

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

June 8, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (6/5), Brian preached on faith from Hebrews 11

This Sunday (6/12), Craig will finish off the sermon series of Hebrews and preach on Jesus bridging the gap between God and humanity in Hebrews 12.

Next Sunday (6/19), Wilma will be bringing the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday June 12 worship at 9:30 am Sunday School following. Masks now required in worship again, please see notice in the VAT section.

Monday, June 13 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Sunday June 19 carry-in after church. (See note below)

Monday, June 27 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, July 11 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St, Unit A, Fishers, IN

Monday, July 18 from 9am to 3pm - Brian's Roving Office - Midtown Panera Bread, 6055 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN

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.

June 19 - We are happy to welcome back the Carry-In or shall we say Carry-out! After Sunday School. We will be setting up only serving tables outside at the North entrance in the roundabout. Bring a nice outside dish to share. Maybe bring your own cooler if possible. We are asking everyone to bring their lawn chairs or blanket. Drinks will be provided. Disposable place settings will also be provided but we encourage you to bring your own if possible. The Fellowship group will be providing Cake, so maybe bring something other than dessert.

We will take this opportunity to honor Marcella Rosales-Harmsin for her High School graduation.

Come, bring a dish, chair and Congratulations for Marcella!

Celebrations

Thur, June 9 -- Carol & Mark Stocksedale, 1989
Fri, June 10 -- Erik Rosales
Sun, June 12 -- Bill Albrecht
Tue, June 14 -- Robert & Rose Love, 1980
Wed, June 15 -- Frank & Linda Kandel, 1969

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

Creative Connection - Would you be willing to sign up for one Sunday a month (or even just one Sunday over the summer!) and plan for a 45-60 minute, multi-age activity? It is a great opportunity to connect with our energetic, creative, caring kids. Find a partner and plan a craft. Grab a teen and organize a scavenger hunt. Bring a stack of books. Plant some flowers or vegetables. Tackle the caps-sorting project (or one small part of it).

We have extra hands / support adults in place for Creative Connection but need volunteers to plan and lead activities.

Email Laura with the dates you can cover. harms.laura@gmail.com

June 5	Laura Harms
June 12	Brian Bither
June 19	Brittany Bither (to be confirmed)
June 26	Frank Kandel
July 3	No Sunday School
July 10	Frank Kandel
July 17	

July 24	
July 31	
Aug 7	Laura Harms
Aug 14	
Aug 21	Frank Kandel
Aug 28	

Adult Sunday School

June 12 We continue our study of Hebrews.

On June 19, during the Sunday school hour, we will start our racial caucusing, also called racial identity caucusing. General guidelines at provided by Roots of Justice at

<https://rootsofjusticetraining.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/white-caucus-faq.pdf>

for white folks and at

<https://rootsofjusticetraining.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/poc-caucus-info.pdf>

for people of color.

Here's how it will look at Shalom:

1. Because we have a larger group of white people at Shalom, that group will initially use the sanctuary. People of color will meet in the adult classroom in the basement (currently marked "youth" but not being used by youth). (Rooms may change in the fall depending on how many classrooms are needed by the children and youth.) Please select your group based on your best assessment of your racial identity. If you are on Zoom, there will be a breakout room for white people and another breakout room for people of color.
2. In the sanctuary, I have asked Jeanne to start us off with an introduction to racial caucusing; we will divide into smaller groups for conversation. White people on Zoom may form their own conversation group or, if there are only a few, will be incorporated into one of the conversation groups in the sanctuary. Jim S. will provide a laptop for Zoom.
3. I am still working on identifying a facilitator for the meeting in the adult classroom. There will be a laptop there so that people of color who are participating from home can be included.
4. In both locations, nothing will be recorded. Some of what will be shared may be painful and sensitive, so please respect the privacy of the individual who is sharing, and do not share other people's stories without explicit permission.
5. Thank you for participating! This may be a new experience, especially for white folks, and there may be some challenging moments. Thanks for being willing to talk about race.
6. . There will undoubtedly be more to figure out as we go along. At this point we plan to hold these caucus conversations on the third Sunday of every month. Feel free to provide feedback to me about ways to improve our conversations about race and identity.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Strategy for Reducing Street Gun Violence in Indianapolis, Presented by *Congregations United to Reduce Violence (CURV)* & hosted by *Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence*

Join us for this public forum by Zoom on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern

Indianapolis is one of several cities across the nation implementing multi-faceted strategies to turn around rampant violence on our streets, including a data driven strategy that has shown proven success in many cities, reducing homicides by 30% within the first full year of implementation. CURV believes that Indianapolis' plan

holds great promise BUT we also believe the implementation MUST have **broad community support** for it to be successful & sustained. Join us to learn about the strategy & what we can do to support it. This is a public, Zoom-based forum. **Pre-registration is required.** Send an email to info@hcgv.org with "RSVP June 15 Forum" in the subject line & your name in the message area. Also, **please share this invitation** with others who will want to know more about Indianapolis' Gun Violence Reduction Strategy.

March for Our Lives Indy is holding a gathering against gun violence to honor the victims of Buffalo, NY, and Uvalde, TX, on Saturday, June 11, 12-2:00PM, at Tarkington Park, 45 W 40th Street, Indianapolis. Indy African Expo is on Saturday, June 11, 10AM-8PM, 5310 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis. Indy Pride Parade is on Saturday, June 11, 10:00AM on Massachusetts Avenue, Indianapolis.

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

Folks who park behind the building may not pay much attention to it, but Shalom Mennonite has a sign in front of the building. The sign has been there a long time and needs updating. The administrative commission is investigating the possibility of contracting installation a new sign electronic sign. We have received an estimate of up to \$22,000 for a new sign. This cost would include constructing a new electronic sign, costs for permits, etc. At the last commission chairs meeting this proposal generated a lot of discussion. Now we would like to hear your thoughts. We have always had a church sign. Do we still need a sign? If we need a sign, should we pursue the current proposal or consider other alternatives? Please contact Sam Bixler, Tim Ludden, Craig Oury or Mike Wigginton with your thoughts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. If you were previously assigned to work the nursery in June, you are no longer expected to be present.

Marcela is graduating from Lawrence North High School on June 8. We are celebrating with an Open House on June 11th from 2-5 pm. No RSVP required but you can connect with Laura or Marcela if you have any questions.

Calling all teachers, artists, picture-takers, and creative-minded people!!

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help redo the bulletin boards in the church. One board previously had pictures of people who attend the church, but needs updating. The board by the nursery is open to whatever you feel would visually add to our worship. There is a board downstairs that needs updated with new pictures of all the children. The rest would be open for whatever creative ideas you may have. The worship commission is happy to support you and help with resources as needed. You do not need to commit to doing all of them. Just let us know which one you might be interested in transforming. Contact Brittany

Bither brittany.n.bither@gmail.com if interested.

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

The Christian Political Ethic: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

As we watch horror after horror unfold in the news – from the war of aggression in Ukraine to the recent spree of mass shootings in our own country – it is natural to become overwhelmed by all of the bad news and to cope with our anxiety by turning it off or even intentionally avoiding it. And let me be clear – there are cases in which this coping mechanism is appropriate or even necessary for some of us to take. But there is also something Christlike about engaging the suffering of others. After all, even in Jesus' day, people didn't want to deal with needy children or blind beggars or even to have to look at lepers, but Jesus always made space for these groups of people. So how can we do this without burning ourselves out?

One of the factors that makes reading the news exhausting for me is that I often feel a kind of responsibility to "fix" the problems that I read about. After all, it seems that some of these situations would be greatly improved if we just changed some of our country's laws and policies. And we live in a democracy, so theoretically, we *should* be able to change the laws, right? Surely if I researched the issues and solutions enough, organized people, engaged social media, and relentlessly hounded my representatives then I could make anything happen, right?

No. That's simply not true. The fact that we live in a democracy does not guarantee that you or I as individuals – or even "we" as a church community – can make the government act in any particular way if we push all the right buttons. The people who hold the levers of power are ultimately the ones who make those decisions, and while we *might* be able to influence them, it is hubris to believe that it is ultimately in our power to determine how they act. Even if it were the case that government officials had to do whatever the majority of their constituents want (which it isn't), then we must come to terms with the fact that it is not within our power to persuade or control the majority of their constituents. Don't get me wrong, I am grateful for our system of government, which gives us the right and ability to voice our thoughts to our leaders more effectively than most people can do in other forms of government, but there is still a difference between those who govern/rule, and those of us who are ruled over.

I think this point is worth making for two reasons. First, to keep us from making the mistake that has gotten Christians in trouble over and over again – seeking political power. Once Christians come to believe that it is our responsibility to *make* the world be a certain way, we find ourselves making questionable alliances with powerful people, covering up anything that threatens our reputation, or even inflicting fear and violence on those who stand in our way. Second, once we let go of our instinct to govern the world in the best possible way, it makes space for Christians to engage in our true political calling: to love our neighbors as ourselves.

When tragedy befalls someone I know personally – someone in my community – my first instinct is to be present to them. Think of the last time this has happened to someone you know. In these personal encounters with suffering, it is usually clear that I cannot “fix” the situation, but there is still value in me extending love to the person who is suffering by making myself available to them. In the process of doing this, some ways that I can help may emerge. Perhaps I could provide them with meals or transportation, perhaps they want me to help them call for change (i.e. be a political advocate), or perhaps they want me just to hold their hand and pray with them. Political advocacy, at its best, can be an expression of loving our neighbors, but let’s not confuse this call to join people in solidarity with the call to “fix” problems. However, when I keep this in mind, I find that I am less likely to get “burnt out” from political advocacy when it doesn’t “work,” and this makes me a more effective advocate in the long run.

All this to say – when we hear tragic news, let us go of our angst to fix the world’s problems long enough to simply hold our neighbors – near and far – in our prayers, and then let’s allow the Spirit to show us how we can best be agents of God’s love for them. ~ Brian

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 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 Stocksdales
Brian Bither, Craig Oury