

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 20, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (7/17). Brian preached a sermon that focused on sadness using Psalm 42 and John 11:16-37 as key texts.

This Sunday (7/24), Brian is going to reflect on how we deal with the emotion of anger as Christians, with Ephesians 4:26-32 as a key text.

Next Sunday (7/31), Craig will bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 24, 9:30 am Worship and Sunday School

Persons who plan to attend the adult Sunday School on July 24 and 31 will need a Bible. You can bring your own or use a pew Bible. You will be comparing two Scripture texts (on the 24th).

Monday, August 8 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Downtown Starbucks, 430 Massachusetts Ave, Indianapolis, IN

Wednesday, August 10 6pm – VAT meeting.

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

Monday, August 15 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

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

Saturday, October 8, 2022, starting at 8:30 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

Fri, July 22 -- Gemina Trochez

Wed, July 27 -- Harlan Nelson

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.

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 if 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 Wigginton, and Chuck Dunn

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

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

Just two dates left for summer: Email harms.laura@gmail.com to sign up.

- **July 31 and Aug 28 (or trade Laura to cover Aug 7)**

July 24	Taylor Miller
July 31	
Aug 7	Laura Harms
Aug 14	Carol Bixler
Aug 21	Frank Kandel
Aug 28	

Adult Education schedule

July 24 Music in the Hebrew Bible, part 1, by Wilma Bailey. Persons who plan to attend the adult Sunday School on July 24 and 31 will need a Bible. You can bring your own or use a pew Bible. You will be comparing two Scripture texts (on the 24th).

July 31 Music in the Hebrew Bible, part 2, by Wilma Bailey

August 7 Music in the Hebrew Bible, part 3, by Wilma Bailey

August 14 Intergenerational activity: adults and children will process caps and lids for our junior-sized picnic table

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

New Rock Youth Center

We want to inform you about a change of date for the New Rock Youth Center Grand Opening date.

We initially published the grand opening date as June 28. Now that date has changed, and please mark your calendar for Saturday, **July 23, between the hours 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.**

The new building is located just north of the Eastern Star Church campus, between **30th** street and Massachusetts Street. **The address is 5750 east 30th ST.**

Caps Update

Thank you! But it's time to STOP! We are stopping the collection of caps for now. We are shifting to sorting, you are welcome to come help sort, we have a station set up in the Fellowship room. When you're not sure of a cap put it in the "?" bag. If you have any questions reach out to Becky, Mike, Herb, Joyce, Chuck. We will be having a formal training later this summer. Again, thanks for the caps!

HCGV newsletter is attached

Family Promise Donations

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f49afaa23a5f94-apartment>

Other details:

- New items are great. Used are great too (think Goodwill!).
- Deliver them between now and Friday, 7/29, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our Day Center at 1850 N Arsenal Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46218.
- OR order online to that same address.
- Do we need furniture, art, or stuff not on the list? Nope, we don't have capacity.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

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

Shalom's updated website will be launching this Friday, and things will look a bit different. The content and pages haven't changed outside of a few minor adjustments, but the colors and text size has. The AC would like to thank Gaynel from First Mennonite for her great work on getting the website updated!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian is going to be on vacation for 2 weeks, from Monday, July 25 through Sunday, August 7. During this time, please direct any pastoral questions and concerns to Pastor Craig at craig@shalommennonite.com.

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

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.

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.

As of this writing (7/17), the **MCC Bike Michiana** tour at Amigo Centre is just 9 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.

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.

The Greenwood Park Mall Shooting

On Sunday evening, several hours after we had our worship service at Shalom, a shooting occurred at one of the most popular shopping centers in our metro area: the Greenwood Park mall. A young man entered the food court with three guns and had over 100 rounds of ammunition. He went into the bathroom and later came out shooting people who just happened to be in the area. It is utterly horrifying to imagine this happening at a place that I have visited several times. The senseless loss of life is tragic and is another reminder of how serious and pervasive a problem gun violence is in our country.

In all likelihood, this event would not have made the national news were it not for one detail: the shooter was stopped by another young man, “a good guy with a gun,” who shot the mass shooter and ended the rampage just 15 seconds after it had begun. Right-leaning media outlets seized on this detail, and for good reason: it’s undeniable that more people would have been killed had this young man not intervened. And this raises awkward questions for pacifists: Did a “good guy with a gun” actually save the day? Are we glad that he was there? Could we have come up with any better solution at that moment?

I will admit that I am glad that this “good guy with a gun” was there, and while it is unfortunate that the shooter was killed, I prefer this outcome to the alternative of more bystanders being slaughtered. But that does not mean that I believe it is a wise policy. I used to play cards with my college roommates, and on one occasion, one of them decided to play the round “blind,” which means that he made decisions without looking at the cards he was dealt. Bizarrely enough, he actually ended up winning that round, but that doesn’t prove that it is a good strategy. In fact, he was eliminated just a few rounds later. And as a study by the New York Times revealed, having armed citizens intervene on the scene is more likely to make an active shooter situation worse than it is to make it better because it creates confusion for law enforcement and for the people who are running away. As much as we may want to imagine ourselves as the hero who could save the day if given a gun, there is a far greater likelihood that gun owners will misidentify a threat in situations where there is no danger, have an accident with their weapon, or create more problems for the people dealing with the crisis than solutions.

As for what I would do if I were in the situation, I don’t know. Maybe I would run and hide with the people around me, maybe I would confront or distract the shooter, or maybe I would freeze up in fear and be of no use at all. There’s no way to tell. Rather than trying to guess how I might act in a hypothetical situation like this, I would contend that a better question is, “How should I prepare for something like this?” As followers of Jesus, that is an appropriate question to ask – how we should prepare to respond to mass shootings. If my solution is to buy a bunch of guns and practice my aim at a shooting range, then I *might* make myself safer in a few limited situations, but I will *certainly* have contributed to an industry that produces violent weapons and I will have reinforced the notion that violence is the ultimate “solution” to our problems. It is not necessarily safer to look for nonviolent solutions to problems like mass shootings – at least in the short run – but it is the only way to ultimately break the cycle of violence, which is why we, as followers of Jesus, are committed to it. ~ Brian

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