

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 16, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (11/13), Brian continued the sermon series on Jonah by preaching from chapter 3.

This Sunday (11/20), Craig will finish the sermon series in Jonah 4, which contrasts God's mercy with Jonah's anger.

Next Sunday (11/27), is the first Sunday of Advent. This year, we will be focusing on the theme that "Restoration is coming," and Brian will preach the first sermon from Isaiah 2 and Matthew 24 about "Hope from Beyond."

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

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

Sunday, November 20, 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

Thursday, November 24. Thanksgiving dinner at the church. We would plan to begin eating at 1 pm. Turkey will be offered; please bring a dish to share. Plan to stay for fellowship as long as you wish. (The TV can be available for "the games".) There is a sign-up sheet on the window in the foyer so we know how many to set up for. Contact Linda Showalter with questions.

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)

Shalom Mennonite Christmas Banquet, The evening of December 10th. The banquet will be a planned carry-in. We will have sign up sheets posted next week.

Monday, December 12 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

Monday, January 2 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Northwest Panera, 2902 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

Thursday, January 12, 6 pm Commission Chairs

Tuesday, January 17, 7 pm Community Life Commission

Monday, January 23 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Monday, January 30 from 9a to 3p Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread - 8510 E 96th Street, Fishers, 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

Fri, Nov 18 -- Charles Harms

Sun, Nov 20 -- John & Lois Amstutz, 1965

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Sunday School

I know many of us enjoy the children that are part of Shalom. And I believe that the children enjoy the adults that are part of our community. Teaching Sunday School is a wonderful way to support the children and families at Shalom. Teaching in partnership with a co-teacher ensures the burden of preparing lessons and covering class days is shared. Please consider joining the teaching team in January.

Laura needs to know who can help - harms.laura@gmail.com

Teachers needed to start in January:

Pre-K: 2 co-teachers needed for Spring semester (Jan - May)

Elementary: 1 co-teacher for Spring semester (Jan - May)

Adult Education schedule

Sunday, November 20

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

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

Sunday school for adults or children

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Morning Star Church in Muncie needs food donations for their weekly Food Pantry.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to church or notify Frank for pick-up.

The useful life of Morning Star's rickety old building has finally come to an end with water infiltration in the basement and mold in the sanctuary, but they have made down-payment on a nearby vacant building and are able to carry on with the ministry--more details will be forthcoming.

Frank Kandel on behalf of the Outreach Commission

309-532-2859

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

The VAT met to review the results of the Congregational Survey and the follow up discussion during the Sunday school hour. There were four clear areas of vision that emerged from the discussions. As we mentioned previously, the Vision Goals are the way we meet the mission of the congregation. The four areas are related to the congregational life, diversity, the children and youth, and anti-racism. The VAT formulated four potential vision statements based on these areas and the mission statement.

Shalom will continue to be a dynamic congregation, which is...

1....GROWING in the desire to more fully know God and each other through deepening spiritual, social, and physical connections

2. ...FOLLOWING JESUS together by seeking unity in our diversity

3. ...SUPPORTING one another by committing to nurture children and youth

4. ...BECOMING an anti-racist church as a way of sharing God's love, justice, and peace with the world

Please review these potential goals and prayerfully consider how these may be utilized. Consider any changes that might enhance each of the goals keeping in mind that there will be more specifics given for ways to carry out and measure the goals. We will be considering these goals on Sunday regarding the Vision Statements.

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.

Christ and Nizzett need someone who has a truck and who can help us dispose some trash from our garage. They are mostly boxes, there is also other trash. We will definitely help with gas whoever volunteers to help out.

Text Chris at 443-801-2675 if you'd like to help.

Short Term Bible Study Group. One study group has been formed for the Anabaptism at 500 Bible Study. We can have more groups if people are interested. Contact Carol Bixler for more information.

Everyone is invited to share a meal on Thanksgiving day at the church. We would plan to begin eating at 1 pm. Turkey will be offered; please bring a dish to share. Plan to stay for fellowship as long as you wish. (The TV can be available for "the games".) There is a sign-up sheet on the window in the foyer so we know how many to set up for and indicate what dish they intend to bring.. However, even if you don't have the time or ability to bring a dish, we still want you to come! Contact Linda Showalter with questions.

Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) meeting – Northview Church of the Brethren 11/12/2022

ECCN is an affiliate of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (HIPL). HIPL has merged with **Faith in Place** making it a three state Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) affiliate in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Faith in Place is an established IPL affiliate and should be a beneficial partner in advancing the vision of "people of diverse faiths and spiritualities leading the environmental movement to create healthy, just, and sustainable communities for all".

The main emphasis of this meeting was to meet with Jalisa Mauldin and Christine Glaser from **Faith in Place**. Jalisa is Indiana outreach coordinator from Gary, Indiana. Christine is Indiana Policy Coordinator from Bloomington, Indiana. They explained five program areas for making healthier communities: Advocacy, Energy & Climate, Youth, Food & Land Use and Water

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

First-World Anxiety

"Cast all your anxiety on God because God cares for you." – 1 Peter 5:7

There are pros and cons to living in a prosperous and technologically advanced society like the United States. Some of the pros include the incredible access we have to food, clothing, medical care, and even recreation, and we shouldn't take any of these things for granted. Most people from the past and many people around the world today face threats of war, famine, and disease on a scale that we have never encountered. The cons, by contrast, seem comparatively light: we experience more pressures, expectations, and stress than most people from the past and from other parts of the world, probably because we are blessed with more opportunities. For example, some of us may be anxious about performing well in school or about making arrangements for Thanksgiving. Both of these anxieties are rooted in privilege – it is a privilege to go to school and to celebrate a holiday – and yet we fret over them nonetheless. We even have a term we use to frame our stressors as comparatively harmless challenges: "first-world problems." This reminds us that people in the majority world have bigger things to worry about, and it's intended to help us keep things in perspective.

However, there is a downside to framing our stressors as "first world problems": it can make us feel self-conscious for being anxious over non-life-threatening matters, and this can impact our spiritual walk with God. Maybe I should just speak for myself. For me, I don't hesitate to ask for prayer if I or a loved one am facing a health crisis or a justice issue. But for many of the issues that really consume my thoughts and time – like the anxiety I may feel about meeting new people, or about performing well at a presentation, or about getting through all the items on my "To Do" list – I am not inclined to bring them up as a prayer concern. In fact, I am not even inclined to bring them up in my private prayers to God because I imagine it is somehow vain to pray about such things. But doing this doesn't make these "trivial" issues any less important to me – it just keeps God out of a significant part of my life.

However, the short verse from 1 Peter that I referenced invites us to cast all of our anxieties on God. This doesn't just include the big anxieties, but the small ones, the petty ones, the illogical ones – *all* of them. God wants us to bring them in prayer. But why? Not in order to critique us or condemn us for being so fixated on unimportant issues, but simply because God cares for us. God wants to communicate with us about the things that are on our mind because God cares.

So if you can't figure out what to wear to a fancy event and it's really stressing you out, bring God in on it. If you're upset about a sports game and it's making you feel angry as you try to go to bed, ask God for help. Yes, these things are less serious than some of the life-threatening issues that other people experience, but guess what? God can listen to those concerns and listen to ours at the same time. One does not take away from the other. So bring your anxieties and cares, no matter how petty they feel, to God. Why? Simply because God cares. ~ Brian

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 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 Stocksdale
Brian Bither, Craig Oury
