

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 11, 2023

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (1/8), Sabrina brought the message from Matthew 2:1-12 looking at the gifts from the Magi.

This Sunday (1/15), as we prepare for some challenging conversations about church structure and sexual orientation & identity, Brian will be introducing a new series that addresses disagreement and conflict in the church. The first sermon, entitled, "Speaking the Truth in Love," will draw from 1 Corinthians 1:10-15 and Ephesians 4:1-7 & 11-16.

Next Sunday (1/22), Pastor Craig will deliver the message.

Pictures. As our church family grows, we all want to be able to connect names with faces. We plan to make a bulletin board that has current pictures of everyone who attends regularly along with their names. On Sundays, you may find Jeanne Smucker asking you to pose for a picture to go on the new bulletin board. If you have a photograph that you prefer to use, please give it to her. Otherwise, smile and get your picture taken. Thanks.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Pitch-in today after Sunday School. We know some are ready for gatherings and some will wait till Spring, we understand and that's OK. If you forget or don't bring anything that's OK, too. Please stay -- we always have lots of food.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 9 – Sunday, January 15 - Pastor Craig will be on vacation from, please contact Pastor Brian for any needs that week, brian@shalommennonite.com Linda Showalter will be compiling next week's Journeying Together, continue to send items to the office email, office@shalommennonite.com

Thursday, January 12, 6 pm Commission Chairs

Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm Community Life Commission

Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 pm Outreach 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

Sunday February 5 - POC (People of Color) caucus, during the Sunday School hour

Monday, February 6 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at East Side Starbucks,
9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, February 13 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks,
430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, February 16, 1 pm, VAT (Vision and Accountability Team) meeting

Monday, February 27 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Northwest Panera,

2902 W 86th St, Indianapolis, 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 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, Jan 11 -- Phoenix Dunn

Fri, Jan 13 – Beverly Smith

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

We have decided to study Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility* in our monthly conversations on race. I have ordered books and will let you know when I receive them. A few people said they preferred electronic copies, and if you buy an e-book the congregation will reimburse you if you request it. (Not sure how? Ask Bob Love.)

In February, the white caucus will meet on Feb. 5 instead of our usual second Sunday slot. The People of Color caucus will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at that time. See details in Barbara Abebe and CoraLyn Turentine's announcement in this same newsletter. --Martha Yoder Maust

For those of us who have been attending Shalom for the past two years, we are aware of the **Anti-Racism Audit discussions**. We are trying to put together a POC (People of Color) caucus to discuss Shalom's Anti-Racism Audit.

If you identify with this group and are committed to building a team, then we want to hear from you. We have set a time & date for Sunday February 5, 2023 from 11-12, during the SS Hour. Your presence and participation is valuable to Shalom.

We'll fellowship together and later determine future meeting times going forward. If you are planning to join us, bring a dish to share. Coffee and hot cocoa will be provided.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Barbara S. Abebe at 559.341.4962 or CoraLyn Turentine at 317.344.9812

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Cheryl Martin

The next 3 Sundays, VAT will be facilitating a discussion about the current Church Structure. The current format is attached to this Newsletter and we encourage each of you to read it and

become familiar with it if you are not already. We will be discussing it in the sessions. We will also be discussing the results of the survey and allow much time for discussion. We all need to work together to make our church work for us and those around us.

At a later date, there will be a congregational meeting to finalize acceptance of the Vision and Goals we have already discussed as well as a statement on Anti-racism. We will also be determining the final structure to be used. Please be in prayer that we can hear each other as well as what God is telling us.

ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We want to thank everyone for being so conscientious about wearing masks when feeling ill or have been ill. We have been impressed with the level of love shown to each other in this regard.

If you would be interested in helping with the visuals for February and March, please let me know. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Linda Showalter

Mennonite Arts Weekend: Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 3-5, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend, including a jam session with Girl Named Tom. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw/>. Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and hear Girl Named Tom.

You're invited! First Mennonite is hosting a reception with author Marshall V. King, who will present on his recent book *Disarmed: The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael "MJ" Sharp* (2022). Sharp, a Mennonite, was killed along with his colleague in 2017 while on assignment as UN peacekeepers. The event will be held at First Mennonite on Saturday, January 14, at 7pm. Refreshments will be served.

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!

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

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 FOR THE JOURNEY

In response to my sermon for Epiphany Sunday (January 8) several people have said they would like to reflect on the queries I posed at the conclusion of the message. This space in our newsletter offers a way for me to share them with you in writing.

The scripture text for the day was Matthew 2:1-12, and I invited us all to go deeper with this story, to travel with the magi, to contemplate what God is making manifest to us at this time, to think about how Christ Jesus has transformed our lives, or our way of seeing the world and our fellow beings, to consider what gifts – both outward and inward – we can and will offer to Christ.

For this process, let's prayerfully consider:

What might we be clinging to that's holding us back, or keeping us down, or in the dark? Is God calling us to let it go, to leave it behind and move in the direction of the healing light of Christ? Are we willing to take the first step – or the next step – on that sacred pilgrimage?

Who or what are we seeking? When we find it will we recognize it? Will we know it by its love – for us and for all others?

Will we have the trust and the humility to lay down our burdens and struggles and fears right there, give a huge sigh of relief, and just collapse in God's arms?

What gifts are worth of this Holy one who is embodied in all God's beloved creation?

~ Sabrina Falls

<p>Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com <u>Pastors</u>: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181 <u>Vision & Accountability Team</u>: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine, Mark Stocksdales Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
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