

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 24, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (8/21), Sabrina Falls offered a reflection of Matthew 4:12-17.

This Sunday (8/28), Brian will continue exploring human emotions by considering "Shame in the Christian Journey."

Next Sunday (9/4), Craig will bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 28, 9:30 am Worship followed by Sunday School

Monday, August 29 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Tuesday, August 30 Community Life Commission Meeting 6pm.

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day) from 9am to 3pm – Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th Street, Unit A, Fishers, IN 46038

Saturday, September 10 Greenfest featuring Carrie Newcomer A mingling of art, eco-justice, and Spirituality. Outdoor activities from 3-6 pm indoor concert at 6 pm. Sacred Earth @ Cumberland, 116 S. Muessing St., Cumberland, IN 46229

Monday, September 12 from 9am to 3pm – Downtown Panera Bread, 110 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Monday, September 19 from 9am to 3pm – East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

Monday, September 26 from 9am to 3pm – Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Monday, October 3 from 9am to 3pm – 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!

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

Fri, Aug 26 – Craig Oury
Sun, Aug 28 -- Solomon Abebe
Sun, Aug 28 -- Grace Rhine
Sun, Aug 28, 1965 -- Jerry & Marilyn Teel

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 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. the next meeting due to schedules of all the families is on June 6th at 6PM to about 7:30 at the church. We try to meet outside when the weather is 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 , Laura Harms and at times other family members , Becky and Mike Wigginton, and Chuck Dunn

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Shalom Youth

Please share with Laura Harms or anyone on the Discipling Commission (Martha Yoder, Carol Bither, and Wilma Bailey) your ideas to support our youth during the Sunday school hour. We are looking for creative ways to ensure adults and youth are building relationships with each other and with God. If you'd be interested in developing a one-on-one relationship with a youth we'd be delighted to hear from you. If you have an idea but aren't sure you are the right person to do it, we'd welcome that too.

Our Fall classes for the younger kids are all set. Let's get the youths set too!

Adult Education schedule

August 28 Peter Wigginton and Delicia Bravo will share about their work in Quito, Ecuador
September 4 No Sunday School

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

We are gathering items for Mennonite Central Committee school kits in July and August on the table across from the mailboxes. Bags are provided. The contents are:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)

- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com), or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

School kits: Thanks to all who have contributed! The children put together the supplies for school kits on Sunday. If you were still planning to contribute to the school supplies, please **do not** get more erasers or pens! Remember that rulers need to be **flexible** - therefore, not wooden.

My Coins Count: There are only a few Sundays before the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. Bring in your loose change that is being collected in a large container at the back of the sanctuary.

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence newsletter is attached.

Many of you remember Shalom helped First Friends with a gift to help sponsor an Afghanistan refugee family last year. They are doing good but First Friends wants to let us know if any one would like to be involved more there's always work to do. Some needs are; helping family members navigate the health system and identifying, interpreting and reading bills. Helping with transportation. Helping tutor High School math and chemistry. If you have any questions feel free to ask Becky Wigginton.

Green Festival featuring Carrie Newcomer Saturday September 6. Free outdoor events from 3-6 pm, Carrie Newcomer concert at 6 pm, \$20.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

We have decided to once again request that everyone wear a mask in the church unless eating or drinking. This is about an abundance of caution and love for one another. We want to continue to meet in person, so this may be helpful to allow us to continue this pattern. Also, if you are feeling ill, please stay home and utilize the Zoom meeting link. We want us all to stay healthy.

Administration

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday August 31, a group of volunteers from First Mennonite and Shalom will be helping with the Faith Build for Habitat for Humanity. If you're interested in participating, contact Randy Stoesz, stoeszrd@gmail.com.
Mike Wigginton

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

The **MCC Bike Michiana** tour at Amigo Centre is just 4 weeks away. I am again planning to participate, and I am requesting your sponsorship contributions. This year's project will be directed to assisting farmers in Haiti with climate change mitigation.

Because of a fiasco involving some lost checks, and because of the delays encountered in processing in prior years, Amigo Centre is requesting that sponsorship checks be sent directly to the MCC Great Lakes office in Goshen. Checks should be payable to : **MCC** and mailed directly to **MCC Great Lakes Regional Office, 1013 Division St., Goshen, IN 46528**. Please include memo line **MCC Bike Michiana** and specify **John Amstutz sponsorship**. Please notify me of your sponsorship and amount contributed by email to obojohn@gmail.com Thank you for your generosity and for helping to make this my \$30 000 year.

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 ON THE JOURNEY

As I was on vacation last week I found myself in a formally familiar place, taking a hike on the Appalachian Trail. I was enjoying the beauty and the hike (but not enjoying the 88 degrees with high humidity). I was joined by a stranger for 2 miles of my hike, the stranger was an Appalachian Trail (AT) surveyor. The first mile was a pleasant conversation about his job as well as some AT history. After a mile he then asked about what it is that I do. I then braced myself for the barrage of questions that were soon to be coming.

This person had some very strong opinions about church. For several minutes I heard complaint after complaint about there being too many "sinners" in churches these days. So much so that he himself had to stop attending church just months ago. After hearing his very long list of people who should not attend church it was clear I had to respond. My first response, which admittedly was a bit snarky, "not everyone is as perfect as you" did not seem to be sufficient so, I had to say more.

I had a suspension of what this person wanted me to respond with, but thankfully the Spirit of God gave me a response I was not expecting, which came in the form of Scripture, Hebrews 10:23-25 NRSVUE

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Soon after paraphrasing this passage we had to part ways as he was continuing on and I arrived at my destination, a scenic overlook. As I looked down over the valley, I looked up these verses to see what it did say. What a great task we are given, to encourage one another and to provoke each other to love and good deeds. How easy it is to be led down a path where our focus becomes to provoke in ways that do not lead to love and good deeds, or to be discouraging instead of encouraging. -- Craig

549-0577 shalommennonite.com

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, Craig Oury
