

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 7, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (4/4) was Easter, and we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus through worship songs, words, and communion. The disciples on the road to Emmaus reminded us that even if God's plans seem to fail - as we understand them through our limited lenses - we have plenty of reason to put our confidence in the person of Jesus Christ, even to do the impossible.

This Sunday (4/11) we will consider how the resurrection is not only a source of hope for each of us as individuals but a major turning point in the Story of the Bible as a whole. Specifically, we will listen to the "Great Commission," which sends the Chosen People out into the world to complete the mission that God had given Abraham and Sarah so long ago.

Next Sunday (4/18) Gemima Trochez will deliver the message as we enter into Act VI of the Story of the Bible - the Church - which begins with the powerful story of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem.

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, April 11 - May 30

Adult Sunday school, "Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations", Wilma Bailey & Frank Kandel

Sunday, April 11

2 pm - FHQ: Does Jesus' great commission ask Christians to convince the peoples of the world to leave their own beliefs, practices, and cultural traditions?

Sunday, April 25

2 pm - FHQ: What do we make of the discrepancy between the New Testament description of healing miracles - which the apostles performed frequently - and relative absence of healing miracles today?

Sunday, May 2

2 pm - FHQ: How should we respond to Biblical passages that seem to tolerate - if not defend - the institution of slavery?

Sunday, May 16

2 pm - FHQ: In light of all of the false prophecies regarding the end of the world, how are we supposed to read and interpret the book of Revelation?

Sunday, May 30

2 pm - FHQ: Can we still believe in the imminent return of Christ and the final judgment when two thousand years have passed and it has not happened yet?

Celebrations

April 9 - Carol Bixler, Laura Harms, Gabriella Turentine

April 12 - Joann Buerge

April 14 - Cian Brubaker

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

"Story of the Bible" Assigned Reading

"Story of the Bible" sermon series recommended daily readings at home. Next week's readings are:

Monday - 2 John, Acts 1-2, 1 Corinthians 12-13, Proverbs 16:33, 18:18, 22:1-2

Tuesday - Acts 3, 1 Corinthians 14-16, Proverbs 13:19-21, 23:9, 29:20-22

Wednesday - Acts 4, 1 Corinthians 1-4, Proverbs 19:26-27, 21:2, 24:27

Thursday - Acts 5, 1 Corinthians 5-6, Proverbs 20:14-17, 25:8-10 & 14, 29:9-11

Friday - Acts 6-7, 1 Corinthians 7-8, Proverbs 6:1-5, 10:15-16, 16:25

Saturday - Acts 8-9, 1 Corinthians 9-11, Proverbs 23:17, 25:18-20, 26:23-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Craig Oury has officially accepted our call to co-pastor here at Shalom Mennonite Church. He will plan to start his time with us on July 19. Please hold him in prayer as he completes his time at Mt. Zion Church and prepares to join us. Also, pray for Shalom as we prepare to receive a new co-pastor.

Pastoral Search Committee & Vision and Accountability Team

Zoom Delegate Meeting - Saturday March 20, I attended the IN-MI delegate conference via Zoom. See attached document. **Zenebe Abebe**

There is some good news about gun violence issues. HB1639 which would have ended the registration of handguns in Indiana, passed in the Indiana House, but died in the Senate because Senator Liz Brown, Committee Chair, refused to give it a hearing or a vote. Contact Senator Brown and thank her for taking this action to keep gun licensing requirements as they presently are, and reduce the probability of gun violence.

Brad Yoder, representing Shalom as a member of the Inter-congregational Social Action Committee, joined with many others in signing a letter to Mayor Joe Hogsett (see attached) to encourage him to continue actions to reduce gun violence in Indianapolis. If you have questions, contact Brad at blyoder2@gmail.com or 260-479-5128. **Brad Yoder**

From Interfaith Power & Light - The theme of this year's Faith Climate Action Week (April 16-25) is "*Sacred Ground: Cultivating Connections Between our Faith, our Food, and the Climate*". We will examine how our food systems contribute to injustice and to climate change, and how our faith traditions call us to respond with practical solutions. Plan to screen this year's featured film, *Kiss the Ground*. It's a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. The film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be key to rehabilitating the planet, while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration in viewers. To see this film for free from your home computer starting April 16-25, 2021, sign up at <http://bit.ly/fcawfilm>. **Marilynn Teel**

Starting April 11 and continuing through the end of May, Wilma Bailey and Frank Kandel will be leading us in a study called "Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations." Our intent is not to point fingers or to assign blame but to help us understand how racism affects all of us, including our congregation. We will be using materials from Widerstand Consulting. Each of you should have received an email last week giving you access to the online materials; you may click on the link and create your own password. The video called "Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations" is divided into a number of segments with opportunity for reflection after each section, and occasional short quizzes. You may work through the material at your own speed. Our hope is that most of the congregation will be able to work through these materials in preparation for our Sunday sessions. Please do the "Introduction" and "Welcome" sections in preparation for April 11 and the "Developing a Common Vocabulary: Race, Bias, and Privilege" section for April 18. If you do not have time to work through the study materials now, you will still have access until February 2022, and we think it will still be worthwhile for you to do that. You are certainly still invited to join in the Sunday Adult Ed sessions. If you have technical problems, or if you did not receive your invitation email, please contact **Martha Yoder Maust**, yodermaust@gmail.com or 317-225-7071.

Shalom started a college fund about 20 years ago to support students attending Mennonite colleges. Somehow the original version was lost. Working from old minutes & drafts, Discipling Commission has created an updated version which also clarifies some of the questions that had arisen since the original fund was created. We are re-naming the fund, Mennonite Education Fund, because it will

cover some non-college programs. Journey program (a joint program of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) was paid for in the past from Pastor-Elder Team funds, and we propose it be rolled into this fund. Please review the attached document and send comments & questions to **Martha Yoder Maust**, yodermaust@gmail.com by April 15.

In addition to our podcast, Shalom now 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 of our Zoom worship services are located online with our normal worship service recordings. A link to this location is on the Member's page of our website.

Please note:

- Mike Wigginton manages Zoom scheduling, church calendar, and uploads minutes to the church website. To schedule a meeting using the church account or if you have minutes to post, email office@shalommennonite.com or mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.
- Sam Bixler manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone number list. Email changes or additions to office@shalommennonite.com or bixlersc@gmail.com.
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5PM Wednesday.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 <https://www.shalommennonite.com/>

Pastor: *Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320*

Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson, Brian Bither