

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 6, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (4/3)**, was the fifth Sunday of Lent, and Craig preached about Mary's response of worship, service, and devotion to Jesus from John 12

**This Sunday (4/10)**, is the final Sunday of Lent and Palm Sunday. Craig will be preaching from Luke 19:28-40 looking at Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

**Next Sunday (4/17)**, is Easter Sunday! Please join us for a special service celebrating the resurrection of Christ at 10am at Shalom Mennonite Church or on Zoom.

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

**Thursday** April 14 at 7pm we will be having a Maundy Thursday service in the church basement. It will be a service of Scriptures from John, singing, foot washing or hand washing, and communion. All are welcome.

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:30 with Sunday School following

Adult Sunday School will be in the sanctuary and will also be available on Zoom.

Monday, April 18 from 8:30a to 2:30p - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Monday, April 25 from 8:30a to 2:30p - Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

Monday, May 9 from 8:30a to 2:30p - Brian's Roving Office - Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St Suite A, Fishers, IN 46038

Monday, May 16 from 8:30a to 2:30p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 U.S. Hwy 31 N, Greenwood, IN 46142

**As we begin meeting in person**, 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

Sat, April 9 -- Carol Bixler

Sat, April 9 -- Laura Harms

Sat, April 9 -- Gabriella Turentine

Tue, April 12 -- Joann Buerge

**DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

Sunday School classes offered:

PreK class for 3-5yr olds not enrolled in school - Taught by Carol Weaver with Tania Goodloe

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

[harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

April 10, 24: OlaJowon will lead us in Bible study using tools from BibleProject.com

April 17, Easter, no Sunday school for adults or children

Michele Hershberger, Bible Teacher from Hesston College will be teaching the Youth at Mara Christian Church in Southport this weekend beginning Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. The youth at Shalom have been invited to participate. While primarily aimed at high schoolers, younger and older youth are welcome as well.

If you are interested in attending, please text or call Frank Kandel at 309-532-2859

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

**Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

VAT has reviewed the data regarding Covid-19. At this time, the case numbers are very low, approximately 1.3. This is well below the level the Safely Gathering committee had set previously. Therefore, in consultation with the Safely Gathering committee, it has been decided that starting April 10, this coming Sunday, masks will be optional. Those who still feel more comfortable with masks are encouraged to continue to wear them. Others can choose to leave them off. Please be aware that this may change at any time if there is a surge or a new variant. If that happens, you will be notified. Safety is still our main goal.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

As long as COVID-19 cases stay relatively low, Brian is going to resume his practice of holding a "Roving Office" on Mondays, where he works remotely from a Panera or coffee shop somewhere in the city. The schedule is posted on this newsletter. If you would like to recommend another place for him to go, email him at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com).

At the end of April, I will be getting rid of my Mom's hospital bed to make room for another one. Anyone who's interested must be able to come to our home & pick up the bed. Any questions, please contact me at: 559-341-4962

1611 Trainers Circle  
Indianapolis, IN 46239  
[barbaraabebe7@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraabebe7@gmail.com)

Thank you, Barbara Abebe

**People of Shalom** we would like to hear from you! We are looking for people to write reflections for *Journeying Together*. It can be a story, an experience, a poem, or a response to a piece of Scripture. If you would like to give a try sometime email the office at, [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) and we would be happy to schedule a week for you.

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 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

### Confidence in Christ

In talking with other pastors, I have found that many of us suffer with what might be called "imposter syndrome" from time to time: the feeling that people in our congregations have overestimated our connection with God, or our competence to handle crisis situations, or our personal holiness, and that if they really knew how flawed we were, they wouldn't want us serving as pastors. And this phenomenon is certainly not unique to pastors. Teachers, organizers, salespeople, and social workers often find themselves questioning whether they really know what they are doing and/or deserve to be in a position of leadership. In fact, imposter syndrome doesn't even have to be related to employment. Any of us may feel like religious imposters when we worship in a church service and compare ourselves to others in it. We may come to believe that we are uniquely hypocritical or inadequate. That level of self-doubt is really hard to bear.

I am tempted to say that this is something that everyone experiences, but we all know of a few people who seem to have an extraordinary level of confidence, which can be inspiring and intimidating at the same time. Based on the way that he wrote his letters, I suspect the Apostle Paul was one of those people. He spoke on God's behalf all the time, often standing up in public places to make unplanned speeches, and he wasn't afraid even to challenge someone like Peter – Jesus' right-hand man – when he believed that Peter was in the wrong.

What was the secret to Paul's confidence? He reveals it in 2 Corinthians 3:4-5, "*Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*" The truth is that Paul was not confident in his own credentials or holiness or abilities – something he reveals at several times in his letters. But he was absolutely sure that God called him to the work that he was doing, and therefore, that God would equip him with what he needed to do it. Or to put it another way, he was not confident in himself but in the Spirit that dwelt within him.

I believe that most of us where we are for a reason, and that we have been given the roles and responsibilities that we have for a reason. It was not just luck; it was not out of a lack of better alternatives – it was because God led us here. If you doubt that, ask yourself, “Can you think of times when you have felt the Holy Spirit or seen God’s hand at work in your present circumstances?” If so, let that experience remind you that God has *called* you where you are, and you are supposed to be there, not because of your own credentials but because God wants to work through you.

Maybe we are imposters, but the Savior who redeemed us and the Spirit who dwells within us are the real deal. May give you the confidence you need to do the work that God has called you to do. ~ Brian

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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