

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 26, 2022

### WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (1/23)**, Wilma preached from Nehemiah 8:1-12 and Luke 4:14-21 looking at Scripture based worship.

**This Sunday (1/30)**, Craig will be preaching from Jeremiah 1:4-10, in Jeremiah's call story we see God calling and Jeremiah looking for a way out of it. Craig will look at the difficulty of trusting God as it relates to God calling upon us.

**Next Sunday (2/6)**, Brian will preach from 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 about the "basics" of the Christian faith.

### COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

### CALENDAR

Sunday, January 30

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "New understandings of Gender and Sexuality" led by Brian

--- 10:30a - Worship service on Zoom with Pastor Craig preaching

Sunday, February 6

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Brief review of Biblical texts and interpretations on LGBTQ+ issues" led by Martha

--- 10:30a - Worship service on Zoom with Pastor Brian preaching

Sunday, February 13

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "The Mennonite history behind the Repentance Resolution" led by Martha

--- 10:30a - *Conversational Worship*. This virtual service will include some breakout discussions in which people will be put into different "rooms" on Zoom with a handful of other people and will have a chance to discuss the topics at hand. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

Sunday, February 20

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Group discussion of our thoughts, beliefs, and experiences" led by Carol Bither and OlaJowon Turentine

--- 10:30a - *Pulpit Swap with First Mennonite*. Shalom will have the opportunity to hear a sermon from First Mennonite's new pastor, Monica Miller, while Craig Oury preaches at First Mennonite. The worship service will be on Zoom.

Sunday, February 27

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Goal-setting: What might our next steps be?" led by Carol Bither and OlaJowon Turentine

--- 10:30a - *Communion Sunday*. During our Zoom worship service, we will be offering virtual communion. We invite you to bring your own bread (or other food) and juice (or other drink) so that you can participate in communion from home during the service.

### Celebrations

Fri, Jan 28 -- Tim Ludden

Sun, Jan 30 -- Kathy Sommer

Tue, Feb 1 -- Calvin Hochstetler

**Community Life** would like to celebrate with Chris and Nizeet with the birth of their new baby. A registry is available if you'd like to get them something. <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/nizeet-december-2021-linthicumheights/1YTJIAZHA2XWR>

**DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

Last spring, we had a Sunday school class on Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations, using an online curriculum from Widerstand Consulting. You should have received an email in March inviting you to participate in Niche Academy, which provided the structure for our participation. If you would like to review any of that material, or if you would like to see their material on how to do a congregational audit, your username is your email address and your old password should still work. If you have lost your password, you can click on "forgot password" to create a new one. If you need help, email Martha Yoder Maust at [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) and I can send you a new invitation. We have access to this material until the end of February.

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

We have been communicating with Jannette Jefferis, who is involved in supporting Gina on behalf of Indy Neighbor Link. As you see below Gina who in or neighborhood needs some household items as requested by Jannette. If you need more clarification or question, please talk to Jannette. See message below. On behalf of Outreach, Zenebe

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Thank you for arranging some help for Genia.  
Her home was vandalized several weeks ago. Neighbor Link is helping her with some home repairs. She would appreciate some furnishings for her home, a sofa and dining room table that could seat 4-6 and chairs. I will be the contact for donations.

Jeanette Jefferis  
317-441-4678

[j11jefferis@gmail.com](mailto:j11jefferis@gmail.com)

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Sunday school class on Spiritual Gifts Discernment will begin on March 6. If you have interest in discerning your spiritual gifts prior to then, or if you prefer a format other than a group class, please contact Joyce Troyer at [troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com).

**Vision and Accountability Team**

Chair: Cheryl Martin

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Repentance Resolution** : As mentioned at church this past Sunday, our church belongs to a larger church network called the Mennonite Church USA, and this May, MCUSA's delegate body is going to discuss a resolution called "A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation" (linked [here](#)) and decide whether to vote on it at that meeting. (CORRECTION: An earlier version of this announcement said that the Resolution would come to a vote at the July 2023 Mennonite Convention. While that is a possibility, there is also a chance that the Delegate Assembly will put it in effect by the end of May. ~ Brian)

This resolution asks the church to repent for its past mistreatment of LGBTQ+ individuals, calling on us to abolish church policy that prohibits LGBTQ+ exclusion, and demanding LGBTQ+ representation on all future boards and programs sponsored by MCUSA.

**Newest Update:** In addition to the Repentance Resolution, a second resolution has been proposed called, "Clarification on Mennonite USA Polity and the Role of Membership Guidelines in MCUSA" (linked [here](#)) This resolution also calls on the church to abolish the Membership Guidelines which forbid the blessing of same-sex relationships, but it does not take a position on repentance and LGBTQ+ representation like the Repentance Resolution does. In addition to these, an "[MCUSA for Justice](#)" resolution and an "[MCUSA Accessibility](#)" resolution will be considered.

MCUSA is recording a series of Zoom sessions to prepare delegates for the upcoming special delegate assembly. Anyone is welcome to view the recorded sessions. You can also read the materials for the special session on the MCUSA website.

On Monday, the Zoom session focused on the history and use of resolutions in MCUSA.

It was clarified that passed Resolutions are not binding on conferences, congregations or individuals in MCUSA. The Resolutions are invitational to conferences and congregations. They are only binding on the Executive Board and Staff. The work of the Executive Board and Staff is directed by the Resolutions.

For those interested in further study, the Mennonite Church is offering webinars relating to each of these resolutions. Information can be found on [www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/delegate-resources-special-session-may-2022/](http://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/delegate-resources-special-session-may-2022/)

**Gemima and daughters:** Funds have been raised to provide financial support through April. The care team has a plan to gradually reduce the monthly support over the next 6 months. The financial support would end in July. More donations may be requested to help us reach this goal. Gemima continues to search for employment with support from Melanie (both in completing applications and with transportation to interviews).

### **Dear Shalom Family,**

My mother-in-law (Chris's mom) is in need of a female who can help out with caregiving from 6 pm to 9:30 pm on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Thursday. This will be a paid position, if you would like more information please contact me either by email ([deiteraguilar@gmail.com](mailto:deiteraguilar@gmail.com)) or phone (443-801-2675).

Blessings,

Nizeet Deiter

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 ON THE JOURNEY

I was recently speaking with a relative in his mid-twenties who has just started attending a church after a few years break from church. He was talking about this new church he is attending and how he mostly likes it. But he did have a one issue. He said that they talk way too much about the past. Who cares about the past? They need to move on. He used a Scripture to support his position.

Isaiah 43:18-19

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

In a sense he has a point, the past can be a trap. If we are too focused on the past we can ignore the present and not look forward to what God has for us here and now. But in another sense he is missing a few things. There are many Scriptures that encourage us to remember, just one of them is also from Isaiah, this time chapter 46

Remember this and consider,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like me

I couldn't quite get out of him what it is that he didn't like about the church talking about the past, because he seemed to mention many things they were doing that he liked. I am just guessing but I suspect it is because he is new and the congregation's past is not his past. But remembering the past is of utmost importance. The past reminds us of ways that God has been with us. The past reminds us times when we perhaps strayed from God. The past can help us to remember to look for God here and now when we remember the things and ways God has lead or transformed us before so we can look for that again.

The past becomes a barrier when we are stuck there. When it doesn't help us to see God here and now but instead longing for what once was. For God is about to do a new thing and wants us to be come along. Yet at some point that new thing will also become the past. We are still in a relatively new year, so perhaps I am reminding myself to remember to be ready for whatever it is God is about to do. --  
Craig

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

Vision & Accountability Team: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdale  
Brian Bither

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