

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 7, 2020

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

**Last Sunday (10/4)**, Sabrina offered a dramatic monologue entitled, "A Remnant will Return: A Dramatic Monologue," from the period of time we are studying in our Bible readings, with several passages from 2 Chronicles and Isaiah as the background for the text.

**This Sunday (10/11)**, we will wrestle with the story of King Josiah, who despite being the most righteous of all of the kings of Judah, was not able to inspire God to relent or save Jerusalem from destruction.

**Next Sunday (10/18)**, we will read about and reflect on the most traumatic moment in all of the Older Testament: the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the destruction of the temple of Yahweh.

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

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

## **Saturday, October 10**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

## **Sunday, October 11**

9:30 am – 1) Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: Are any of the books in the Bible pseudipigraphal - that is, falsely attributed to an author like a prophet or epistle? If so, does this change the way we understand them?

## **Saturday, Oct 17**

6:50 pm (EDT) - Celebration 2020: MCC at 100, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry

## **Sunday, Oct 18**

9:30 am – 1) Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

No Facing Hard Questions

## **Saturday, October 24**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

## **Sunday, October 25**

9:30 am – 1) Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions: Many scholars believe that European anti-Semitism has its roots in Christian supersessionism - the belief that the Israelites failed in their mission as God's people and the Church had to replace them. Is there a way to understand the Biblical story without this interpretation?

### **Saturday, November 7**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, November 21**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, December 5**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **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).*

No birthdays or anniversaries this week

**Conversation about current politics:** If you would like to be a part of an informal conversation about current events related to politics, let Wilma Bailey know. A conversation will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. over Zoom. The V.P. Debate is on Wednesday night. Two other conversations have been scheduled for Oct. 23 and Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

**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: Ezekiel 12-16, Jeremiah 25, Proverbs 23:29-35

Tuesday: Jeremiah 45-49; Ezekiel 17; 2 Kings 24:1-7, Proverbs 20:2-3

Wednesday: 2 Kings 24:8-17, Jeremiah 22:24-24:10, 29-31, Ezekiel 18, Proverbs 13:5-6, 17:22

Thursday: Ezekiel 1-7, Proverbs 16:1-4

Friday: Ezekiel 8-11, 20, Proverbs 11:19-21

Saturday: Proverbs 5, Ezekiel 21-23, 2 Kings 24:18-20, Jeremiah 27-28

**OUTREACH:** Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Though the hard work and inspiration for Shalom's Solar Panels came from many, one person's persistence and passion stood out. We asked Marilyn Teel to explain where that came from. Check out Marilyn's thoughts in the attached document.

## Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Tim Ludden has been serving Shalom as a member on the Administration Commission (AC) for the past 1 1/2 years. The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) recommends Tim to continue in this position for another two-year term. Please send your comments of affirmation and feedback to Joyce Troyer at [troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com) by October 21, 2020.

## Vision and Accountability Team (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

### Announcements

- An electronic copy of the Oct/Nov/Dec *gospel evangel* is attached.
- 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.
- **Please note:**
  - Mike Wigginton manages our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads 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 the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net).
  - 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).
  - Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

### Reflections on the Journey

#### Tracking with Jeremiah & Ezekiel

In my opinion, the books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel are the hardest books in the Bible to "follow," even for those of us who have attended seminary. One of the reasons for this is that their prophecies are not presented in chronological order. We know this because many of the prophecies offered by Jeremiah and Ezekiel began with a kind of "date." For example, the first prophecy in Jeremiah was delivered during the 13th year of King Josiah's reign (cf. Jeremiah 1:1-2), which would have been around 628 BCE, while the last prophecy in Jeremiah is dated to the fourth year of King Zedekiah's reign (cf. Jeremiah 51:59), which would have been around 593 BCE. That seems simple enough, until you realize that some of the prophecies in the middle of Jeremiah (cf. Jeremiah 32:1) come even later in Zedekiah's reign, around 587 BCE. And throughout the middle, the prophecies jump from one moment to another in no particular order. The same is true of Ezekiel.

To get the most out of this, you have to pay close attention to those reference points and note what was happening in Judah's history at each point that Jeremiah and Ezekiel were writing. I've tried to make it easier by putting the readings in chronological order - or to my best guess about what that is

- and pairing them with the historical context as its given in 2 Kings. Sometimes, 2 Kings describes an entire king's reign in just a few verses, and the prophets offer long speeches during those periods, so we have to splice and combine the texts in dramatic ways to make them match. It also may help to keep a basic timeline of the events in mind (which are themselves approximations):

- 640 BCE - King Josiah came to power
- 622 BCE - King Josiah discovers the law and institutes a great reform
- 609 BCE - King Josiah dies & his oldest son, King Jehoahaz, takes the throne
- 609 BCE (two months later) - Pharaoh Neco captures King Jehoahaz and appoints Josiah's second oldest son, Jehoiakim, to the throne. King Jehoiakim then makes an alliance with Babylon
- 606 BCE - King Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon, and the Babylonians make their first of three campaigns into Judah, causing much destruction but leaving Jehoiakim on the throne.
- 597 BCE - King Jehoiakim dies, and his son, King Jeconiah (Josiah's grandson) takes the throne
- 597 BCE (three months later) - The Babylonians invade Judah for the second of three campaigns, this time raiding the temple and taking King Jeconiah as a captive, while leaving his uncle, King Zedekiah (Josiah's third oldest son) on the throne
- 588 BCE - King Zedekiah rebelled against the Babylonians, and they made their third campaign and final campaign through Judah, besieging but not overtaking Jerusalem
- 586 BCE - The Babylonians break through the Jerusalem walls, destroy the temple, and kill Zedekiah and all of his sons, putting their own governors in charge and destroying the Kingdom of Judah completely

Why are Jeremiah and Ezekiel written in such a random order? No one knows for sure, but the disorienting order of those books has the effect of conveying how disorienting it must have felt to live in that politically chaotic time. If you get confused or overwhelmed about what's happening - you may be approximating the feeling that the residents of Jerusalem felt in this stressful era.

~ Brian

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