

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 9, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (2/6)**, Brian preached from 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 about the "basics" of the Christian faith.

**This Sunday (2/13)**, we will continue our study of 1 Corinthians, but rather than hearing another sermon, we will once again break out into small groups for a conversational worship experience on Zoom. The central passage that we'll be discussing together will be the rest of 1 Corinthians 15, especially verses 12-26 & 35-57. Come prepared to share your thoughts! (Or you can email Sam Bixler to indicate that you don't want to be placed in a small group.)

**Next Sunday (2/20)**, We will be having a pulpit exchange with First Mennonite. Craig will preach there while Monica Miller will be here preaching from Esther 4:11-5:1 with a title of "Who knows?: Glass Ceilings and Genocide,"

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

Sunday, February 6

- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Brief review of Biblical texts and interpretations on LGBTQ+ issues" led by Martha
- 10:30a - Worship service on Zoom with Pastor Brian preaching

Sunday, February 13

- 9:30a - Sunday School: "The Mennonite history behind the Repentance Resolution" led by Martha
- 10:30a - *Conversational Worship*. This virtual service will include some breakout discussions in which people will be put into different "rooms" on Zoom with a handful of other people and will have a chance to discuss the topics at hand. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Sunday, February 20

- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Group discussion of our thoughts, beliefs, and experiences" led by Carol Bither and OlaJowon Turentine
- 10:30a - *Pulpit Swap with First Mennonite*. Shalom will have the opportunity to hear a sermon from First Mennonite's new pastor, Monica Miller, while Craig Oury preaches at First Mennonite. The worship service will be on Zoom.

Sunday, February 27

- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Goal-setting: What might our next steps be?" led by Carol Bither and OlaJowon Turentine
- 10:30a - *Communion Sunday*. During our Zoom worship service, we will be offering virtual communion. We invite you to bring your own bread (or other food) and juice (or other drink) so that you can participate in communion from home during the service.

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday)

- 7pm - Joint Ash Wednesday service with First Mennonite **in-person at Shalom** (Note: This may be converted into a virtual service if VAT decides that it is not safe to meet)

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday of Lent)

- 10:30a - Worship service **in-person at Shalom** with a streaming option available for those who want to participate from home (Note: This may be converted into a virtual service if VAT decides that it is not safe to meet)

March 6

--- after church - Congregational meeting to give feedback to our delegate about the resolutions under consideration at the Special Assembly meeting

## **Celebrations**

Sun, Feb 13 -- Melanie Martínez

Wed, Feb 16 -- Laura Martínez

**Community Life** would like to celebrate with Chris and Nizeet with the birth of their new baby. A registry is available if you'd like to get them something. <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/nizeet-december-2021-linthicumheights/1YTJIAZHA2XWR>

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

Chair: Martha Yoder

There is a helpful video on biblical interpretation and sexual orientation by Loren Johns (formerly a New Testament professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=og7GrtwjJTww>

Here are some resources for you to look at if you would like to prepare for Sunday's session about Mennonites and the Resolution for Repentance and Transformation:

1. The Membership Guidelines (scroll down to section III).

[https://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MembershipGuidelines\\_2013\\_July.pdf](https://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/MembershipGuidelines_2013_July.pdf)

2. Vision: Healing and Hope

[https://anabaptistwiki.org/mediawiki/index.php/Vision: Healing and Hope \(Mennonite Church, General Conference Mennonite Church , 1995\)](https://anabaptistwiki.org/mediawiki/index.php/Vision:_Healing_and_Hope_(Mennonite_Church,_General_Conference_Mennonite_Church_,_1995))

3. Resolution for Repentance and Transformation.

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/A-Resolution-for-Repentance-and-Transformation-Rev-2.0.pdf>

## **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

## **FAMILY PROMISE NEEDS**

This is the message from Mike Chapuran, Executive Director, Family Promise. Because of increased need for shelter, the Board of Family Promise has decided to implement the Emergency Expansion of the Apartment Shelter Program to 25 total units. This plan will continue unto March 31. There is an urgent need for housewares and linens.

If friends would like to assist, here are the details:

- New items are great. Used are great too.
- Deliver them Monday, 2/7 to Friday, 2/18, 9a-2:30p 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.
- Want to help set up a unit later this month? Email [info@fpgi.org](mailto:info@fpgi.org). Need to be flexible with dates.

You can also sign up online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f49afaa23a5f94-expansion1>

We know it's a lot to ask. But the need is there again, so we have to try. Thank you for considering this request. Because every child deserves a home.

Solomon  
On behalf of Family Promise

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Sunday school class on Spiritual Gifts Discernment will begin on March 13. If you have interest in discerning your spiritual gifts prior to then, or if you prefer a format other than a group class, please contact Joyce Troyer at troyers\_hj@hotmail.com.

### **Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

In the past, the representative from our congregation to MC USA has been appointed by the Administration Commission. Several months ago, the commission indicated they had appointed all the congregational representatives except this one. They asked if the representative to MC USA should be one the congregation chooses instead of that person being appointed. It was agreed that this change might be a good one and so the congregation is being asked to vote for this person to represent Shalom Mennonite Church. While other people might be at the conference, this is the person who is able to vote on items before the conference. The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has identified a number of people with gifts suited for this position. You will be receiving an email soon with more information. Wilma Bailey was the last person appointed to this position. We just wanted you to be aware of the plans and the upcoming email so you can vote.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Repentance Resolution** : As mentioned at church this past Sunday, our church belongs to a larger church network called the Mennonite Church USA, and this May, MCUSA's delegate body is going to discuss a resolution called "A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation" (linked [here](#)) and decide whether to vote on it at that meeting. (CORRECTION: An earlier version of this announcement said that the Resolution would come to a vote at the July 2023 Mennonite Convention. While that is a possibility, there is also a chance that the Delegate Assembly will put it in effect by the end of May. ~ Brian)

This resolution asks the church to repent for its past mistreatment of LGBTQ+ individuals, calling on us to abolish church policy that prohibits LGBTQ+ exclusion, and demanding LGBTQ+ representation on all future boards and programs sponsored by MCUSA.

**Newest Update:** In addition to the Repentance Resolution, a second resolution has been proposed called, "Clarification on Mennonite USA Polity and the Role of Membership Guidelines in MCUSA" (linked [here](#)) This resolution also calls on the church to abolish the Membership Guidelines which forbid the blessing of same-sex relationships, but it does not take a position on repentance and LGBTQ+ representation like the Repentance Resolution does. In addition to these, an "[MCUSA for Justice](#)" resolution and an "[MCUSA Accessibility](#)" resolution will be considered.

MCUSA is recording a series of Zoom sessions to prepare delegates for the upcoming special delegate assembly. Anyone is welcome to view the recorded sessions. You can also read the materials for the special session on the MCUSA website.

It was clarified that passed Resolutions are not binding on conferences, congregations or individuals in MCUSA. The Resolutions are invitational to conferences and congregations. They are only binding on the Executive Board and Staff. The work of the Executive Board and Staff is directed by the Resolutions. For those interested in further study, the Mennonite Church is offering webinars relating to each of these resolutions. Information can be found on [www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/delegate-resources-special-session-may-2022/](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/delegate-resources-special-session-may-2022/)

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!](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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).

Craig Oury is 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 ON THE JOURNEY

"I keep the LORD always before me," the psalmist declares, "because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8).

The psalmist concentrates on the Lord; God is the focus of the psalmist's attention. The psalmist is so aware of God's presence, power, and love that they are not distracted or unsettled by other things. God is ever present. God is with us. I keep the Lord always before me, or some translate it, I set the Lord continually before me. It is an action. It is our response to God's presence. We cultivate trust in God by keeping God as the focus of our attention, worshiping God, being attentive to God's counsel, recognizing God as our one and only LORD. The psalmist knows that God is present, but knowing something is just a start, but it takes more. The psalmists knows that God is present and thus does something about it. "I put the Lord before me." Because it is so easy to miss what God is doing and leading us to, it seems that the psalmist is conscious of that and makes it a part of life, so I don't want to miss what you are doing God, because I don't want you to become background noise, I am putting you into my thoughts constantly. It is going to be a daily routine, or more likely a multiple times a day event. You see, knowing that God is present is not enough.

A person can know that it is bad for them to smoke cigarettes. A person can know that it is better for them to not smoke cigarettes. But that knowledge means nothing if it doesn't affect that persons actions. A smoker who knows that smoking is bad for their body is no better off. If that knowledge leads to actions that is when something can happen. A person who knows that God is present yet whose actions are not represented by that reality is no different than one who doesn't realize God is present. This psalm is a recognition of God being ever present, but it is much more than that. This psalm is not just about recognizing that God is present, it is about living and acting with that knowledge. I have set the Lord continually before me says the psalmist, and is striving to live into that reality of God's presence, they have truly experienced that without God there is no good thing. It is not lip service, the believes this, we too are encouraged to put the Lord continually before us as well.

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, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdale  
Brian Bither

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