

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 2, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (10/30), Brian introduced a new sermon series on the book of Jonah, starting with the first chapter.

This Sunday (11/6), Wilma Bailey will be preaching from Jonah 2 with a title of: "Lord Listen To Your Children Praying"

Next Sunday (11/13), Brian will continue the sermon series on Jonah by preaching from chapter 3.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, November 6, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School following.

Coffee and tea time between Worship and Sunday School will be downstairs, Along with DST ending in Nov we also have the changing of the Coffee Time Clean Up. November's lucky folks are those whose last name beings with C-J!. --The Kitchen Group

Monday, October 31 (PLEASE NOTE ADJUSTED TIME AND LOCATION) from 8:30a to 2:30p Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, November 7 (PLEASE NOTE ADJUSTED LOCATION) from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera, 2902 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

Wednesday, November 9, 5 pm VAT

Thursday, November 10, 6 pm Commission Chairs

Monday, November 14 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Tuesday, November 15, 1 pm Deacons Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 9 am – 12 pm, Fall workday at the church. Rake leaves, spread some mulch, etc.

Monday, November 28 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread - 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Monday, December 5 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks (430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN)

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 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, Nov 3 -- Delicia Bravo Wigginton
Sat, Nov 5 -- Ernest Turentine
Sun, Nov 6 -- Peter Wigginton
Mon, Nov 7 -- Martha Yoder & Rod Maust, 1981
Tue, Nov 8 -- Caleb Martin

Take them a meal. A meal sign up for Julie and Donald has been created, follow the link for details.

[Meals For Julie and Donald Sanders via Take Them A Meal](#)

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Shalom Youth

Children's Sunday School Co-Teachers needed.

The ideal situation for our Pre-K and Youth classes would be to have a co-teacher that could cover about half the dates. If you can help, reach out to Laura or talk with Carol Weaver about PreK or Jeanne Smucker about youth.

Adult Education schedule

Sunday, November 6

- Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (2nd session)

Sunday, November 13

- Adult Sunday School: Anti-Racism Caucus Conversations

Sunday, November 20

-Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (3rd session)

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Lent/Thanksgiving Weekend, no Sunday school for adults or children

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

Masks

The VAT met on Tuesday 9/13 and discussed mask wearing at church. The daily COVID-19 new infection rate is decreasing in the US. Because of this and the increase in vaccinations and the availability of receiving booster vaccines, it has been decided we will make masks optional starting with Sunday 9/18. We continue to ask you to stay home and worship on Zoom if you are sick. If you are feeling a bit unwell and attend church in person, please wear a mask. We want to keep each other safe.

We will continue to monitor the situation and masks may become mandatory again at some time if the situation warrants. We continue to encourage everyone to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and stay up to date with boosters as appropriate. We encourage the annual flu vaccine as well. We want everyone to stay healthy and well.

Administration

Chair: Mike Wigginton

On Saturday, November 19, 9 am – 12 pm, we will have a fall workday at the church. Come and rake leaves, spread some mulch, and more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements should be sent to Linda Showalter at showalter@indy.rr.com by Thursday, 10 am.

Prayer Vigil for Detained Immigrants. On Saturday, November 5 at 10am, Pastor Brian is going to be leading a prayer vigil for immigrants who are detained in the state of Indiana. This will be held outside of the Clay County jail at 611 E Jackson St, Brazil, IN, which is where most immigrants are detained after being arrested in our state. Please consider joining us in this appeal to God for intervention, which also serves as a symbol of solidarity for those in jail and a witness to the injustices committed at that facility for the larger Indiana community. **See attached flyer.**

On November 13 our caucus groups will be reviewing a draft of proposed changes to Shalom's "Statement on Becoming an Anti-Racist Church." Even if you have not been attending the caucus sessions, please consider attending in order to give feedback and hear what others have to say.

The newest edition of the prayer memo with requests from congregations in Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference is available here: <https://www.im.mennonite.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/November-2022-Prayer-Memo.pdf>

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!

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

Voting Season

Next Tuesday is election day in the United States, and the pressure campaigns have already started. Bumper stickers are appearing on cars, political ads are appearing on TV, and social commentary about the importance of voting abounds. In the United States, voting is seen by many as a sacred civic duty and cornerstone of democracy, but it is worth taking a moment to reflect on what it is we are doing when we vote from a Christian perspective - especially in light of the fact that for most of our time in the United States, Mennonites have been conscientious *non-voters*.

In fact, in the earliest Anabaptist confessions, practices like voting were prohibited because Anabaptist Christians pledged to separate themselves from the world in part by refusing to participate in civic institutions. The thinking behind this was that Christians and non-Christians (or perhaps Anabaptist Christians and everyone else) had fundamentally different ways of operating, and we could not participate in civic institutions without endorsing some of their practices. For example, our government protects its interests by building up a military that has the power to kill and destroy those who would oppose us, and there is a sense that weighing in on how we should set up the tax code, for example, would be implicitly endorsing the military-industrial complex that is largely funded by those taxes and which protects that institution.

As time has gone on, I have become less and less convinced that voting actually entangles us with the US government any more than most of us are already entangled with it. Although our national rhetoric says that "we the people" are the ones who govern, I believe that there is still an important distinction between the ruling class in the United States (the people directly involved in government and policy-making) and those of us who are ruled. Most of us have little to no influence over what rules are made or how they are enforced - at least most of the time. Election season is a kind of exception to this, but only in a limited way. We are not invited to vote *directly* on topics such as abortion or immigration or police reform, but only to choose between two or three individuals who take different positions on all of these issues. Furthermore, we don't even get to comment on *why* we voted the way that we did; politicians are left to make guesses about that based on polls and anecdotal encounters.

With this in mind, I have come to the conclusion that it is ok for me to vote, since I am simply giving limited input to the ruling class, not ruling myself. However, I certainly respect Christians who are still conscientious nonvoters and think all Mennonites should do the same. This is not to say that the issues on the ballot are not important or that we should be apathetic about what happens to our country - just that we should be realistic about what kind of power we actually have in this voting process and how limited it is. Furthermore, there is a real danger of idolatry that the early Anabaptists recognized, that in voting we could get so swept up in the politics of the day that we start to look to the state, rather than God, as our true source of hope and salvation.

Whatever you do this election season, do so thoughtfully and prayerfully. Follow Jesus and your conscience, and be sure to find some way to renew your faith in God as the One in whom our security truly rests.

~ Brian

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

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