

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 20, 2021

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

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (10/17)**, Wilma Bailey will continue our sermon series by preaching from Numbers 11-12 looking at the leadership roles of the church. After worship we had a business meeting to vote on the Widerstand proposal.

**This Sunday (10/24)**, Craig will look at Numbers 13-14 and the consequences that come from God's people's actions and words.

**Next Sunday (10/31)**, Brian will continue the sermon series from Numbers 15-20

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

**From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21**, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey is leading us in a study of the book of Numbers.

**Sat, November 20**, from 9 am-noon, Fall work day at the church.

### **Celebrations**

Tue, Oct 26 – Sabrina Falls

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

Chair: Martha Yoder

**The minutes** from the October 17 business meeting are attached.

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

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who serve Shalom! At this time, the official positions for the church year are filled, but volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Although the pandemic limits what we can do in person, the work of the church continues. If you are interested in an area of service, please contact Joyce Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Frank Kandel ([kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com)), or Raphael Edou ([raphaedou@gmail.com](mailto:raphaedou@gmail.com)).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Vacation**

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Sunday, October 17 through Saturday, October 23. Please contact Pastor Craig with any questions or concerns you have during that time at [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

### **MCC Bike Michiana Contributions**

To: Friends at Shalom Mennonite Church

Thank you for your generous participation in the MCC Bike Michiana Tour project. Disappointingly, the tour was canceled two weeks prior to the scheduled date, but that did not keep me

from plans for going to Goshen to see my sisters, which I had planned to do anyway before the tour event. I did ride the Pumpkin Vine Trail with my sister Mary, and brother-in-law Glenn Gilbert. The trail included a short segment that has been routinely part of the tour near Shipshewana.

Total contributed by family, friends and SMC: \$3946.00

Total contributed by SMC friends: \$1161.00

Designated memorial Dagne Assefa \$ 961.00

Designated memorial Tim Bixler \$ 200.00

Since 2005, when I first participated in the tour, SMC has contributed to a total of \$27, 950. Perhaps

next year will be the \$30,000 year. I am grateful for friends who have shared their resources to make life better for the less-privileged.

John Amstutz

**Commission Chair** minutes are attached

### **Support for Gemima and daughters**

Gemima has shared the great news that she received her work authorization and has a job interview lined up. The "support group" that meets to evaluate continuing with financial support for the family recommends we continue providing the monthly support during this transition time.

Donations are needed to cover October's support of \$600 and for future months as well. Please send checks made out to Shalom Mennonite Church with "Hernandez/Trochez fund" on the memo line. Send checks to the church address or to Bob Love. These donations are not tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Laura Harms. [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

**Let your voice be heard by taking part in our denomination-wide survey.** Your responses will help Mennonite Church USA better serve the needs of its members. Take the survey here. [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/member-survey) En español: [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/member-survey-espanol)

In addition to our podcast, Shalom now 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.

**PLEASE NOTE: You can only watch the first 60 minutes of a recording while online at this site.** However you can watch the **entire recording if you download it** onto your computer/tablet and then watch it from the downloaded MP4 file. Be aware that these files are 300MB - 1200MB in size. First click on the recording and then the download (direct download) function is at the top right. When finished watching, delete that downloaded MP4 file from your computer/tablet so you gain back that space. -Jim

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 is now compiling *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 now 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

### *Understanding understanding*

Proverbs 18:2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing personal opinion. (NRSV)

When I was in seminary, one year I signed up to be a substitute teacher because I didn't have any classes that semester on Friday and I thought it would be a good way to make a little money while still having the flexibility of saying "no" if I had too much work to do that day. Part of the background check for becoming a sub was to get finger printed at the police station. I was in the waiting room and a man came up to me saying, "God doesn't want you to be here. It's not too late, you can turn your life around right now. It is never too late." I was then handed a tract about heaven and hell as he walked by and he kept going. Before he made it out the door I asked how he knew that God didn't want me to be a substitute teacher, but he didn't stop. I guess he had done his part in trying to help me along the right path but it didn't work with me, I proceed to become a sub (for that year anyway.) One particular difficult day of being a substitute teacher I remembered that encounter and thought, I should have listened to him.

Why is it that we make assumptions about people, their lives, their circumstances? Why is it easier to assume than to understand? My interaction with this person didn't leave me feeling good. What if I was really in trouble and was looking to turn my life around? Would a quick statement from a stranger help me with that? I don't want to focus too much on my assumptions about this individual and their motivation. What is more helpful for me is to look at myself. When are the times when I speak based on assumptions? How have my words been hurtful to someone because I did not want to take the time to understand their situation and instead wanted to just walk out the door? I remember a specific time when I spoke an opinion without the interest of understanding and wasn't happy with myself. So I came up with a guiding principle; opinions are best, when asked for. Because when I ask someone for advice or their opinion it is usually because we've already talked about the situation I am in. I feel like they have an understanding of me and where I am at, and most importantly, if I ask, I am more likely ready to hear what they have to say. If I feel that way, I should let others have the space to decide when they want to hear my thoughts spoken into their lives. – Craig

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](http://shalommennonite.com)

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

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