

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 4, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (5/1), Brian will be preached from Hebrews 1, which makes the case that Christ had to be more than human - and even more than a supernatural being like an angel - in order to do the work of salvation that he came to do.

This Sunday (5/8), Sabrina Falls will bring the message from Hebrews 2 as we continue our series in Hebrews.

Next Sunday (5/15), Brian is going to be preaching from Hebrews 4 and 5 about Jesus' role as the high priest who mediates between God and humanity.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday May 8 worship at 9:30 am and Sunday School at 11 am. Masks now required in worship again, please see notice in the VAT section.

Monday, May 9 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St Suite A, Fishers, IN 46038

Monday, May 16 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 U.S. Hwy 31 N, Greenwood, IN 46142

Monday, May 30 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

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

Fall Retreat. Shalom is scheduled for our annual fall retreat for Saturday October 8th 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 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

Wed, May11 -- Eirene Brubaker

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Sunday School for 2-yr olds: Shalom is considering whether to begin offering Sunday School for the littlest ones. If you are a parent and would like to have a class for your 2-year old, please let Laura know. Laura would also like to hear from anyone interested in teaching this class for the month of May. harms.laura@gmail.com

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

May 8: Study of Hebrews, led by Martha Yoder Maust

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY AT THE NEW ROCK YOUTH CENTER.

This is Renee Bacon from The ROCK Youth Center at Eastern Star Church. I wanted to revisit our conversation about how members of Shalom can get involved. The center will host Rooted School Indy and provide some programming as they will be one of the Indy Summer Learning Labs (summer school) that the Mind Trust offers through the city. The five week lab will be from June 20- July 22 from 8 am – 2 pm. There will be academic enrichment in the morning and enrichment/programming in the afternoon. It is free and we will offer breakfast, lunch and limited transportation. I will send the flyer once I am provided with the digital link. We will only serve incoming 6th – 9th grade middle school students. Would you have any members who may be able to offer programming like quilting for this 5 week period from the hours of 1-4? Also, we are looking for volunteers for the summer and for our fall full launch. We have a very outdated outdoor playground that we either need to replace or repair. Would love to see if anyone on your end can assist with that project? We are also planning a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in mid-May. **We will certainly send you and the members an invite. Would love to come and share with your church in person or via zoom more about the center and various volunteer opportunities. Let me know your thoughts. If you have any question, please contact me (920) 602 7339.**

See attachment flyers from Rock Youth Center about positions they are hiring and how to enroll in their program.

The Second Amendment Debate: Historic & Present-Day Interpretations

HCGV Public Forum, Wednesday, May 4, 7:00-8:30 pm Eastern

Speaker: Jody Madeira, J.D., Ph.D. Maurer School of Law, Indiana University-Bloomington Co-Director, Center for Law, Society & Culture

HCGV members, friends & partners are invited to this Zoom-based forum. **Pre-registration is required.** Send an email to info@hcgv.org with "RSVP May 4 Forum" in the subject line & your name in the message area. Also, **please share this invitation** with others who will want to know more about Gun Policy & the Second Amendment.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

So, 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

Several weeks ago we as a congregation met during the Sunday School hour to discuss the resolutions planned for the MC USA meeting at the end of May. At that time, the congregation was in agreement on two of the resolutions regarding the issues of accessibility and whether to study issues related to the legal justice system. However, there did not seem to be a clear understanding of the voice of the congregation regarding the other two issues. There were aspects of those resolutions we did not realize until our discussion that Sunday. So we are asking you to give your input at this time. The two resolutions we need your input on are summarized below.

1. The first resolution is to drop the membership guidelines of MCUSA. It will be voted on during the delegate session. This resolution will allow **congregations and conferences to set their own guidelines for membership in a congregation (or a congregation for membership in a conference)**. This resolution, if passed, will not change any statements in the *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*.
2. The other resolution calls for Repentance and Transformation in relation to the harm done to LGBTQIA Mennonites and their families and commit to making things better. This resolution will be presented early so that delegates can decide whether this resolution will be considered for a vote during the Special Delegate session. If the delegates agree to adopt it for **discussion**, it will come up later during the delegate assembly for a vote. If the delegates vote to not discuss it, it will not come up for a vote during the special delegate assembly in May.

Please use this link to access the Google voting form. You will not be identified in any way. [MCUSA](#)
If you do not wish to utilize the form please contact me (Cheryl Martin) directly and I will add your vote to the total. My email is 1cmm@att.net

Thank you to all who attended the Church Safety Training at Shalom last Sunday. If you missed it, we encourage you to contact one of the pastors or members of the Discipling Commission, as this training is required for anyone who supervises children at Shalom. The Child Supervisor Eligibility List has been updated on the "Church Policy" page under the Members section of Shalom's website (www.shalommennonite.com). We encourage teachers and youth volunteers to check the list to confirm that you have met all of the requirements necessary to supervise children.

Trochez/Hernandez support funds: The financial support for Gemima and her daughters is planned through July and the fund will need just a little more to make it there! The need is for about \$150.

Savannah and Eric Easter are now at home with their new baby, and as is Shalom's tradition, we invite church members to support them through this transitional time by preparing a meal for them and delivering it to their home during the next two weeks. To do this, you can follow [this link](#) to sign up directly on the Take Them a Meal website, or you can contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

May 22 will be a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"! See attached flyer for more info.

Fellowship Committee will be starting Sunday coffee time back up in June, so all can join in on the fun look for a new revised cleanup schedule.

Tree of Life Retreat- Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is offering a noncredit retreat titled Spiritual Practice: Tree of Life. It "weaves together study of biblical texts about trees; understanding of trees as organisms and within ecosystems; ecological issues; and spiritual practices. Participants will also consider how to engage trees within their faith communities...." Cost is \$60 per person (includes two meals). The first day, June 3 is on the AMBS campus (Elkhart, IN), the second, June 4 is at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan. Website ambs.edu for more information or to register.

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Indiana-Michigan Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for fall 2022 is July 12, with the final registration deadline on August 9, 2022. For more information visit www.amsbs.edu/journey, or contact your pastor, or Joanne Gallardo at joanne@im.mennonite.net or 574-534-4006.

Friday May 20 and **Saturday** May 21 there is a seminar at Southport Presbyterian Church for grandparents and others who would like to be equipped on how to disciple millennials and generation z. Follow the link for more details. <https://southportpres.org/nextgenerations>

Shalom has contracted a web designer to improve the appearance of our website and make it easier to use and view. As part of this process, we invite anyone to send any big or small suggestions about improving the website, including content changes, to Tim Ludden at timothy.ludden@gmail.com by May 10. The AC plans to review the recommendations and review them with the web designer. While not all suggestions will be adopted, we would love to hear the congregations' thoughts on improving the website. (For clarity, this redesign is focused on general improvements and will not make any major overhauls or changes to the current structure of the website.)

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

NT Authors and OT Scriptures

As you read through the book of Hebrews, you may notice that it often quotes verses from the Older Testament (OT) to make its theological points. This is usually helpful, but it's a little disorienting in chapter 1 when Hebrews rapidly cites **seven** different OT verses in a row to make the argument that Jesus is greater than the angels. To make matters more complicated, some of these passages don't seem to have anything to do with Jesus or angels, so it's hard to understand what Hebrews is talking about. For example, Hebrews poses this rhetorical question in verse 13, "*To which of the angels did God ever say, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?*" The footnote in your Bible may tell you that this is a reference to Psalm 110, which is – to be frank – a violent psalm that announces God's intention to beat Israel's enemies into submission. Apparently, Hebrews believes that this passage is speaking about Jesus, which I suppose makes him "greater than angels" but is also troubling because it seems to depict Jesus as a violent conqueror.

Before we jump to that conclusion, we should note that Hebrews is using a form of interpretation that is largely unfamiliar to 21st century Christian readers called *typological* interpretation. This is a form of interpretation that looks back on passages from the Older Testament and re-interprets them as "prophecies" about Christ. For example, Psalm 110 was traditionally understood to be a psalm about King David. The first two verses say, "*The*

Lord says to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, 'Rule in the midst of your enemies!'" King David ruled Israel from Jerusalem, which was located on Mount Zion, and this passage seems to be proclaiming that God will extend David's domain (represented by his kingdom) so that it encompasses the territory of "enemy nations" like Moab or Philistia. But when this verse is quoted in the New Testament, it is given a completely new meaning.

First, the New Testament argues that the lower-case "lord" in this passage does not refer to David but to Jesus. In fact, it is Jesus himself who first makes this point in Luke 20:42-43, saying "*David himself declares in the book of Psalms: 'The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' David calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?'"* Here, Jesus argues that David is the author of the psalm, and God is clearly "The Lord" mentioned at the beginning, which means that the other "lord" in this psalm must refer to someone else, i.e. the Messiah who was to follow David. Later, after Jesus is raised from the dead, he meets two of his disciples, and "*beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*" [Luke 24:27] Presumably, Psalm 110:1 was one of the passages that Jesus highlighted as one that referred to him.

Moreover, "lord" is not the only word from this verse that is re-interpreted in the New Testament. It was well known that Jesus taught his disciples to love their enemies, not to dominate them, and so the NT writers concluded that the enemies referenced here must not refer to enemy nations like Moab and Philistia, but to powers and principalities, such as Sin and Death. Paul makes this point in 1 Corinthians 15:25-26: "*For [Christ] must reign until [God the Father] has put all of his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*" So the New Testament takes this psalm that seems to endorse violent conquest and re-interprets it as a promise that the Messiah will eventually conquer the real enemies of humanity: Sin and Death.

For some of us, it is really hard to take this kind of interpretation seriously, because modern Christians have been taught to interpret Scripture through the lens of *authorial intent*, in which the meaning of the text is determined by the original human author. If we consider Psalm 110 "objectively," it seems unlikely that the original human author had this "powers and principalities" interpretation in mind, and our instinct is to consider such an interpretation illegitimate. But Hebrews views the Bible as a living entity that can have multiple layers of meanings and through which God can continually speak new truths to Christians: "*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*"

Throughout the book of Hebrews, the author uses typological interpretation not to deny the original meaning of the Older Testament but to claim that Christ has always been a part of God's story. I believe that there are still things that Christians today can learn from this mode of interpretation, and I invite us to open ourselves to it as we engage this book. ~ Brian

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalom mennonite.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