

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 30, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (11/27)**, was the first Sunday of Advent. This year, we will be focusing on the theme that "Restoration is coming," and Brian will preach the first sermon from Isaiah 2 and Matthew 24 about "Hope from Beyond."

**This Sunday (12/4)**, is the second Sunday of Advent, Brian will bring the message.

**Next Sunday (12/11)**, is the third Sunday of Advent, Craig will bring the message from Luke 1. Looking at Mary we are to follow her example of offering ourselves and our situations to God.

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

Sunday, December 4, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School. After Sunday School, Congregational Budget Meeting.

Coffee and tea time between Worship and Sunday School will be downstairs. The coffee time clean up for December are those whose last name begins with K-M.

Monday, December 5 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks (430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN)

Shalom Mennonite Christmas Dinner, The evening of December 10th. The dinner will be a planned carry-in. More info below.

Monday, December 12 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, January 2 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Northwest Panera, 2902 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, January 12, 6 pm Commission Chairs

Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm Community Life Commission

Monday, January 23 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, January 30 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread - 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

**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](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**

Tue, Dec 6 -- Jim Martin  
Tue, Dec 6 -- Joyce Troyer

**Christmas Dinner**, on the evening of December 10 we will be having a Christmas dinner pot luck. At 5 pm we will begin with a caroling in the neighborhood. 5:30 will be appetizers, 6:00 pm will be the dinner. If you'd like to bring something for the pot luck please see the sign-up sheet at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you are planning to attend the caroling please also sign-up for that, either at the back of the sanctuary or by emailing Craig, [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

Also if you are interested in planning any program for the dinner please contact Herb or Craig.

## **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

### **Children's Sunday School**

I know many of us enjoy the children that are part of Shalom. And I believe that the children enjoy the adults that are part of our community. Teaching Sunday School is a wonderful way to support the children and families at Shalom. Teaching in partnership with a co-teacher ensures the burden of preparing lessons and covering class days is shared. Please consider joining the teaching team in January.

Laura needs to know who can help - [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

Teachers needed to start in January:

Pre-K: 2 co-teachers needed for Spring semester (Jan - May)

Elementary: 1 co-teacher for Spring semester (Jan - May)

## **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

The US Senate passed the Respect for Marriage Act 61-36 on Tuesday, assuring that same-sex and interracial marriages will continue to be recognized in all 50 states. Justice Clarence Thomas, in his concurring opinion in the Dobbs decision ending the Federal right to reproductive health, said that he thought other Supreme Court decisions about contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex [and interracial] marriage should also be re-examined. A major bipartisan rally of support led the Senate to pass this bill, with 12 Republicans (including Indiana's Senator Todd Young) joining the Democrats. If you support the right of every person to marry whom they love, write to Senator Young to thank him for voting "yes" on the bill.

Brad Yoder

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to share that Dan Rosenberger has accepted the nomination to serve Shalom on the Administration Commission. Now until December 4, it's time for you to provide affirmation and/or feedback to Joyce Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com), 317-446-4353, or in person)

## **Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

### **Administration**

Chair: Mike Wigginton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Bulletin announcements** should be sent to Linda Showalter at [showalter@indy.rr.com](mailto:showalter@indy.rr.com) by Thursday, 10 am.

**Charitable Giving Opportunity.** Shalom has a fund called the "Outreach Fund" which can be used to offer financial support to people outside of our congregation who face various needs. Currently, it only has \$78, but from now until December 9, any donations that we make to help people outside of the congregation from that fund (up to \$75) will be matched by a partner organization called Everence Financial. Therefore, the Outreach Commission is inviting Shalom members to do two things: first, we invite everyone to donate to this fund between now and Sunday by writing a check to Shalom Mennonite Church with "Outreach Fund" in the memo line. Second, anyone can make recommendations to the Outreach Commission of people who should be one-time recipients of this special fund. To do this, please email their name, address, contact information, and some information about a specific need to Outreach by Sunday. Outreach will consider the recommendations receive next week and disburse the funds to people accordingly.

**Short Term Bible Study Group.** One study group has been formed for the Anabaptism at 500 Bible Study. We can have more groups if people are interested. Contact Carol Bixler for more information.

**Deacons.** You may have noticed some new people coming to Shalom lately. Which means it is time to add some new deacons! If you have an interest in becoming a Deacon or have any questions please contact pastor Craig, he'll be happy to hear from you.

**CAMFell Breakfast.** Next Tuesday, Shalom will be hosting the CAMFell pastor's gathering at 10am. It is customary for the hosts to provide some kind of breakfast. If anyone would be willing or interested to make some kind of pastries, casserole, or other breakfast dish for the visiting pastors, please reach out to Brian at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com).

**The Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Prayer Memo** can be viewed here:  
<https://www.im.mennonite.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/December-2022-Prayer-Memo.pdf>

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\\_ReooskuxUXA!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReooskuxUXA!)

**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 for the Journey**

## Faithful Responses

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." Mark 9:38 NRSVUE

Jesus tells them to lay off, because "whoever is not against us, is for us" (verse 40). We get the clear message that the disciples' finger-pointing will not get far with Jesus. While they are eager to bring judgment on this outsider who is acting in Jesus' name, Jesus wants the disciples to pay attention instead to their own behavior. Jesus has a lesson on our preoccupation of others.

About 12 years ago I took a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, one of the core teachings in the class was that despite whatever circumstances that are happening, it is our responsibility to respond faithfully. We will never ever, *ever* be able to control the actions of another person. That task is never going to be within our reach. And since we cannot change someone else, we are foolish to spend time and energy on that, for it is up to us to respond faithfully as children of our God in heaven. I think this is one of the many points Jesus is trying to make, it is up to each of us to respond faithfully. It is up to each of us to act, to live, to move, as followers of Jesus. Just because we think someone over there is not following faithfully, just because we think or know that someone over there is acting wrongly, our task is always the same, we are to look to see how it is we can best respond. -- Craig

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, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine, Mark Stocksdale  
Brian Bither, Craig Oury

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