

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 15, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (7/12), we reflected on the Mosaic Law and especially on its emphasis on holiness, which is a somewhat unfamiliar and yet still influential concept for us today. Although the New Testament observes that many people been hurt by being falsely called "unclean," it doesn't reject the concept of holiness altogether. Instead, it calls on us to seek out a Jesus-centered vision of holiness that motivates our actions and accords with justice.

This Sunday (7/19), we will study the worship system that is established in the Mosaic law with its tabernacle, priests, and sacrificial system, and consider why it is so important for us to participate in particular religious rituals even to this day.

Next Sunday (7/26), Sabrina Falls will preach the sermon as we reflect on the time that the Israelites spent wandering in the wilderness according to book of Numbers.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, July 19

9:30 am - Brad Yoder and CoraLyn Turentine will lead a conversation on images of Jesus

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, July 26

9:30 am - Wilma Bailey will lead a conversation on monuments

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

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.

Sat, July 18 – Carl & Grace Rhine, 1987

Mon, July 20 – Wilma Bailey

Wed, July 22 – Gemina Trochez

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: Psalm 119:145-160, Numbers 1-5

Tuesday: Psalm 119:161-176, Numbers 6-10

Wednesday: Psalm 95, Numbers 11-15

Thursday: Psalm 81, Numbers 16-20

Friday: Psalm 68, Numbers 21-25

Saturday: Proverbs 13:22-25, Numbers 26-31

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

The Gospel Evangel, the bimonthly publication of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference, has been distributed via email this year. See attached.

Join us (virtually) for a **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Centennial Celebration on July 26**. This year marks the 100th anniversary of MCC! It is not the centennial year we anticipated. Still, we invite you to join us (virtually) on Sunday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. (EDT), as we offer thanks to God and pray for the future of MCC’s ministry of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. We’ll be broadcasting live from Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, site of an important first meeting in the formation of MCC when representatives of various Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren groups met in July 1920. We had hoped to worship together in person, but we’re grateful for the livestream option that will enable more MCC supporters and partners to join us. The livestream will feature a combination of live and pre-recorded speakers and music. Please invite your friends and family by sharing the link: mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream.

We’ve added a **new resource page to the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) website**. With the help of a few IMMC pastors, we have put together a list of [Anti-Racism resources](#). This page contains several videos, podcasts, articles, and book titles to educate and inspire individuals to have informed conversations about this difficult topic. This list of resources is not exhaustive, but we hope it serves as a jumping off point.

Additionally, the work on the [COVID19 Resource](#) page continues. We encourage you to check back in from time to time as the circumstances and information surrounding this virus change.

As always, may God continue to bless you in your ministries and may the Spirit of the Lord surround you.

Sincerely, Anna Board, Administrative Coordinator
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

Pastoral Team Search Committee update: Yes, exciting news!

The Pastoral search committee has held two virtual meetings with one applicant. We then invited the applicant to come to Indianapolis for in-person meetings. This past Saturday, throughout the day, the applicant met with the search committee, the VAT and the Commission Chairs Team in person, outside the church, with distancing and masks. The search committee met this Tuesday evening and decided to extend an invitation to the applicant to candidate with our congregation.

To review the process: After the committee decides on a primary applicant, they contact some of the references provided by the candidate. That was done before the recent visit. The applicant then meets with the church leadership, informally. This provides the applicant an opportunity to ask questions along with the questions asked by the leadership of the applicant. The search committee then extends an invitation to the applicant to be a candidate. If the applicant agrees to candidate, they also let any other churches with whom they have been in conversation know that they are moving forward with the church where they will candidate. This does not mean that they have been called. It is just the next step. This is the point where we find ourselves.

The applicant has indicated that he will let us know if he wants to candidate with us by July 26. The next step will be for him to preach a sermon and to have an opportunity for members of the congregation to ask him questions. Due to the pandemic, these encounters will all be by Zoom. Prior to that day, the congregation will be provided with a summary of the candidate's biography and strengths that we have identified. Following the sermon and question-and-answer session, the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on whether to call the candidate to come join the pastoral team of our congregation. At least 85% of the congregation will need to affirm the calling for us to move forward.

Please hold the applicant and our congregation in prayer as we discern God's will for our church as we move forward into this exciting time. ~ Jeanne Smucker

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Laura Harms will leave the Administration Commission (AC) at the end of August. The SGDT recommends Harlan Nelson to serve as chair of the AC beginning September 1. Please communicate your affirmation or other feedback regarding Harlan for this position to Joyce Troyer (email: troyers_hj@hotmail.com; phone: 317-446-4353) by July 20.

The SGDT wants to say "Thank you!" to Laura Harms for her service with the AC as first a member and then as chair.

Also, Wilma Bailey's term as Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) Congregational Representative (CR) ends August 30. All Shalom participants who consider Shalom to be their home congregation and attended in person prior to the COVID19 pandemic are invited to participate in the selection process to replace Wilma. Continuing on the VAT in the new church year are Jeanne Smucker, Chair; Cheryl Martin, Vice Chair; Rod Maust, CR; and Thad Wilson, CR. Shalom participants will receive an email in the next week with details regarding choosing a new CR. Please watch for it and respond promptly!

Submitted by Joyce Troyer for the SGDT

ADMINISTRATION: Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Announcements

➤ When we first discussed gathering safely in person, we planned to wait until there were an average of fewer than 5 deaths in the area (central Indiana, Marion County and the adjacent counties) for at least three weeks before returning to the Shalom building. We have now met that benchmark. However, even though deaths continue to be low, the number of new Covid-19 cases is going up steadily. According to the Indiana State Department of Health website <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm> the average number of new cases a day has gone up from 74 three weeks ago to 133 now. This is much better than some states, but is moving in the wrong direction.

In order to have a hybrid service (some in the building and some at home through Zoom) we need to have 2 tech people in the building, one to run the audio (as on a normal Sunday morning before the pandemic) and one to manage the Zoom component (for example, when people at home want to share with the congregation). Some of our most experienced tech people are over 60 and thus at high risk.

Because of these factors, we have not yet set a date to return to the building. Commission chairs will meet again on July 21 to discuss next steps. ~ Martha Yoder Maust

➤ Pastor Brian will be on vacation with his family from Wednesday, July 22 to Tuesday, July 28 and will not be checking email during that time. If you have an urgent church matter, please email Jeanne Smucker, our congregational chair, at jmrsmucker@outlook.com.

➤ "**Give Hope to Live** is a program that was started with Nizeet Deiter's sister Fresia Kelley to help COVID-19 patients hospitalized in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Grace Pointe Community Church of the Nazarene in Maryland is launching a fundraising campaign here in the United States, and you can donate by going to <https://pushpay.com/g/gracepointecommunitysevern?r=one> and using Fund, then typing "HONDURAS COVID-19 CARE" in the Memo line. For each patient, your donation may be the difference between life and death. If you have any questions about this program or process, contact Nizeet and Chris at deiteraquilar@gmail.com.

➤ A few have expressed interest in volunteering for clinical trials of a vaccine for COVID19. Here is information a friend sent to Joyce Troyer: "The National Institutes of Health launched the COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network, part of the effort to find volunteers to test possible COVID-19 vaccines. The network is a combination of four existing federal clinical trial networks at over 100 hospitals and clinics nationwide. It will help researchers find at least 30,000 volunteers, especially people in populations who are most affected by COVID-19, including racial and ethnic minorities, elderly people and pregnant women. The first group of volunteers is expected to test the vaccine candidate developed by Moderna. That study will begin this summer, NIH said. You can volunteer at <https://www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/>

➤ There has been a renewed effort led by First Friends of Indianapolis to have the peace churches of our city connect, pool resources, and work together to advocate for justice in our city through nonviolence. This activity is centering around a new website called "The Peace Church Alliance" at <https://www.peacechurches.org/feed>. We encourage Shalom members to join the site and become informed and involved about the advocacy being sponsored by our fellow pacifist Christians here in Indianapolis.

- 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.
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

Reflections on the Journey

You may have noticed a new occasional feature in Journeying Together. **"Down the Peace Path"** will highlight environmental issues, happenings on the church property, etc. Not necessarily a weekly item but rather will appear as something significant comes up or someone feels inspired to make a submission. This week we'll begin with a little background.

Through the years there have been a number of memorable folks bless our congregational life with their presence. Howard and Sarah Palmatier were one such couple. As many remember, Howard was a kind, no-nonsense Methodist/Mennonite pastor and Navy veteran who did a number of pastoral tasks around Shalom as well as serving as interim pastor for a number of area Mennonite congregations. Sarah was the "herb society lady" in addition to her many other interests.

At some point Sarah came up with the idea of creating a Peace Path at Shalom. Ruth Penner, Becky Wigginton and some others were on board with the project. Mulch was placed and plantings completed over a period of years to form the Peace Path. The path and plants are still there, although they could use some "tender

loving care” at this point. A fence that was no longer needed separated the path from the woods and was removed some years ago.

In addition to the plants on the Peace Path, at least 26 tree varieties and numerous other native plants have been catalogued at Shalom. Included are invasive plant plants that threaten to take over our woods. Through efforts to remove non-native invasive plants, church members have become familiar with bush honeysuckle, vining honeysuckle, winter creeper and garlic mustard. As these problem plants are removed, native wildflowers like trout lilies have managed to expand their coverage making for some impressive springtime displays of white and yellow flowers.

A new project is currently underway to restore the Northwest corner of the Shalom property. Becky Wigginton remembers walking in that area with Sarah Palmatier in the late 1990's when it was almost completely clear. The first stage of clearing, that is not quite halfway completed, yielded an impressive pile of brush that was reduced to 12 cubic yards of wood chips, thanks to the efforts of a number of Shalom “senior citizens”. Those chips have been repurposed to create a path through the woods. The path, originally envisioned by Mil Penner, serves as something of an extension of the original Peace Path and premiered a couple years ago when there were summer activities for youth at Shalom, so the children could have some up close and personal interaction with nature.

So now the trail carpeted in the remnants of invasive plants wends its way past Ash, Beech, Black Cherry, Cottonwood, Maple, Oak and Sycamore trees, a large granite boulder, and numerous other plants, including the ever present invasive plants that we continue to control. You can take a [virtual tour](#) of the path or better yet, stop by and take the short hike. You might be pleasantly surprised...

Mike Wigginton

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 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