

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 28, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (9/25), Brian preached from Amos 5 on the theme of religious hypocrisy.

This Sunday (10/2), is world communion Sunday. Brian will be preaching from Amos 6.

Next Sunday (10/9), Gemima Torchez will bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Coffee and tea time between Worship and Sunday School will be served downstairs, please get your drink and don't linger/talk at the window! just keep moving to Sunday School! We can only do this if everyone helps, so the clean up schedule is those who's last name begins with A-B are to clean up in Oct. after Sunday School. --The Kitchen Group

Sunday, October 2, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School following.

Monday, October 3 from 9am to 3pm – Brian's Roving Office Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Saturday, October 8, 2022, starting at 9 am Church retreat at Jamison Camp. Our theme for the day is Celebrating Life Together. Please plan to come and stay for the whole day!

Monday, October 10 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread (8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN)

Monday, October 24 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Downtown Starbucks (430 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN)

Monday, October 31, 8:30a to 2:30p (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!) - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, IN

Monday, November 7, 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office at Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, 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

Sat, Oct 1 -- Brittany Bither

Sat, Oct 1 – Martha Yoder Maust

Sat, Oct 1 -- Mark Stocksdale
Sun, Oct 2 -- Junia Martin
Wed, Oct 5 -- David & Sabrina Falls, 1980

Shalom Retreat

Theme: Finding Joy in Our Life Together
October 8, 2022, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Child care provided from 9-12 a.m. Afternoon activities are intergenerational.

The retreat will be a celebration of our being back together again after two years of limited contact due to Covid 19 restrictions. Please reserve the date and sign up so that we know how many people to plan for.

The text for the day is Isaiah 55:12 "For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

In Isaiah 55, the joy of walking together with God is symbolized by nature itself praising God. We believe that trees and all of nature bring us closer to our Creator. From scientific studies, we know that trees calm our hearts as we walk beneath them and fellowship under them. As we walk together at Shalom, we are calmed and strengthened in our faith and life. We encourage everyone to bring to the retreat reflections and memories of joy and growth over the last two years.

Bring snack foods for sharing, examples: vegetable trays, fruit, cookies, chips, pretzels, candy, etc.

Lunch will be a variety of pizzas and salad. Let Herb know if you have a dietary concern. Please RSVP to the office@shalommennonite.com or the sign-up sheet in the foyer and indicate how many will be attending.

The schedule for the day is attached.

Here are a list of small groups that are meeting. Feel free to contact one of them if the timing suits and you would like to meet and talk. There is also the possibility of forming your own small group by asking others to join you around a hobby or passion. There is one member of shalom who suggested having a Zoom group around the theme of a sermon response group sometime during the week. If interested let Herb Troyer know.

Wednesday Breakfast Group Rod Maust contact person Phone 317 593-4355.

Email [<yodermaust@gmail.com>](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month at 7am via zoom. We had been meeting at the Illinois St Emporium for breakfast but have not yet resumed that since COVID came about. Our conversation can include sermon responses, our Shalom journey, broader church issues, personal sharing, and general news concerns.

Martha Maust is the contact person for this small group.

Members are Brenda Smith, Barbara Longoria, Bob and Rose Love, Bill and Mary Albrecht, and myself. We meet once a month on Zoom at 1:00 PM on Sunday. The meeting date depends on our schedules. We focus on sharing and praying for each other. Sometimes we also talk about things that are going on in the congregation or things we have been studying. I'm the contact person and my preferred email is yodermaust@gmail.com.

Herb Troyer is the contact person for our Wisdom around the campfire small group

We meet about every other week depending on our schedules. contact one of the group members for the next meeting time and place .We try to meet outside when the weather if cooperative and at times we continue to have a campfire. We often have someone lead in a small devotional and then have sharing and prayer before we leave. The members are Herb and Joyce Troyer, Cheryl Martin , Bek and Dean Linsenmeyer , Becky and Mike Wigginton, and Chuck Dunn.

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Shalom Youth

Children's Sunday School Substitute Teachers needed.

Please let Laura know if you can be a substitute teacher. We need help for the following dates:

October 9: youth class (PreK is covered)

October 23: youth class

October 30: youth class

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, October 2 - World Communion Sunday - Sermon covers Amos 6

- Adult SS 1 - Bible Study on Amos (3rd session)

- Adult SS 2 - Shalom Orientation Class (4th session)

Sunday, October 9

- Adult SS - Anti-Racism Caucus Conversations

Sunday, October 16

- Sermon covers Amos 7

- Adult SS - Bible Study on Amos (4th session)

Sunday, October 23

- Sermon covers Amos 8-9

- Adult SS - Bible Study on Amos (5th session)

Sunday, October 30

- Adult Sunday School: Mission & Vision Discernment (1st session)

Sunday, November 6

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

Sunday, November 13

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

Sunday, November 20

- Adult Sunday School: Anti-Racism Caucus Conversations

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Lent/Thanksgiving Weekend, no

Sunday school for adults or children

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Faith & Action Fall Event Featuring Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

How do we attack the root causes of poverty and achieve real progress? These questions will be addressed at the 2022 CTS Faith & Action Fall Event. The evening of September 29 will feature **Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign and national leader in social justice and political organizing. Dr. Barber will present a keynote address and be joined by Sojourner Magazine Fellowship Program Director Moya Harris for a moderated discussion about how we can overcome poverty by attacking the injustices that fuel it.

The Faith & Action Fall Event will take place at **7pm on Thursday, September 29, 2022**, in Shelton Auditorium on the CTS campus.

[Click here to register.](#)

In the Sharing space for September we are promoting local projects:

New men's underwear, all sizes. Horizon House gives these to our unhoused neighbors.

New or gently used books for Eastern Star's ROCK Initiative youth programs.

Educational supplies for Teachers' Treasures. Go to their website teacherstreasures.org for a list of acceptable items.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

HELP! Please pray for discerning the right person to join Bethany, Herb, and Craig on the Community Life Commission (CLC). The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is pleased to share that Bethany Martin has been affirmed by the congregation as a member of the CLC. She joins Herb (chair) and Craig (pastoral representative). **However**, one member is still needed to complete the CLC. Please prayerfully discern if you or someone who comes to mind is the person for this position. If you think someone else is well-suited for this position, please speak with them and get their permission before sharing their name with the SGDT.

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Bek Linsenmeyer's surgery went well today. Continue to pray for her recovery.

CROP WALK OCTOBER 2ND this year again it will be self walk. If you are going to walk please sign into the crop website. the easiest way is to type in Crop walk Indianapolis. If you are not going to walk and would like to sponsor someone you can pick one of the person signed up to sponsor. First Menno has invited us to walk with them on October 2nd. Let Herb Troyer know if you want to walk with First Menno folks. for the crop walk if you are walking with first Mennonite Church this will be the place to meet up with them the Church Center parking lot behind this corner building by about 1:30 pm Sunday Oct 2nd.

On behalf of Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale, thank you for your enthusiasm and energy at **Shalom Mennonite** in collecting coins and matches for **My Coins Count**. Your congregation donated **\$60.65**, helping MyCC bring in over **\$80,000** this year and bringing the sale total to over **\$430,000!**

Your MyCC contribution will help MCC partners alleviate the growing threat of extreme hunger around the world. It will provide food assistance to vulnerable people in refugee camps in Syria and Ethiopia who have fled violence in their home communities. It will help farmers in Uganda and Guatemala learn new ways of growing crops that will expand their yield and improve the nutrition and economics for their families. It will assist families in Palestine and India to grow kitchen gardens, allowing them to grow fresh vegetables to improve the health of their families. It will assist with animal sharing programs in Cambodia and Lebanon, giving sheep, goats, chickens, and fish, which provide a renewable resource of nutrition and improve the financial security for families who struggle with sources of income. Thank you for sharing food with hungry people through MCC and their partners in the name of Christ. – John Martens, MyCC Coordinator- MMRS

Vigil for Detained Immigrants. On Saturday, October 15 at 10am, Pastor Brian will be leading a prayer vigil outside the Clay County jail (611 E Jackson St, Brazil, IN) to bear witness to the suffering of detained immigrants in the state of Indiana and to pray for them. For more information, contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Goshen College "Parables" on Tour. The Goshen College traveling choir "Parables" will be traveling through Indianapolis and performing at First Mennonite on the evening of Sunday, October 16 (exact time TBD). All from Shalom are invited to attend their free performance entitled, "Spreading Love."

Mennonite Church USA launched the "**Learn, Pray, Join: Mass Incarceration**" initiative in September. This initiative, in conjunction with the "For Justice in the U.S. Criminal Legal System" resolution, seeks to raise awareness of injustices in the U.S. criminal legal system, especially those that disproportionately affect people of color and people without financial security. The initiative will continue through the end of October. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/lpj-mi

MennoCon23, Mennonite Church USA's largest faith formation gathering, will be held July 3-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. There will be programming for all ages, including a one-day Climate Summit for youth and young adults. See the tentative block schedule here: mennoniteusa.org/mennocon-schedule

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

A Reflection on the Death of Queen Elizabeth II

During the past several weeks the Earth has witnessed the death and farewell of Britain's longest-reigning monarch, Elizabeth II. (I remember that her ascension to the throne at the age of 25, when I was in sixth grade, was considered a very big deal.) Queen Elizabeth's

death brought a huge outpouring of love and affection from all around the Earth, especially from the 56 former colonies that make up the British Commonwealth, from other parts of Europe, and from the United States. Her symbolic leadership has understandably represented, for many, continuity, stability, and democratic values for a very long time. But there are other perspectives on the United Kingdom's place in the world during the past 70 years.

The British Empire used to be considered the largest empire ever created on Earth, and during its lifetime led to massive oppression, enslavement, exploitation, and the deaths of an estimated **150 million people of color** over a period of 200 years. During Elizabeth II's 70-year reign, over 90,000 people were slaughtered by the British Army in Britain's former colony, Kenya, as they were striving for independence.

Throughout much of Elizabeth's rule, there were conflicts in Northern Ireland, claimed by Britain as part of the United Kingdom since 1172. These conflicts became extremely violent 1968-98, when the British Army occupied Northern Ireland, with 3,600 killed and 40,000 injured. (The Good Friday Agreement in 1998 led to substantial peace in that area.)

Racist apartheid policies in South Africa prevailed from the beginning of Elizabeth's reign in 1952 until 1990, when Nelson Mandela was finally released from prison and formed a democratic majority government. England was one of the few Western countries (along with the US, under Ronald Reagan) which refused to join an economic embargo against the racist white minority South African government.

In 1982 Britain went to war with Argentina over several small islands off the coast of Argentina which the British claim as the Falkland Islands, and Argentina calls the Malvinas. The British sent their Navy 8,000 miles to fight for the small islands, resulting in nearly 1,000 deaths 2,500 injuries, and the capture of 11,000 persons.

Among all the other things that Queen Elizabeth's death and funeral represent, they are also celebrations of **white supremacy** and **patriarchy**. Most of the inhumanity caused over the years by the British was **not** the responsibility of Elizabeth II. And during her reign more than 30 formerly oppressed colonies in Africa and the Caribbean did get their independence, drastically reducing the scope of the former British Empire. But for a community like Shalom, who are committed to **social justice** and **anti-racism**, we need to ask: is there justification in the 21st century for King Charles III to continue the monarchy—a social structure that gives **inherited, arbitrary, undemocratic power** to one person, based on his birth? Charles III still is the official head of the government in 56 nations/territories. Over the next few years, his authority is likely to be challenged in some of those nations/territories that make up the British Commonwealth, with a total population of 2.5 billion people. Is the monarchy an outdated reality that limits social justice? What do you think? (Israel once insisted that God allow them to have a king, and God very reluctantly agreed.) – Brad Yoder

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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