

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 12, 2020

**WORSHIP:** Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

**Last Sunday (8/9)**, Wilma Bailey preached on the book of Joshua, pointing out that the Jewish tradition treats this as a work of prophecy, which is different than history, and questioning whether God actually commanded the violence that the Israelites inflicted on the native peoples

**This Sunday (8/16)**, Brian will preach from the book of Joshua on the danger of using religion to promote our own personal and political agendas.

**Next Sunday (8/23)**, we will study the formation of the United Monarchy of Israel, which began with the reign of King Saul. Although this is often seen as Israel's Golden Age, the book of 1 Samuel raises the question, "Is this really what God had in mind in calling the Israelites to be a set-apart people?"

**COMMUNITY LIFE:** Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Herb Troyer

**Calendar** (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

## **Sunday, August 16**

9:30am - Introduction to Indiana AID (Assistants to Immigrants in Detention), a new organization designed to support of undocumented immigrants

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

No Facing Hard Questions

## **Sunday, August 23**

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

1:30pm - Congregational vote on whether to adopt Memorandum of Understanding between Indiana AID and Shalom Mennonite Church

## **Sunday, August 30**

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: Did the human authors of the Bible have political biases and agendas? If so, should that impact the way we read the text?

## **Celebrations**

*To help alleviate the isolation felt during the pandemic, we have decided to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in Journeying Together. If you do not want your birthday to be listed, email [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com).*

Tue, Aug 18 -Brian Bither

Tue, Aug 18 – Barbara & Zenebe Abebe, 1979

Wed, Aug 19 -Sheila Y. Aebe

Wed, Aug 19 – Lorraine Hernandez

**DISCIPLING:** Growing in our relationships  
Chair: Martha Yoder

**“Story of the Bible” Assigned Reading**

Throughout our “Story of the Bible” sermon series, we will recommend daily readings at home. Next week’s readings are:

Monday: 1 Samuel 1-7, Proverbs 27:3-4 - the longest assignment of the series!

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 8-12, Psalm 146

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 13-17, Psalm 144

Thursday: 1 Samuel 18-21, Psalm 59

Friday: 1 Samuel 22-25, Psalm 57

Saturday: 1 Samuel 26-30, Psalm 9

\*\*\* Last week's Scripture readings included a misprint. The Scripture readings for Wednesday, August 12 (today) should include Psalm 101, **Proverbs 19:19**, and Judges 10-12.

Frank Kandel and Carol Bither will be teaching a baptism exploration class this fall. They will use the book *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger (we have some copies available). The class will meet (virtually) on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, on September 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21, and December 5. The class is open to adults and teens who are interested in exploring the meaning of baptism and what it means to follow Jesus.

If you are interested, please contact Frank Kandel, Brian Bither, or Martha Yoder Maust.

**OUTREACH:** Relationships beyond Shalom  
Chair: Brad Yoder

It's August & time to commit yourself to walk virtually for the Crop Walk on Sunday October 4th. To participate you will need to register online with this link:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin>

When registering find Shalom Mennonite Church as your team & start sharing your page!

To walk virtually we will walk 3 miles on Sunday October 4th sometime during the day! If you feel comfortable you can form a small group or just walk with your family! Please email me at [Juliekins7182@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) if you have any questions! ~ Julie Sanders

**Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)**  
Chair: Joyce Troyer

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) announces new leadership members  
The SGDT appreciates the willingness of the following individuals to serve Shalom as new and continuing leadership members:

- Carol Bixler: selected by the congregation to be the Vision and Accountability Team Congregational Representative for a three-year term.
- Mike Wigginton: Chair of the Administrative Commission for a two-year term.
- Brad Yoder: Chair of Outreach Commission
- Grace Rhine: Chair of the Worship Commission beginning January 1, 2021 through August 30, 2021.

- Linda Showalter will continue serving as chair until January.
- Emily Fox Ludden: Member of Worship Commission for a two-year term.

Thank you to all listed here as well as those who are continuing to serve in ongoing positions!  
Submitted by Joyce Troyer for the SGDT

## Announcements

### **From Amigo Centre:**

- Starting to go a little stir crazy sitting at home? Needing a place to get away to rest, relax and go for a hike? Consider spending a weekend or even just a night at Amigo Centre! Both the Retreat Center and West Shore Lodge have small designated suites to limit or eliminate contact with other guests. Robust cleaning and disinfecting protocols are in place. Meals or staff led activities, such as outdoor cooking, archery or star gazing are available through most of this fall. Bring the kids or split a weekend with your spouse so you each get a night off. Call 269-651-2811 or email us at [info@amigocentre.org](mailto:info@amigocentre.org)
- If you like to travel with your own lodging come spend a weekend (or a whole week) at Amigo Park. The fish are biting and the beach is open. We are currently only open for campers with a self-contained bathroom in their camper. Reservations can be made by calling 269-651-2734.
- Amigo Centre's homeschool program will be running in a modified approach. Classes are limited to 10 students. All classes will be outside or in a pavilion setting. Come explore God's Creation in lessons designed for different age groups and different topics. 7 sessions throughout the year. More information can be found at [www.amigocentre.org/homeschool-program.html](http://www.amigocentre.org/homeschool-program.html) or you can email Cheryl Mast at [cheryl@amigocentre.org](mailto:cheryl@amigocentre.org).

Matthew Ropp | Executive Director | Amigo Centre | 269-651-2811 | [www.amigocentre.org](http://www.amigocentre.org)

About a year ago, Pastor Brian was invited to meet with a few other Indiana leaders to discuss the possibility of creating a visitation program for undocumented immigrants. They created Indiana AID, a volunteer organization that seeks to provide visibility and community support to detained persons in the state of Indiana who are under ICE hold. After creating the group, its leaders became aware of the need for Indiana AID to attach itself to a larger charitable organization, and the group has proposed that Shalom Mennonite Church become that organization. This would mean that they would fall under the umbrella of our 501(c)3 status, and it would give them access to many of our church's resources.

The Outreach Commission, Administrative Commission, and Vision and Accountability Team have all been in dialogue with Brian about this, and they have decided to give the congregation an opportunity to learn about Indiana AID and vote on this proposal. On August 16, Brian and some of the other members of Indiana AID will introduce the organization to the congregation during the Sunday school hour, which will include time for questions and answers. Following that presentation, more specific details will be provided about the proposed arrangement. One week later, on August 23 at 1:30p, we will have a congregational discussion and vote about whether to accept the proposal. All of this will take place through Zoom. VAT has determined that the vote will require 65% approval of those who attend the August 23 Zoom meeting in order to pass. (If you would like to vote but are unable to attend that particular meeting, please contact Jeanne Smucker.) Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling us to "adopt" this organization.

- 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 [here!](#)
- **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.
- Mike Wigginton is now managing our Zoom calendar and uploading minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church account or you have minutes for him to upload, you can email him at [mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net).
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

### **Reflections on the Journey**

#### The Story of Ruth - A Spoonful of Sugar

On Sunday, I am going to be focusing on the book of Judges, which describes a depraved era of Israel's history, one which was rife with idolatry, inhospitality, sexual abuse, and violence. It's not a easy book to read. However, it seems that God was aware of this and paired it with the book of Ruth, which is like a spoonful of sugar to help the bitter medicine go down.

The opening line of the book of Ruth reminds us that we are in the period of the judges, which the readers associated with moral depravity and suffering. The family of the protagonist (Naomi) was not immune to this suffering. In the first paragraph, she experiences a famine, displacement, and the death of both her husband and her sons. However, after you get past that first paragraph, the story that follows is one of moral courage, hope, and beauty. In contrast to the idolatry of judges, Ruth and Naomi remain faithful to God and each other in very trying times. In contrast to the inhospitality, Boaz follows the Mosaic rules that are designed to care for the poor of the land. In contrast to the sexual abuse, we find a story of mutual love and affection. In contrast to the violence, the characters of the story are able to find a peaceable way to resolve the crisis that confronts them at the end of the book.

In the larger era of Judges, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were minor characters whose stories didn't rank among those of the judges. But their story reminds us that even when times are tough, God is still at work among average families and people, and it is still possible to live according to God's way. Moreover, although their story may not have seemed significant at the time, it made a big impact on the future of Israel. Ruth gave birth to Obed, who was the grandfather to King David. Who knows how God may use our simple acts of faithfulness to bless the entire world in the time to come?

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

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

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

Please submit information by Wednesday, 5 pm, to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)