

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 3, 2023

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

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (4/30)**, Brian continued to engage Ecclesiastes as it pushes us to consider what really matters in life in chapters 3 & 4.

**This Sunday (5/7)**, Craig will continue the Ecclesiastes series in chapters 5 looking at how we relate to God in worship.

**Next Sunday (5/14)**, First Mennonite and Shalom are doing a pulpit swap, which means that Pastor Monica Miller will be at Shalom while Brian will be visiting First Mennonite. Monica's sermon on Luke 13:31-35, entitled "Mother Hens and Ninja Roosters," invites us to follow our Mother Hen's example of bold and fearless compassion.

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am worship, Sunday School, congregational meeting after Sunday School.

Monday, May 8 - from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks, 430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN

Saturday, May 13 Arlington Woods Neighborhood Cleanup, 8a – 2p.

Monday, May 15 - from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46278

Sunday, May 21 there will be a fellowship meal after Sunday School.

Monday, May 22 - from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Tuesday, May 23 6p, Commission Chairs

Monday, June 5 - from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office Avon Panera, 55 S Raceway Rd, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN

Monday, June 5 – 7p CLC

Monday, June 12 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Monday, June 26 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 Jameson 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.

Large groups  
Small groups  
A group of two.  
Groups in whatever number/for whatever purpose  
GOD is present.

The church is composed of people and groups of people. We meet on Sunday mornings with 25, 50 or more in attendance.

Jesus says God is present in the midst of these groups whenever “two or more are gathered in My name.”

At Shalom we encourage everyone to be present with God in your private devotions but to also seek out God in a group setting as a spiritual discipline. If you are not already in a regular group setting of two or more, we encourage you to meet with a friend, family member, or a larger group on a regular basis. The encouragement from Shalom is to remember that in these groups settings we will experience God. This is also a simple spiritual discipline to participate in as it involves meeting those you care for as you share concerns and prayers. If you need help getting or finding these places of gathering give Community Life Commission or the pastors a call or a note and we will help as we can to make it happen.

### **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

**Seeking Sunday School teachers for this summer!** This summer we will keep our separate, age-based classrooms and have curricular resources available for teachers. Summer is designed to be flexible and your creative ideas are welcome. You might want to do something special instead of following the curriculum.

- Beverly will continue to work with our Pre-K kids but could always use a week or two off. If you'd like to try working with the young ones (ages 2-5), let Laura know and we can coordinate a break for Beverly.
- Elementary teachers needed – if you've ever wanted to try out teaching, now is the time. You can sign up for just 1 week, cover a whole month, or pick and choose dates that work with your schedule. We have openings in June, late July, and August with a few dates already covered.
- Jeanne will continue to work with Youth.

Reach out to Laura Harms in person, by email or by phone: [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com); 317-572-0017

### **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

### **Adult SS:**

May 7 "Our Journey with Jesus" Bible study  
May 14 "Our Journey with Jesus" Bible study  
May 21 anti-racist caucuses  
May 28 Memorial Day weekend, no Sunday school for adults or children  
June 4 Robin Valenzuela of Indiana Assistance to Immigrants in Detention will share about Indiana AID's work

**Discipling Commission** welcomes suggestions from the congregation on books or topics that you would like to study. Please give your suggestions to Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither, or Martha Yoder Maust.

### **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**Arlington Woods Neighborhood Cleanup** Saturday May 13, see attachment for more information.

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The SGDT wants to thank those who have served on commissions for six consecutive years. These were inaugural members of their respective commissions when Shalom began its current structure in 2017: Martha Yoder Maust (DC), Linda Showalter (WC), Sam Bixler (AC), Brad Yoder (OC), and Herb Troyer (CLC). Also, we want to thank Cheryl Martin who is concluding her leadership of the VAT (two years as vice chair followed by 2 years as chair; Frank Kandel moves from vice chair to chair). Their terms end on August 31.

The SGDT is in the process of filling these positions. To date, the SGDT recommends the following who have agreed to serve in the positions indicated: Nizeet Aguilar Deiter as Vice Chair of the (Vision and Accountability Team VAT), Justin Hochstetler as member of the Worship Commission (WC), and Carol Bixler as chair of the Discipleship Commission (DC). Please communicate your affirmation or other feedback regarding these individuals for their positions to Joyce Troyer (email: troys\_hj@hotmail.com; phone or text: 317-446-4353) by May 14. Please continue to pray for the ongoing process of our group discernment and individuals as they are asked to discern God's leading.

### **Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

The vote on Sunday 4/30 was to help the delegates to the Indiana-Michigan Conference in June get a feel for where the congregation would like the conference to be at this time. The question is whether the conference should credential LGBTQ+ persons who are in a same-sex marriage or not. It remains up to congregations to call whom ever they choose. Currently the conference credentials LGBTQ+ persons who are single. This was a "straw vote" and is not binding in any way. The results of the vote were 75% for allowing the conference to credential LGBTQ+ persons in a same-sex marriage and 25% against this credentialing.

### **Administration**

Chair: Mike Wigginton

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mennonite Church U.S.A.'s Convention** will begin the evening of July 3, 2023. For detailed information including a schedule and cost go to the website for Mennonite Church U.S.A. and look for MennoCon23 under events. Registration prices will go up after May 14. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

When the congregation discussed the **anti-racism statement** there was clear feedback that it was too long, that the historical parts were lacking nuance, and that some statements used "we" as if referring to the whole congregation but applied only to white people in the congregation. The Dismantling Racism Steering Committee has worked through several drafts and our proposed document is attached for your feedback. Please read it, reflect on it, and give your **feedback** to any member of the Dismantling Racism Steering Committee: Barbara Abebe, CoraLyn Turentine, Carol Bixler, Brian Bither, or Martha Yoder Maust. After we have had time to consider your feedback, our plan is to bring the statement back to the congregation for approval.

**"Sharing Our Lives" weekly power point.** We invite photo submissions of events/hobbies/interests in your

lives. Send pictures to Linda Showalter by Saturday morning. (If you get missed this week, you will be included the next week). Also add a line or two to tell us what is going on. A power point will show whatever pictures are submitted before the service starts and run until the prelude begins.

**When God calls** someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Indiana-Michigan Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for fall 2023 is July 11, with the final registration deadline on August 8, 2023. For more information visit [www.ambcs.edu/journey](http://www.ambcs.edu/journey), contact your pastor, or Joanne Gallardo at [joanne@im.mennonite.net](mailto:joanne@im.mennonite.net) or 574-534-4006.

**Bulletin announcements** should be sent to Linda Showalter at [showalter@indy.rr.com](mailto:showalter@indy.rr.com) by Thursday, 10 am.

If you want to use the building for a meeting or event, please check the online calendar first to be sure it's open, then email Craig at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) so he can add your item to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

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\\_ReooskuxUXA!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReooskuxUXA!)

**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).

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 Stocksdaile  
Brian Bither, Craig Oury