

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 2, 2022

### **WORSHIP: Our relationship with God**

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (1/30)**, Craig preached from Jeremiah 1, looking at God's calling and providing to those God calls.

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

**Next 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 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. 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.)

### **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.

### **Celebrations**

Tue, Feb 8 -- Barbara Longoria

**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

On February 6 we will be looking at biblical perspectives on gender identity and sexual orientation. There is a helpful video on this topic by Loren Johns (formerly a New Testament professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=og7GrtwjJTw>

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Sunday school class on Spiritual Gifts Discernment will begin on March 6. 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](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com).

**Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

**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/)

**From MCUSA**, Kevin Gasser has experienced transformation through his experiences with people who are different from him. In his blog, "Transformed through friendship," he expresses how his friendship with a man named Mohamed shined a light on his own religious practices. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/transformed-friendship](https://mennoniteusa.org/transformed-friendship).

**!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth:** Participants in !Explore 2022 will attend Mennonite World Conference in Indonesia with Indonesian youth, explore theological questions and lived faith together, and visit parts of beautiful Java Island. The AMBS program — which is open to students in grades 10–12 — also includes a congregational internship. Generous financial support is available for the MWC expenses, and participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! [ambs.edu/explore](https://ambs.edu/explore)

### Greetings from MCC,

*We at Mennonite Central Committee want to thank our friends and supporters at Shalom for the many ways you support the work of MCC and our partners - through your prayers, gathering kits, volunteering at events and thrift shops, and for your generous financial contributions of \$16,320 during 2021. Your support allowed our church partners to respond with compassion to save babies' lives in Burkina Faso through [improved maternal and child health programs](#). Together we've been able to offer hope through [education to Sudanese refugees living in Egypt](#). Your support has allowed MCC partners to help farmers in India [improve rice production](#) and in Haiti to [plant trees](#) and grow agroforestry gardens. In the U.S., we're creating safe, warm, and dry homes in Appalachia through the [SWAP program](#) and offering education programs to better understand the [complexities around immigration](#). With your faithful support, MCC is working with 385 partners on 508 projects in 47 countries around the world. Thank you for offering love and compassion in the name of Christ to vulnerable people through MCC. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes – [mcc.org](https://mcc.org)*

Blessings,

### Les Gustafson-Zook

Constituent Engagement Coordinator  
MCC Relief Sale and My Coins Count Coordinator  
Office -574-534-4133, Cell - 574-238-3579

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

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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