

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 11, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (5/8), Sabrina Falls brought the message and took us through the deep theology of the book of Hebrews chapter 2.

This Sunday (5/15), we are going to take a break from Hebrews and focus on rooting out racism in preparation for the anti-racism report that we will be discussing during the Sunday school hour. Pray that God will challenge and inspire us!

Next 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.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday May 15 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 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, May18 -- CoraLyn & OlaJowon Turentine

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

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

May 15: Summary of the Anti-Racism Audit Report

May 22: Continuing our study of Hebrews with chapter 2. Try to memorize Hebrews 12:1-2.

May 29: No Sunday school for adults or children

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.**

ECCN meeting at Cumberland First Baptist Church, 116 S Muessing St, Indianapolis, 46219, this Sat., May 14, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. A breakfast will be served at 8:30 am.

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

Trochez / Hernandez funds - THANK YOU!!

We have reached our goal to provide financial support through July. Thank you to all who supported this family through donations and engagement with them. It has been a blessing to have seen the girls flourish and start on their post High School paths.

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.ambs.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>

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

The Hope of Spring

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival. -- Zephaniah 3:16b-18b

I have always found a sense of newness come springtime. Although we are halfway through spring, today I noticed the smell of flowers as I entered the church and I paused for a few moments to breath that in deeply. It brought with it that sense of newness where anything and everything is possible. For some reason that then made me think of Zephaniah, specifically the third chapter. The first two chapters in Zephaniah focus on judgment, it focuses on the problems of the people and how they have lost their way. The people's iniquities were many and could not be overlooked,

the people were seeking other gods, 1:4-6,
the people were stuck in complacency, 1:12
the people were serving injustice and consumed by their own good and well-being, not the well-being of the community, 3:1
the leaders were corrupt, 3:3-4

This back story is important, the people of God where not living as the people of God should, their iniquities were many, and God's judgment was upon them. Yet with all that there is again hope as chapter 3 continues. With all that, the message is clear: God is for Israel. God has forgiven. The prophetic transition has happened, and the people are full of possibilities for God is in their midst.

I sense that feeling here at Shalom as well. The newness of finally meeting together again after a long time dealing with Covid, which is not yet over. The possibilities galore of what it means to figure out who we are as a community in 2022 as some have left but others have arrived. The excitement of what it is that God is calling us

to as we continue the work of anti-racism. May we seek God and view these transitions with excitement as God is in our midst and the possibilities are many when we are following God's leading. – Craig

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

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