

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church August 17, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (8/14), Brian preached about how we deal with the emotion of guilt as Christians, with 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 as a key text.

This Sunday (8/21), Sabrina Falls will offer a reflection of Matthew 4:12-17.

Next Sunday (8/28), Brian will continue exploring human emotions by considering "Shame in the Christian Journey."

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 16, 6pm – Outreach Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 6pm – Commissions Chairs meeting.

Monday, August 22 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St
Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Monday, August 29 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31
N, Greenwood, IN

Wednesday, August 31 - Faith Build for Habitat for Humanity (see announcement)

Saturday, September 10 Greenfest featuring Carrie Newcomer A mingling of art, eco-justice, and
Spirituality. Outdoor activities from 3-6 pm indoor concert at 6 pm. Sacred Earth @ Cumberland,
116 S. Muessing St., Cumberland, IN 46229

Saturday, October 8, 2022, starting at 9 am Church retreat at Jamison Camp. Our theme for the day is
Celebrating Life Together. Please plan to come and stay for the whole day!

Bulletins are now attached with the Zoom link for those who are worshipping on Zoom. 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 or 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

Thu, Aug 18 – Brian Bither

Thu, Aug 18 – Barbara & Zenebe Abebe, 1979

Fri, Aug 19 – Sheila Y. Abebe

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 is [<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.

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 6th 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

New book in the library: *Disarmed, The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp*. In 2017, Michael "MJ" Sharp – who traveled the world unarmed urging soldiers to choose peace – was kidnapped and killed on a UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Children's Sunday School: Summer Children's Sunday School_– June 5 through August 28

One more summer date to fill! Please let Laura know if you can teach on **August 28**.

Fall Children's Sunday School Plans

Co-Teachers needed!! Starting Sept 11 and running through December, Shalom hopes to offer the following classes:

- * Age 2-3 (teacher slots filled)
- * Elementary (1 more co-teacher needed)
- * JYF/MYF (1 lead teacher or 2 co-teachers needed)

Seeking 1 co-teacher for the Elementary Age class and either 1 lead teacher or 2 co-teachers for the Youth class. Co-teaching means you'll have flexibility to travel or fulfill other Sunday morning duties because you'll share teaching responsibilities with your co-teacher. You are welcome to teach together if you are both available on the same Sunday but this is not required. Most teachers like to split up the dates.

Please email Laura with any questions and to let her know if you can serve - harms.laura@gmail.com

Adult Education schedule

August 21: Racial caucus session

August 28: Peter Wigginton and Delicia Bravo will share about their work in Quito, Ecuador

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Tomorrow, August 18, at 7:00PM is Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence's Forum on "Protect Our Kids from Firearms Tragedies". See attachment for information on free registration.

Income inequality is one of the clearest reflections of racism in the United States. We have a great opportunity to think about how structural poverty happens with Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign, on Thursday, September 29, 7:00PM, at Christian Theological Seminary's Shelton Auditorium. In preparation for this presentation, there are two opportunities to study and discuss Barber's book, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear*: 1) in person on August 24th, and 2) virtually on September 12th. Follow the links below for details about each of these three opportunities. Strongly consider participating!

<https://www.cts.edu/events/book-discussion-in-person-2022/>

<https://www.cts.edu/events/book-discussion-online-2022/>

<https://www.cts.edu/events/faith-action-fall-event-featuring-rev-dr-william-j-barber-ii/>

We are gathering items for Mennonite Central Committee school kits in July and August on the table across from the mailboxes. Bags are provided. The contents are:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com). or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

Green Festival featuring Carrie Newcomer Saturday September 6. Free outdoor events from 3-6 pm, Carrie Newcomer concert at 6 pm, \$20. See attached flyer.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to announce that two positions have been filled. Wilma Bailey has been affirmed as a member of Discipling Commission. She joins Martha Yoder (chair) and Carol Bither (member). Grace Rhine was nominated by the congregation and agreed to serve as a Congregational Representative (CR) on the Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) with Cheryl Martin (chair), Frank Kandel (vice-chair), Carol Bixler (CR), and Mark Stocksdale (CR).

Please continue to pray for the two Community Life Commission Positions that are in process.

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

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.

Administration

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig is going to be on vacation from Monday, August 15 through Sunday, August 21. During this time, please direct any pastoral questions and concerns to Pastor Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com. You can still send newsletter updates to the office email.

Wednesday August 31, a group of volunteers from First Mennonite and Shalom will be helping with the Faith Build for Habitat for Humanity. If you're interested in participating, contact Randy Stoesz, stoeszrd@gmail.com. Mike Wigginton

The **MCC Bike Michiana** tour at Amigo Centre is just 6 weeks away. I am again planning to participate, and I am requesting your sponsorship contributions. This year's project will be directed to assisting farmers in Haiti with climate change mitigation.

Because of a fiasco involving some lost checks, and because of the delays encountered in processing in prior years, Amigo Centre is requesting that sponsorship checks be sent directly to the MCC Great Lakes office in Goshen. Checks should be payable to : **MCC** and mailed directly to **MCC Great Lakes Regional Office, 1013 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528**. Please include memo line **MCC Bike Michiana** and

specify **John Amstutz sponsorship**. Please notify me of your sponsorship and amount contributed by email to obojohn@gmail.com Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make this my \$30 000 year.

Bulletin announcements should be sent to Linda Showalter at showalter@indy.rr.com by Thursday, 10 am.

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!

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 or bixlersc@gmail.com.

Craig Oury compiles *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to 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 or craig@shalommennonite.com.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Visiting the Vatican

As many of you know, I went on vacation a couple of weeks ago in order to officiate my sister's wedding. She and her (now) husband decided to get married in Sicily, which is an island of Italy. The easiest way for us to get to Sicily was to fly through Rome, which is a city that I've always wanted to visit. So before we went to Sicily, we dragged the kids halfway around the world and spent five days doing as much sightseeing as we could with young children in tow.

I could (and probably will) share several stories about the sites we saw and adventures we had in Rome, but for now, I'll just mention one: our time at the Vatican museum. Before going to the Vatican museum, I was vaguely aware that they had a collection of ancient art and artifacts, but when I walked into the Gallery of Statues and Hall of Busts, I was absolutely stunned. This hall was filled from wall to wall with ancient Roman sculptures, most of which were completely intact! I had never seen a collection like this. I didn't even know that so many sculptures survived the tides of history unscathed! Several of these statues were life size, towering over their viewers on pedestals, and carved with tremendous detail. Seeing them all in a row like that gave you a sense of what it must have been like to see them in their original setting. It was mesmerizing – but at the same time a little troubling. After having spent several days visiting Roman ruins from which statues had been stolen or destroyed, I wondered, "How

did the Vatican acquire all of these artifacts? Do they really have a right to own them? What did it all cost?"

If the popes who commissioned these halls were intending to impress people like me, it certainly worked. But it also brought concerns about the faithfulness of the Catholic Church right to the forefront of my mind. A passage from Proverbs came to mind: *"Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. It is better to be of a lowly spirit among the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud."* (Proverbs 16:18-19) I have heard that passage referenced many times before, but at the Vatican, it struck me in a different way. I realized that how easy it is for our attempts to impress other people to undermine our Christian witness – even if we are successful.

I don't think any of us are building up an art gallery (at least not at that scale), but there are certain things that we all take pride in: our homes, our yard, our hobbies, our work accomplishments, our families. I wonder how often people see our gallery of successes and quietly question our integrity, even while expressing genuine awe with what we have done. For those of us who goal-oriented, this is a good reminder to consider whether the goals we are pursuing are spurred on by our own pride or by a genuine and healthy passion. Because if it is pride that motivates us, we can be sure that people will not only see our accomplishments – they will see the pride too. ~ Brian

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:

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