

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 31, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (8/28), Brian continued exploring human emotions by considering "Shame in the Christian Journey."

This Sunday (9/4), Craig will look at some of Jesus words on offering hospitality from Luke 14:1-14.

Next Sunday (9/11), Brian will be introducing a new sermon series on the book of Amos, starting with chapters 1-2.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 4, 9:30 am Worship, There is no Sunday School for Labor Day weekend.

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day) from 9am to 3pm – Brian's Roving Office Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th Street, Unit A, Fishers, IN 46038

Saturday, September 10 Greenfest featuring Carrie Newcomer A mingling of art, eco-justice, and Spirituality. Outdoor activities from 3-6 pm indoor concert at 6 pm. Sacred Earth @ Cumberland, 116 S. Muessing St., Cumberland, IN 46229

Monday, September 12 from 9am to 3pm – Brian's Roving Office Downtown Panera Bread, 110 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Monday, September 19 from 9am to 3pm – Brian's Roving Office East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

Monday, September 26 from 9am to 3pm – Brian's Roving Office Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

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

Saturday, October 8, 2022, starting at 9 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

Tue, Sep 6 -- Bill & Mary Albrecht, 1959

Tue, Sep 6 – Bek & Dean Lincenmeyer, 1970
Wed, Sep 7 -- Chuck Dunn
Wed, Sep 7 -- Carmen Tackitt

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

Shalom Youth

Fall Sunday School Changes and Needs

Please read this new information on our Sunday School needs. Where might you be able to help?

One of our Pre-K teachers has decided to teach the Youth Sunday School class. Thank you Jeannel!

Our needs for teachers are now as follows:

Pre-K: one co-teacher needed

Elementary: all set for teachers

Youth: one teacher needed for most of October

Our Youth are at an age of deep exploration and you can have a real impact through real conversations. Take a look at the materials here: <https://www.mennomedia.org/generation-why/>. You might find a particular topic that you'd like to explore alongside our youth.

Adult Education schedule

September 4 No Sunday School this week

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

My Coins Count: There are only a few Sundays before the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. Bring in your loose change that is being collected in a large container at the back of the sanctuary.

Many of you remember Shalom helped First Friends with a gift to help sponsor an Afghanistan refugee family last year. They are doing good but First Friends wants to let us know if any one would like to involved more there's always work to do. Some needs are; helping family members navigate the health system and identifying, interpreting and reading bills. Helping with transportation. Helping tutor High School math and chemistry. If you have any questions feel free to ask Becky Wigginton.

Green Festival featuring Carrie Newcomer Saturday September 6. Free outdoor events from 3-6 pm, Carrie Newcomer concert at 6 pm, \$20.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is pleased to announce that Bethany Martin accepted our nomination to serve as a member of the Community Life Commission (CLC). Please share feedback and affirmation for Bethany to the SGDT by emailing your comments to Joyce at troyers_hj@hotmail.com by September 14. Also, please continue to pray for the CLC position that remains in process.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Sunday, September 11, there will be a Sunday school class for "newcomers" to Shalom led by Pastor Brian. This "Shalom Orientation Class" will introduce anyone who is interested to the Christian faith, the Mennonite Church, and Shalom specifically. (The meeting space is yet to be determined.) If you are interested in participating in this class in September and October but can't make it to all of the sessions, that's ok. Reach out to Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com and we will find a way to accommodate you!

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

The **MCC Bike Michiana** tour at Amigo Centre is just 3 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.

Crop Walk

It's time to start thinking about participating in the Crop Walk, the walk happens in October! You can walk and or donate to the cause. Any money donated will go to around world with Church World Service (CWS) to help fight hunger. You can allocate your donation to go to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) too. Funds raised helps global communities flourish: \$20 supplies seeds for a community garden in Nicaragua; \$100 provides four families in Indonesia with chickens and use of a shared incubator; \$325 provides six goats to families in Haiti as source of milk and income; \$850 builds an elevated hand pump in Myanmar for year-round access to clean, safe water.

We walk because they walk miles to just get a good supply of water for their families. The walk is virtual again this year due to COVID so you can choose where you walk and who to walk with; you could also split up the walk if you needed to. It is a 3 miles walk in October anytime. Link below to register and to donate! Thank you in advance!

Any questions just email myself, Julie Sanders. Juliekins7182@hotmail.com Due to myself being due with baby girl Sanders in October my Dad, Herb Troyer, could be another contact person. If I do not respond in the timely manner you can email Herb at troyers_hj@hotmail.com.

To register: click on the link and start by joining Shalom Mennonite Church's team. <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/indianapolisin>

To donate: click on the same link above!

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

Noticing the Good News

"[Jesus] told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'" – Matthew 13:33

A few months ago, I attended a seminar during Annual Sessions led by Regina Shands Stolfus, who is the co-founder of the Damascus Road anti-racism process. During this seminar, she shared about her experience in a multiracial church that made it a priority to combat racism. She came out of that church with a positive view of herself both as a Christian and as a black woman, having strong relationships with people of many different racial and ethnic identities as well as a strong sense of rootedness in her own culture and history. In other words, her church *succeeded* in establishing her identity as a unique and beloved child of God and as a member of a global church. I found this to be extremely encouraging because it suggests that it *is* possible for church to get it right. In fact, my mind has gone back to this comment many times as I have considered how important it is how we raise our children at Shalom.

On a completely different note, a report came out earlier this month showing that homicides are down in Indianapolis by 17% from last year, which is the lowest murder rate we've seen in Indianapolis in over a decade. Some of you who have been attending Shalom for a while may recall that this was a major focus of our prayers and social efforts several years ago. We partnered with an organization called Faith in Indiana that touted an alternative approach to community safety – one that focused on restorative justice rather than retributive justice – and last year, the mayor adopted many parts of that plan as the city's official policy. As a result, we are finally seeing the fruits of this organizing effort and Indianapolis is significantly outpacing most cities around the country in its violence reduction.

At a more personal level, I want to share that a person for whom I have been praying for many years started coming to church within this past year, built relationships with other members, and made a significant decision to follow Jesus. Much of this happened slowly and quietly, but it represented a colossal change in this person's life. We don't talk about the conversion experiences at Shalom as much as some other churches do, but it is nevertheless a core part of our hope that people will come to a saving relationship with Jesus. I am overjoyed when we see this happen.

The reason I am sharing these three random tidbits is because we are regularly bombarded with news about bad things that are happening in the world, and it is easy to get discouraged. While we do need to pay attention to the suffering of others, we also need to remember that God is very much at work in the world, bringing new light and hope every day. This work is often slow and subtle – like yeast working its way through dough – but it *is* moving forward. God is working all things together for the good. Let us take the time to notice the good news and give thanks for it, so that we will not grow weary in the long but rewarding journey of following Christ. ~ 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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