least eight of your 48 Republican Senate colleagues to support these bills. I recognize that this won't be easy. This is a time that calls for **unusual political courage**. 88% of the US population, including gun owners, support universal background checks. We must come to a point

where we put the safety of our children, and all of us, ahead of the interests of the gun manufacturers. I also urge you to support the **appointment of Steven Dettelbach** as head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. As you know, this important agency for gun safety has not had an approved director **since 2015**.

Mass shootings, tragic as they are, only account for **4% of the gun deaths** in Indiana and the United States. It's time to act, to also address the other 96% of gun deaths in this serious public health crisis.

Sincerely,

Brad Yoder  
12277 Blue Lake Court  
Noblesville, IN 46060

On Sunday, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) -- the US's largest Protestant denomination -- released a thoroughly investigated and utterly devastating independent report on sexual abuse within its congregations. The report found that repeatedly, Southern Baptist leaders chose to **protect the SBC from lawsuits** instead of **stopping the abuse**. They maintained a secret list of 700+ pastors who had been credibly accused, and in some cases even convicted, of sexual misconduct. It's impossible not to feel both outrage and sorrow after reading this 300-page report. We grieve with the many survivors who fought for change for years, who were made to suffer for their advocacy, and who were ignored, questioned, and even attacked by those in power. These survivors deserve our support, our respect, and our gratitude. But more than that, **they deserve change**. The Southern Baptist Convention must act -- for the sake of those in their pastoral care, for the sake of the church, and because it's the right thing to do. [Add your name: Christians stand with sexual-abuse survivors. It's time for Southern Baptist accountability and reform.](#) One of the most egregious aspects of this story, like the Catholic abuse scandals, is that churches should be places of love and refuge. This isn't just abuse; it is abuse from the very men who pretended to proclaim grace and follow Jesus. The Southern Baptist Convention will be holding its annual meeting in California in June. [Tell SBC leadership: followers of Jesus demand repentance and action on sexual abuse. Adopt all of the report's recommended reforms without delay.](#)

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

### **Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

**First Mennonite Church** has asked Pastor Craig to join their staff in an interim position while they search for an associate pastor. With the help of discernment from the VAT and their blessing Craig has agreed to join the staff for up to 6 months while they conduct their search starting June 1 with about 4-6 hours per week. It will not include any work on Sundays, except for possibly one Sunday to introduce Craig to the congregation. The main description of the work: to be available for crisis and hospital care, meeting weekly with Pastor Monica, meeting monthly with the congregational care team.

We have decided to once again request that everyone wear a mask in the church unless eating or drinking. This is about an abundance of caution and love for one another. We want to continue to meet in person, so this may be helpful to allow us to continue this pattern. Also, if you are feeling ill, please stay home and utilize the Zoom meeting link. We want us all to stay healthy.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Hello Shalom!**

Thank you so much to those of you who have responded to our previous work day announcement! We are looking forward to this Saturday! As a recap, we are preparing to sell our home since Noe has been accepted to Purdue University this fall. However, our time has been rather limited to complete outdoor tasks. This Saturday, we have proposed a work day and are planning to tackle these areas: back flowerbed weeding and trimming (possibly laying mulch, if time permits), deck repair/select wood replacement, patio screen replacement, and

outdoor painting. Depending on the area you feel most comfortable, tools needed could include yard gloves, weeding tools/garden hand tools, hedge trimmers, hammers, paint brushes, rollers, roller extensions, and ladders (we have two).

We are hoping to get started around 8:30am, but please come when you can and leave when you feel the need. Doughnuts, coffee, and lunch will be provided.

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone wishing to help out could email Laura at [lemartinez0707@gmail.com](mailto:lemartinez0707@gmail.com) or text at 317-473-6415, so we can ensure we have more than enough edible fuel for everyone.

Our address is 1607 W. 79th St. Indianapolis 46260.

Thanks again for considering helping us - we know it is a busy weekend!

Blessings,

Noe and Laura Martinez

**Starting in June**, there will be no assigned nursery workers for the summer. Based on the current children using the nursery, usually a parent has preferred to stay there with them already. Please feel free to make use of the nursery as needed. If you were previously assigned to work the nursery in June, you are no longer expected to be present.

**Attached** is a copy of *2022 Service Opportunities At Shalom*. This is a way for everyone to see what the different commission's responsibilities are and where involvement from the congregation is crucial to meet those goals. Look them over prayerfully, let us know where your passions/interests lie. After checking off as many areas that you'd like, return the pages to Jeanne Smucker's mailbox. If you have any questions, the commission members are all listed – feel free to have a conversation with one of them.

There are also paper copies available in the foyer. Please fill one out and return – the sooner the better.

**Send information** for the weekly bulletin to Linda Showalter at [showalter@indy.rr.com](mailto:showalter@indy.rr.com). The deadline is 10 am on Thursday.

Do you have a drawing, photo, or other image that you would like to submit for use as artwork in the bulletin? We would love for you to share them with our church community. Feel free to submit ideas and artwork to Linda Showalter [showalter@indy.rr.com](mailto:showalter@indy.rr.com).

**Marcela** is graduating from Lawrence North High School on June 8. We are celebrating with an Open House on June 11th from 2-5 pm. No RSVP required but you can connect with Laura or Marcela if you have any questions.

**Calling all teachers, artists, picture-takers,** and creative-minded people!!

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help redo the bulletin boards in the church. One board previously had pictures of people who attend the church, but needs updating. The board by the nursery is open to whatever you feel would visually add to our worship. There is a board downstairs that needs updated with new pictures of all the children. The rest would be open for whatever creative ideas you may have. The worship commission is happy to support you and help with resources as needed. You do not need to commit to doing all of them. Just let us know which one you might be interested in transforming. Contact Brittany Bither [brittany.n.bither@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.n.bither@gmail.com) if interested.

### **Down the Peace Path 5/25/2022**

Some time back I wrote a short blurb for the newsletter titled; "Down the Peace Path". The intention was to write something occasionally mentioning creation care activities or highlights at Shalom. That initial installment was nearly 2 years ago! I received an email today which prompted me to write again. Hopefully the next installment won't be delayed that long...

The USA suffered another mass shooting this week. We find ourselves asking the question as the writer of Psalm 13: "How long, O LORD?" It might seem that no amount of good news can outweigh such a horrific event. Carrie Newcomer wrote a song titled; "Lean in Toward the Light" where she says:

"The shadows of this world will say, there's no hope, why try anyway? But every kindness large or slight, shifts the balance toward the light.

With those words in mind, I wanted to relay some good news. Last month I submitted a short grant application to the Indiana Native Plant Society (INPS) to help with our ongoing work on the NW corner of the Shalom campus. Here is the reply...

**Congratulations!** INPS-Central Chapter has awarded you a \$300 grant in support of your work at Shalom Mennonite Church. The CC Board appreciates all the thought and work you have put into your project. I visited Shalom and I could visualize what you hope to accomplish. Brooke Alford, president of our board and expert in bio-swales and rain gardens, would be happy to work with you--including a site visit. Gail Wiseman-INPS CC Small Grants chairman.

My thanks to all those at Shalom who have helped with this project. We have more clearing to do and plan to rent a chipper to deal with the brush we have created. Then we can make a plan for the remainder of the project. The funds we receive will help.

Mike Wigginton

**Attached** is the IN-MI Conference Gospel Herald

In addition to our podcast, Shalom has a **YouTube channel**, and many of our Zoom Sessions including the sermons in the "Story of the Bible" sermon series and the "Facing Hard Questions" sessions - can be found there. This is an easy way to share the good news with church members past and present, visitors and newcomers, and even outsiders. Check it out at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q\\_ReoskuxUXA!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReoskuxUXA!)

**Video recordings** (MP4) of our Zoom worship services are available online. A link to the worship service recordings is on the Member's page of our website.

Sam Bixler manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone numbers. You can email changes or additions to the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).

Craig Oury compiles *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday. Craig is managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](http://shalommennonite.com)

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

Vision & Accountability Team: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdale  
Brian Bither, Craig Oury