

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 25, 2023

### **WORSHIP: Our relationship with God**

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (1/22)**, Craig preached from James 1:19-27 titled "Listening to Understand" and looked at listening to understand ourselves and each other.

**This Sunday (1/29)**, Brian will preach the third sermon in the series on Healthy Dialogue by focusing on how we can express our concerns humbly with James 4:10-12 as a key text..

**Next Sunday (2/5)**, Brian will preach the fourth sermon in the series on Healthy Dialogue by considering how we can name the problems we encounter gently, with 2 Timothy 2:24-26 as a key text.

### **COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom**

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

Sunday, January 29, 9:30 am worship, Sunday School following, after Sunday School we will be having a congregational meeting to vote on the mission statement, the vision goals, the structure, and the anti-racism statement.

Monday, January 30 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread - 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Monday, February 6 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, February 13 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks, 430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, February 16, 1 pm VAT

Sunday, February 19, after Sunday School all Church Pitch-In, bring something yummy to share!

Monday, February 27 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46278 (**NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION**)

Monday, March 6 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, March 6, 6:00 pm, Commission Chairs

Wednesday, March 8, 5:30 pm Outreach Commission

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

**Mark your calendars!** The church retreat will be Saturday, September 9 at Jamison 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 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.

**The Community Life Commission** is putting together a care package to send Marcela for Valentine's Day. If you'd like to participate please bring some snacks and or a note letting her know that she is loved and missed. There is a box by the nursery for you to drop off those treats and notes by Sunday February 5. Below is a list of some of her favorites as well as foods to avoid due to allergies. Thanks, the CLC.

Marcela cannot have any gluten and has allergies to almonds. Gluten is found in wheat, barley, rye, soy sauce, BBQ sauce, and some spice mixes. Many snack foods have gluten but below are some that don't. Baked goods that use almond flour as an alternative to wheat don't work for her. Oats are iffy unless processed in a gluten free plant.

Flaming hot Cheetos  
Rice Krispie treats  
Popcorn - microwave or bagged  
Reese's peanut butter cups  
Peach rings  
Plain potato chips  
Gluten free Oreos  
Gluten free pretzels  
Annie's brand GF Mac n cheese single serve cups  
Scharr brand GF ciabatta rolls  
Mott's or Welch brand fruit snacks (can check ingredients of other brands for wheat starch)

### **Celebrations**

Fri, Jan 27 -- Matt Bauman  
Sat, Jan 28 -- Tim Ludden  
Sun, Jan 29 -- Judy Rosenberger  
Mon, Jan 30 -- Kathy Sommer  
Wed, Feb 1 -- Calvin Hochstetler

### **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

For those of us who have been attending Shalom for the past two years, we are aware of the **Anti-Racism Audit discussions**. We are trying to put together a POC (People of Color) caucus to discuss Shalom's Anti-Racism Audit.

If you identify with this group and are committed to building a team, then we want to hear from you. We have set a time & date for Sunday February 5, 2023 from 11-12, during the SS Hour.

Your presence and participation is valuable to Shalom.

We'll fellowship together and later determine future meeting times going forward. If you are planning to join us, bring a dish to share. Coffee and hot cocoa will be provided.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Barbara S. Abebe at 559.341.4962 or CoraLyn Turentine at 317.344.9812

**The *White Fragility*** books are on a chair at the back of the sanctuary. You are welcome to take a book whatever your racial identity, and whether or not you will be participating in the conversations on race. If there are no more copies, please write your name on the neon green clipboard so I can know how many more copies to order.

On Feb. 5 the white caucus will discuss the Foreword and the Author's Note.

**Attached** below is a final revision of the proposed Anti-Racism Statement for Shalom. In addition to the revisions that we discussed in December, I have added a one-sentence summary statement for those who want to see our position clearly stated, and who felt the overall document was too wordy. On January 29 after Sunday school this statement will be brought to a congregational meeting for acceptance. Questions? Contact Martha Yoder Maust

**New to our library:**

***Fire by Night***, by Melissa Florer-Bixler: Finding God in the pages of the Old Testament. What do we do with the Old Testament? How do we read words written in a world so different from ours, stories so ruthless and so filled with grace?

***Holy Boldness***, by Sandra Hartlieb, a neighbor in Shalom's neighborhood. Unlock the mysteries of women who encountered Jesus.

***My Brother Martin***, by Christine King Farris. A sister remembers - growing up with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Carol & Sam shared this book with us that was once Tim's. It is signed by the illustrator.

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**Circle City Clubhouse newsletter** is attached.

**HCGV** newsletter is attached.

**AWANA: COMMUNITY DISCUSSION, DIALOG AND AWARENESS OF ASSISTANCE.**

Several years ago, Shalom we began **to relate to one local agency**, Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association (AWNA). The boundaries of this neighborhood are:

- Shadeland to the East
- Sherman to the west
- 21st Street to the south
- 38th Street to the north.

As you can see Shalom is very much in the middle.

Here is an update and a summary of notes from the past several months' Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association (AWNA) meetings. Becky Wigginton and Zenebe Abebe are regular attendants of these meetings.

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) East and North District Community Relations Officers, Sergeant Harper (East) and Sergeant Stewart (North) were at the meeting to answer community members' questions. There was some really good information shared, including reminders about when to call 911 versus the nonemergency line:

Examples of when to call 911:

- You hear gunshots

- You see active criminal activity
- Someone's life is in danger

Examples of when to call the nonemergency line (317) 327-3811:

- Criminal activity has already taken place and no one's life is in danger (for example, if your car is broken into, but the person who did it is gone)
- You come across shell casings (always call IMPD to have officers come to photograph and collect these)
- Noise complaints or other non-life-threatening complaints.

If you are interested to come to some of these monthly meetings (usually Monday evenings @ 6:00 PM for an hour) please contact me or Becky.

Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

### **Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

We will plan to have a church business meeting after Sunday School on January 29 to vote on the mission statement, the vision goals, the structure, and the anti-racism statement.

This Sunday will be the third discussion of the Structure. To review the background, in 2017-2018, Sam and Cheryl were tasked with evaluating the new Structure. A congregational survey was sent out and the results tabulated. In addition, Sam and Cheryl visited each of the Commissions and listened to what they felt was good and what needed to be improved for the Structure. Recommendations were made to the VAT and as a result, several changes were made including creation of the Commission Chairs Team (CCT) to facilitate communication and discussion. Other more minor adjustments such as having the congregation nominate and select the representatives to Indiana-Michigan Conference and to MC USA were made and the plan was to bring the Structure to the congregation for approval. Unfortunately, COVID-19 disrupted these plans. So the structure as you have seen it is what was developed prior to the pandemic disruption.

At this time, the attempt is being made to include the latest congregational survey in an attempt to make the Structure as good as it can be made at this time. Attached to the JT is a copy of the Sunday school comments plus the comments from the latest survey. Also attached is a copy of the more indepth description of the Commissions that was requested.

As part of the congregational meeting on January 29, a vote will be held regarding the Mission Statement and the Vision Goals. These documents are also attached. Please come prepared to vote on these.

Thank you,  
VAT

### **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.

If you would be interested in **helping with the visuals** for February and March, please let me know. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Linda Showalter

**The Zoom Meetings of our Adult Sunday School** hour are now being recorded and we anticipate doing so for all future church-wide topical sessions. These recordings are saved online with our Worship Service recordings.

**Mennonite Arts Weekend:** Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, February 3-5, 2023, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend, including a jam session with Girl Named Tom. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/2023maw/>. Come enjoy the fun, connect with friends, and hear Girl Named Tom.

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 for the Journey

### *Be Still in the Snow*

I am a fan of snow. I'm weird I know. But if it is going to be cold then it may as well snow. When it snows things tend to stop, or at least slow down. I remember some terrific lake effect snowstorms when I was growing up. Sure, I loved the idea of a snow day, with no school! But it was more than that. I liked when we would get such a big snow that everyone would be stuck at home for a day or two. Stuck at home with my parents, I can imagine my dad making his self proclaimed "best in the universe" chocolate chip cookies. Those days still make me smile, building a snow fort, or making a big pile of snow and jumping off the deck into it. It created a space to do things that "we were too busy" to do otherwise. As I am writing this I occasionally hear the squeal from some children in the neighborhood as they sled down this tiny hill nearby.

As I am still thinking about listening, this day of snow has me slowed down a bit to listen for God, and to sit in God's presence. The snow has a way of quieting things down, although I still can hear clearly the noises of nearby I-69. While I am listening, I am also asking myself, why is this special? Do I not stop and listen for God enough? I take Fridays as a Sabbath most weeks, which years ago I would set aside time to stop and look for God. For many years I had a Friday morning routine of taking a 45 minute hike on the Appalachian Trail to Black Rock, where I would sit for an hour often with the book Psalms for Praying. Sabbath is a time to rest, but it is a time to rest in God's presence. So, on this snow day (well kind of, I was expecting a bit more snow) I am encouraging us to regularly find time to do as Psalm 46 says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." -- Craig

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

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