

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 14, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

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

**This Sunday (9/11)**, Craig will continue the sermon series on Amos in chapters 3-4.

**Next Sunday (9/18)**, Brian will continue the sermon series on Amos and preach from Amos 5.

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

Saturday, September 17, 2-4 pm, Arlington Woods Community Wellness and Resource Fair at Small Events Center, 5939 E 27th st. Bldg. #2

Sunday, September 18, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School following.

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

Thursday, September 22, 6 pm, Commissions Chairs

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](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, Sept 17 -- Carol Stocksdale

Sun, Sept 18 -- Luke Bither

Sun, Sept 18 -- Karina Cisco

Sun, Sept 18 -- Robert Coleman

Tue, Sept 20 -- Aletheia Bither

Wed, Sept 21 -- Joel Buller

Wed, Sept 21 -- Mia Martínez

**Church Retreat** is October 8, 2022. Please RSVP to the [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) and indicate how many will be attending so we know how much food to bring for breakfast and lunch which will be provided. Please plan on bring finger foods for snacks.

**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](mailto: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. contact one of the group members for the next meeting time and place .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 , Bek and Dean Linsenmeyer , Becky and Mike Wiggington, and Chuck Dunn.

### **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

#### **Shalom Youth**

##### Fall Sunday School

Pre-K: classroom 3 - for kids age 2 and up that haven't started school

Elementary: classroom 2 - for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade

Youth: behind the sanctuary - for youth in 6th grade and above

Our needs for teachers are as follows:

Pre-K: one co-teacher needed

Youth: one teacher needed for most of October

#### **Adult Education schedule**

Sept. 18:

Sunday, September 18 - Peace Sunday

- Adult SS 1 - Bible study on Amos, led by Wilma Bailey (1st session)

- Adult SS 2 - Shalom Orientation Class (2nd session)

Sunday, September 25

- Adult SS 1 - Bible Study on Amos (2nd session)

- Adult SS 2 - Shalom Orientation Class (3rd session)

Sunday, October 2 - World Communion Sunday

- Adult SS 1 - Bible Study on Amos (3rd session)

- Adult SS 2 - Shalom Orientation Class (4th session)

Sunday, October 9  
- Sermon covers Amos 6  
- Adult SS - Anti-Racism Caucus Conversations

Sunday, October 16  
- Sermon covers Amos 7  
- Adult SS - Bible Study on Amos (4th session)

Sunday, October 23  
- Sermon covers Amos 8-9  
- Adult SS - Bible Study on Amos (5th session)

Sunday, October 30  
- Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (1st session)

Sunday, November 6  
- Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (2nd session)

Sunday, November 13  
- Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (3rd session)

Sunday, November 20  
- Adult Sunday School: Anti-Racism Caucus Conversations

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Lent/Thanksgiving Weekend, no Sunday school for adults or children

#### **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**Arlington Woods Community Wellness and Resource Fair** at Small Events Center, 5939 E 27th st. Bldg. #2, Sept.17, 12 - 4. This is a very positive event in our neighborhood that Shalom can and should participate in.

**A handful of worker bees** stayed until 4:00 on Sunday afternoon to finish sorting the caps and lids--about 10 bags full, besides what had already been weighed. By the time you read this the caps should have been taken to Evansville and our final products should be on their way to Shalom. Thanks to all who have helped wrap up this two-year project!

#### **In the Sharing space for September we are promoting local projects:**

New men's underwear, all sizes. Horizon House gives these to our unhoused neighbors.

New or gently used books for Eastern Star's ROCK Initiative youth programs.

Educational supplies for Teachers' Treasures. Go to their website [teacherstresures.org](http://teacherstresures.org) for a list of acceptable items.

#### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

**HELP! Please pray for discerning the right person** to join Bethany, Herb, and Craig on the Community Life Commission (CLC). The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is pleased to share that Bethany Martin has been affirmed by the congregation as a member of the CLC. She joins Herb (chair) and Craig (pastoral representative). **However**, one member is still needed to complete the CLC. Please prayerfully discern if you or someone who comes to mind is the person for this position. If you think someone else is well-suited for this position, please speak with them and get their permission before sharing their name with the SGDT.

## Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

The VAT met on Tuesday 9/13 and discussed mask wearing at church. The daily COVID-19 new infection rate is decreasing in the US. Because of this and the increase in vaccinations and the availability of receiving booster vaccines, it has been decided we will make masks optional starting with Sunday 9/18 (this coming Sunday). We continue to ask you to stay home and worship on Zoom if you are sick. If you are feeling a bit unwell and attend church in person, please wear a mask. We want to keep each other safe.

We will continue to monitor the situation and masks may become mandatory again at some time if the situation warrants. We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and stay up to date with boosters as appropriate. We encourage the annual flu vaccine as well. We want everyone to stay healthy and well.

## Administration

Chair: Mike Wigginton

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bulletin announcements** should be sent to Linda Showalter at [showalter@indy.rr.com](mailto:showalter@indy.rr.com) by Thursday, 10 am.

The **MCC Bike Michiana** tour at Amigo Centre is just 2 days 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](mailto:obojohn@gmail.com) Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make this my \$30 000 year.

**CROP WALK OCTOBER 2ND** this year again it will be self walk. If you are going to walk please sign into the crop website. the easiest way is to type in Crop walk Indianapolis. If you are not going to walk and would like to sponsor someone you can pick one of the person signed up to sponsor. First Menno has invited us to walk with them on October 2nd. Let Herb Troyer know if you want to walk with First Menno folks. I am recommending we start the walk at 1 pm and they suggested meeting near butler/church center near 42nd/Michigan St.

**Early-bird registration is open for the 2023 Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 3-5.**

Twelve artists and our featured musical group, A Girl Named Tom, will explore this year's theme BETWEEN: Embracing Vulnerability. You will find information about the participating artists, venue, schedule, and registration at [mennoniteartsweekend.org](http://mennoniteartsweekend.org). Hope to see you there! See attached flyer for more details.

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

### The Lord Roars for Justice

Last week, we began a new sermon series on the book of Amos, and I mentioned how I was troubled by all of the judgment in the book the first time that I read it. In the first two chapters of Amos, God speaks in a series of oracles about punishing various nations, sending fire to their houses, and breaking their gates, etc. While this violent language still troubles me, I can see a different side of it now that I didn't fully appreciate then: the accountability. The oracles of doom spoken by Amos do not depict Israel's neighbors as inferior communities who deserve to be destroyed, but instead as moral agents who have committed crimes. Every curse is preceded by a specific accusation. To offer a few examples: the people of Gaza are accused of "[carrying] into exile entire communities" (1:6), the Ammonites "ripped open pregnant women in Gilead" (1:13), and the Moabites "burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom" (2:1) – the last of which is particularly intriguing because it wasn't even a war crime committed against Israel, and yet God was still angry about it.

In these societies, there was very little that you could do if a crime was committed against you. You couldn't hire a lawyer to sue the soldiers who harmed you or report the crimes to the Human Rights Watch. Thus, these people were doubly victimized because (1) they had been harmed by the crimes themselves and (2) this harm was not acknowledged as an injustice. And unfortunately, this still happens all over the world today. There are some countries, such as North Korea, in which the legal system isn't even designed to protect the interests of the common people. There are some people who live in free countries but who lack the physical or legal ability to defend themselves, such as young children. And there are some situations in which one party has so much power over the other that legal recourse may exist but the consequences are just too great, such as a military recruit who needs to file a complaint against a superior officer – something which is *strongly* discouraged.

In these cases in which a person doesn't have a voice, it is important to know that "The Lord roars from Zion!" (Amos 1:2) Amos spoke on behalf of people who were completely unrepresented in their society, and he spoke loudly and unapologetically: God saw the way that they were mistreated, God proclaims that those crimes against them were unacceptable, and God would hold the perpetrators accountable for what they have done. Now the perpetrators might claim that they did nothing wrong and use their power to silence critics or downplay crimes, but their manipulative actions were not powerful enough to drown out the Lord's roar. So it is today. No matter how unjust a system is or how trapped people feel, we should remember that all people are ultimately subject to the higher court of God's justice. May all who are oppressed and pressured to keep quiet take comfort in this. ~ 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)

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Vision & Accountability Team: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine, Mark Stocksdale  
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