

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 5, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (10/2), was world communion Sunday. Brian will be preaching from Amos 6.

This Sunday (10/9), we will be taking a break from our Amos series as Gemima Trochez will be guest preaching a sermon entitled, "Do not abandon the processes of God."

Next Sunday (10/16), we will resume our study of Amos as Brian preaches about the "plumb line" mentioned in chapter 7.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

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!

Sunday, October 9, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School following.

Coffee and tea time between Worship and Sunday School will be served downstairs, please get your drink and don't linger/talk at the window! just keep moving to Sunday School! We can only do this if everyone helps, so the clean up schedule is those who's last name begins with A-B are to clean up in Oct. after Sunday School. --The Kitchen Group

Monday, October 10 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread (8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN)

Wednesday, October 12, 6 pm Outreach Commission

Friday, October 14, 2:00 pm Discipling Commission

Monday, October 24 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks (430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN)

Monday, October 24, 6pm VAT

Monday, October 31 (PLEASE NOTE ADJUSTED TIME AND LOCATION) from 8:30a to 2:30p - East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, November 7 (PLEASE NOTE ADJUSTED LOCATION) from 9a to 3p - Northwest Panera, 2902 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, November 10, 6 pm Commission Chairs

Monday, November 14 from 9a to 3p - Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

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 re-

quest 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.

Shalom Retreat

Theme: Finding Joy in Our Life Together

October 8, 2022, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Child care provided from 9-12 a.m. Afternoon activities are intergenerational.

Jamison Camp

2001 Bridgeport Road

Indianapolis, IN 46231

The retreat will be a celebration of our being back together again after two years of limited contact due to Covid 19 restrictions. Please reserve the date and sign up so that we know how many people to plan for.

The text for the day is Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

In Isaiah 55, the joy of walking together with God is symbolized by nature itself praising God. We believe that trees and all of nature bring us closer to our Creator. From scientific studies, we know that trees calm our hearts as we walk beneath them and fellowship under them. As we walk together at Shalom, we are calmed and strengthened in our faith and life. We encourage everyone to bring to the retreat reflections and memories of joy and growth over the last two years.

Bring snack foods for sharing, examples: vegetable trays, fruit, cookies, chips, pretzels, candy, etc.

Lunch will be a variety of pizzas and salad. Let Herb know if you have a dietary concern. Please RSVP to the office@shalommennonite.com or the sign up sheet in the foyer and indicate how many will be attending.

The schedule for the day is attached.

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 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. contact one of the group members for the next meeting time and place. We try to meet outside when the weather is 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 Wigginton, and Chuck Dunn.

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Shalom Youth

Children's Sunday School Substitute Teachers needed.

Please let Laura know if you can be a substitute teacher. We need help for the following dates.

October 9: youth class (Laura will cover if there are no volunteers)

October 23: youth class (Laura will cover if there are no volunteers)

October 30: youth class (Laura will cover if there are no volunteers)

Children's Sunday School Co-Teachers needed.

The ideal situation for our Pre-K and Youth classes would be to have a co-teacher that could cover about half the dates. If you can help, reach out to Laura or talk with Carol Weaver about PreK or Jeanne Smucker about youth.

Adult Education schedule

Sunday, October 9

- 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

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

Shalom Survey

The VAT would like to spend some time with the congregation discussing the Mission and Vision Goals of the congregation. It was in 2017 that these were established. Because of the pandemic, it was difficult to have these discussions and so it was decided to wait until we could meet in person again. We plan to have those discussions starting at the end of October. In order to facilitate the discussions, we are asking the congregation to give us some insight into what is being thought/felt by the congregation members. A survey has been developed which should help us begin the discussions.

Please complete the survey either in electronic form (attached) and return it in that form. You can also print off the form and turn it in or take one of the available copies (at the mailboxes) and filling it out. Place completed paper forms in Cheryl Martin's mailbox. All names or identifying information will be removed from the survey before tabulation is done. All information will be presented in aggregate form so it is anonymous.

Masks

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. 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 by Thursday, 10 am.

Vivienne Florence Bauman – Matt and Charity Bauman welcomed their new daughter last week. If you would like to sign up for the meal train please follow this link. mealtrain.com/66yelz

Vigil for Detained Immigrants. On Saturday, October 15 at 10am, Pastor Brian will be leading a prayer vigil outside the Clay County jail (611 E Jackson St, Brazil, IN) to bear witness to the suffering of detained immigrants in the state of Indiana and to pray for them. For more information, contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Goshen College "Parables" on Tour. The Goshen College traveling choir "Parables" will be traveling through Indianapolis and performing at First Mennonite on the evening of Sunday, October 16 (exact time TBD). All from

Shalom are invited to attend their free performance entitled, "Spreading Love."

I will be leading several hikes for the **Indianapolis Hiking Club** in October and November. You are invited to join me on any that interest you. We always start on time so get there a little before the listed starting time. Children are welcome but parents or guardians must supervise them. The hiking leader cannot keep an eye on children. There is no charge for hiking with the club. See the attached schedule. Wilma

Mennonite Church USA launched the "**Learn, Pray, Join: Mass Incarceration**" initiative in September. This initiative, in conjunction with the "For Justice in the U.S. Criminal Legal System" resolution, seeks to raise awareness of injustices in the U.S. criminal legal system, especially those that disproportionately affect people of color and people without financial security. The initiative will continue through the end of October. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/lpj-mi

MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA's largest faith formation gathering, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. There will be programming for all ages, including a one-day Climate Summit for youth and young adults. See the tentative block schedule here: mennoniteusa.org/mennocon-schedule

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 for the Journey

Have you noticed the children playing church at Shalom? Children from about 4 to 10 or 11 years old have been worshiping in the basement before worship, and again between worship and Sunday school. A few weeks ago they set up chairs in rows on the stage. They pulled a podium to the front, then put a chair in front of the podium so they could see over it to the "congregation." They brought down a bulletin. The stronger readers read out the Call to Worship. One morning I sat in the back and was treated to two one-sentence sermons by one of the older kids.

I was fascinated. I attended a lot of church when I was that age, but I don't recall ever playing church. I watched how carefully they mimicked what they had seen upstairs, including gestures and tone of voice. I was delighted to see how closely they were paying attention, even to the sermons. It's a blessing to watch these children growing up in the church.

It's also a challenge. As they watch and listen, they will also notice our mistakes, our lapses of charity, our (or should I say *my*) impatience.

I offer this for our reflection. The children are watching and listening. What do we want them to learn?

Martha Yoder Maust

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, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine, Mark Stocksdale
Brian Bither, Craig Oury
