JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church March 8, 2023

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (3/5), Brian will continue the series on Mark by considering Jesus' radical redefinition of 'the family' in Mark 3.

This Sunday (3/12), Craig will continue the series on Mark by exploring why Mark reports that Jesus could not perform miracles in his hometown in chapter 6.

Next Sunday (3/19), Brian will continue our "*Jesus Untamed*" series on the gospel of Mark, focusing on Mark 8:22-38, where Jesus performs a strange miracle and has a strange reaction to Peter's declaration, "You are Messiah."

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Thursday, March 9, 7 p Spiritual Gifts Discernment Commission

Saturday, March 11, ECCN meeting at Shalom 9-11 am

Sunday, March 12, 9:30 am worship, Sunday School following.

Monday, March 13 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread - 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Monday, March 20 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

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

Monday, April 10 from 9a to 3p at Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46278

Monday, April 17 from 9a to 3p at Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, April 24 from 9a to 3p at Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Mark your calendars! The church retreat will be Saturday, September 9 at Jameson Camp. We are looking for people to plan, if you are interested or have any questions, please contact Herb Troyer or Pastor Craig.

Bulletins are now attached with the Zoom link for those who are worshiping 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

Thur, Mar 9 -- Rose Love
Thur, Mar 9 -- Ariana Wigginton

Large groups
Small groups
A group of two.
Groups in whatever number/for whatever purpose
GOD is present.

The church is composed of people and groups of people. We meet on Sunday mornings with 25, 50 or more in attendance.

Jesus says God is present in the midst of these groups whenever “two or more are gathered in My name.”

At Shalom we encourage everyone to be present with God in your private devotions but to also seek out God in a group setting as a spiritual discipline. If you are not already in a regular group setting of two or more, we encourage you to meet with a friend, family member, or a larger group on a regular basis. The encouragement from Shalom is to remember that in these groups settings we will experience God. This is also a simple spiritual discipline to participate in as it involves meeting those you care for as you share concerns and prayers. If you need help getting or finding these places of gathering give Community Life Commission or the pastors a call or a note and we will help as we can to make it happen.

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Sunday School Classes

Pre-K (ages 3 and up, not in school) - taught by Beverly Smith
Elementary (grades K-5) - taught by Rod Maust and Frank Kandel
Youth (grades 6 and up) - taught by Jeanne Smucker

Adult SS:
March 12 "Our Journey with Jesus" Bible study meets in the back of the santuary
March 19 Anti-racist caucus sessions. People of Color caucus will meet in the back of the sanctuary where Sam has set up a TV for Zoom. White caucus will meet in the fellowship hall downstairs.
March 26 "Our Journey with Jesus" Bible study
April 2 "Our Journey with Jesus" Bible study
April 9, Easter, no Sunday school for adults or children

The adult Sunday school (except those who participate in Joyce's gifts discernment class) will be using the Bible study guide from MennoMedia on "Our Journey with Jesus." There are still some study guides at the back of the sanctuary. If you are watching on Zoom please let Martha know if you would like a study guide. Herb Troyer will start off the class and we are still looking for one or more co-teachers to share the leadership.

In conversation with the People of Color caucus, we are changing our white anti-racist caucus sessions to March 19 so that we can follow our separate caucuses with a Unity Meal.

If you plan to participate in the anti-racist white caucus session at 11:00 on March 19, please read chapter 1 of *White Fragility* and give some thought to how it applies to you.

The POC caucus will meet in the sanctuary & via zoom on Sunday March 19, 2023 during the SS hour. Thank you to those who attended the meeting on Sunday February 26, 2023, but we look forward to having more participation.

As we begin our study of Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility,* feel free to consult her free Reader's Guide at https://www.beacon.org/assets/pdfs/whitefragilityreadingguide.pdf

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Eastside Creation Care Network 03-11-2023 9:00 TO 11:00 am HOST - SHALOM MENNONITE CHURCH

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM
Chair: Joyce Troyer

Selecting the Congregational Delegate for Indiana-Michigan and MC USA Conferences

It has come to my attention that in the past there were separate delegates to MCUSA and IM Conference. while there is MCUSA this year, we still need to have a delegate to IM Conference. We are recommending that Wilma be asked to serve for MCUSA again as she has been part of the past sessions and is familiar with them. Therefore, we are asking you to please resubmit your nominations on the attached form (either electronically or give to Joyce) even if you sent a vote previously. This person will be the delegate for IM Conference in June for this year. Starting next year, we will have 2 year terms and will select persons for each position. I apologize for the confusion as it was my error. If you have any questions, please talk to Joyce Troyer or me about your concerns. Thank you. Cheryl Martin

Vision and Accountability Team
Chair: Cheryl Martin

Administration
Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel Evangel the current issue of the IN-MI Mennonite Conference newsletter is attached.

Bulletin announcements should be sent to Craig Oury at the office email, office@shalommennonite.com by Thursday, 10 am.

Jeremiah Chihua, the pastor of Emmanuel Living Christian Church, is encouraging Mennonites to remember that the people in Myanmar are still caught in the midst of a brutal civil war in response to a military coup that occurred a couple of years ago. This video features several Chin people speaking and singing about it in an effort to help raise awareness.

Indiana AID continues to relate to the immigrants at the Clay County jail and continues to need volunteer and financial support. The most recent newsletter has been attached to this JT. If you would be interested in helping out, reach out to Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

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_ReooskuxUXA!

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

Messianic Secret

If you are reading through the gospel of Mark (which I encourage you to do as we work through it in the sermon series), you will likely come across a theme that is repeated many times in the gospel, which Biblical scholars call "the Messianic secret." This is a strange dynamic in which Jesus insists on keeping things hidden from the world. First, the demons that he exorcises address him as the Messiah, but he silences them. Later, he orders his disciples to keep secrets about some of his miracles (such as raising the dead girl to life), some events in his life (like the transfiguration experience), and his identity as the Messiah. And on top of this, he always spoke to the crowds in parables so that even his teachings were not clear and straightforward but coded and confusing. Why?

There are several reasons why Jesus keeps his identity secret, one of which is that he wants people to *wrestle* with the claims he is making. Sometimes, people give us very profound insight or really important advice but we don't fully grasp it because we're not quite ready to hear it. For example, when I remember being taught some basic conversation skills like using "I-statements" and repeating what the other person said, which seemed insignificant at the time but which I have realized later in life can be the key to resolving conflict and preserving relationships. Knowing this, Jesus gives us advice in parables, which forces us to wrestle with it, unpack it, and even after we think we've figured it out, to explore it a bit more. He doesn't throw his "pearls before swine," but he encourages us to let those perplexing parables sit with us until the Spirit is ready to unpack them.

Part of the reason that I don't offer "full answers" to the mysteries in Mark in either my sermons or reflections is because Jesus didn't, and I want these messages stick with you, even haunt you, until they become a key part of your thinking and living. May God bless you as you wrestle with Jesus. ~ Brian

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