

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 27, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (4/24), . Brian offered an overview of Hebrews and some background information as we prepare to engage on of the most theologically dense books of the Bible.

This Sunday (5/1), Brian will be preaching from Hebrews 1, which makes the case that Christ had to be more than human - and even more than a supernatural being like an angel - in order to do the work of salvation that he came to do.

Next Sunday (5/8), Sabrina Falls will bring the message as we continue our sermon series of Hebrews.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Saturday April 30 work day at Shalom from 9am-12pm all volunteers are welcome.

Sunday May 1 worship at 9:30 am and Sunday School at 11 am. Masks now required in worship again, please see notice in the VAT section.

Monday, May 9 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St Suite A, Fishers, IN 46038

Monday, May 16 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 U.S. Hwy 31 N, Greenwood, IN 46142

Monday, May 30 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th St Suite 220, Indianapolis, IN 46268

Monday, June 6 from 9a to 3p - Brian's Roving Office - East Side Starbucks, 9605 Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46229

Fall Retreat. Shalom is scheduled for our annual fall retreat for Saturday October 8th 9 am at Jamenson Camp on the west side of Indianapolis. CLC is asking for volunteers to help plan the retreat. The theme for this year is Celebrating Life Together after Lock Down. If you would like to help plan for this retreat contact Herb Troyer, Rose Love, or Craig Oury.

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, April 29 -- Rosemary Harvey

Sat, April 30 -- Liam Sanders

Tue, May 3 -- Ernest Hodel

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Sunday School for 2-yr olds: Shalom is considering whether to begin offering Sunday School for the littlest ones. If you are a parent and would like to have a class for your 2-year old, please let Laura know. Laura would also like to hear from anyone interested in teaching this class for the month of May. harms.laura@gmail.com

Sunday School classes offered:

PreK class for 3-5yr olds not enrolled in school - Taught by Carol Weaver

Early Elementary for K-3rd grade - Taught by Debora Akotonou with Rose Love

JYF/MYF for 6th-12th grade - Co-taught by OlaJowon Turentine and Frank Kandel with Julie Sanders

Older MYF students will also be invited to join an adult class if they prefer.

For any questions you can contact Laura Harms

May 1: Child safety training led by Jeanne Smucker. See more information below.

May 8: Study of Hebrews, led by Martha Yoder Maust

Child Safety Update

Our church safety policy calls for all volunteers and staff who work with children to read the child safety policy, have an annual training in child safety, and sign a form saying that we have done those two things and giving permission for Shalom to screen us against the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Registry. Naturally, while we were meeting on Zoom, all of our training has lapsed. If you plan to volunteer with children and youth in any capacity, please read the whole policy at https://03ff43b8-6fb3-4d90-959d-7a286ce1876a.filesusr.com/ugd/ca885f_a892dd590dec405faec239962c904332.pdf

Jeanne will lead a training session on May 1 during the 11:00 Sunday school hour. After that we will ask you to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on page 6 of that document and to fill out and sign the Authorization for Criminal History Check on page 7. Turn these completed forms in to Martha Yoder Maust or Jeanne Smucker or put them in the Discipling Commission mailbox at church. If you watch the training on Zoom and do not have a way to read or print the forms, please let Martha know and she will mail you the document. For those who cannot attend the training on May 1 (including those currently teaching the children), we will arrange additional opportunities for you to have training.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Smucker or Martha Yoder Maust.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

We have gotten new information regarding the case rates of COVID-19 in Marion County. The rate is now up to almost 10. That is twice the rate we had set earlier to remove masks. So, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trochez/Hernandez support funds: The financial support for Gemima and her daughters is planned through July and the fund will need just a little more to make it there! The need is for about \$400.

Savannah and Eric Easter are now at home with their new baby, and as is Shalom's tradition, we invite church members to support them through this transitional time by preparing a meal for them and delivering it to their home during the next two weeks. To do this, you can follow [this link](#) to sign up directly on the Take Them a Meal website, or you can contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Breaking the body of Christ? Hear MWC General Secretary César García

Join César García and Mennonite World Conference (MWC) President Nelson Kraybill at Silverwood Mennonite Church, 1745 W Lincoln Avenue in Goshen, on Thursday evening, April 28 at 7:30pm for a public gathering lifting up Jesus' prayer for the unity of the church. "When we exercise our gift of unity as sisters and brothers in Christ and follow Jesus together, others are more likely to follow Jesus, too," says César. Come and welcome César to our community!

You can access the stream by [this link](#) or on Silverwood Mennonite Church's [Facebook page](#).

Work day at Shalom Saturday April 30th from 9AM-12 noon. All volunteers are welcome.

May 22 will be a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"! Look for an announcement soon with details.

Fellowship Committee will be starting Sunday coffee time back up in June, so all can join in on the fun look for a new revised cleanup schedule.

Mennonite Fellowships in Bloomington and Paoli, Indiana will be hosting contemporary hymn writer Adam Tice for a special "HymnSing" using the new Mennonite Hymnal, Voices Together on Sunday, May 1st at the First United Church 2420 East Third Street in Bloomington. Tice has written many contemporary hymns and is an Editor of the new hymnal. He will lead the HymnSing which starts at 3 in the afternoon. A small music ensemble from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music will accompany the singing and a reception will follow in the Church Fellowship Hall. Please bring a copy of Voices Together if you have one. Please contact the Rev. Tim Jessen for further information at tjessen@sbcglobal.net or 812 325 8267

"Political Idolatry: Countering Christian Nationalism" is a free webinar offered by Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary at 2:00 PM on May 4, taught by professor Drew Strait. More information and registration at <https://www.ambs.edu/what-is-christian-nationalism/>

Barbara Longoria has received a gift of a full box of small fruit cakes that she will bring to Shalom on Sunday to share with the congregation. Please help yourselves. Barbara will add any remaining fruit cakes to the collection of items for the Morning Star church food pantry.

Here is the link for Merienda Menonita podcast. Latest guest interview related to conflict situations in the world: Zenebe Abebe (Ethiopia). Upcoming episodes will feature Rafael Edou (Benin) and Walter Sawatsky (Europe). <https://anabaptistworld.org/podcast-latest/merienda-menonita-podcast/>

Shalom has contracted a web designer to improve the appearance of our website and make it easier to use and view. As part of this process, we invite anyone to send any big or small suggestions about improving the website, including content changes, to Tim Ludden at timothy.ludden@gmail.com by May 10. The AC plans to review the recommendations and review them with the web designer. While not all suggestions will be adopted, we would love to hear the congregations' thoughts on improving the website. (For clarity, this redesign is focused on general improvements and will not make any major overhauls or changes to the current structure of the website.)

Attached is the prayer memo for May from the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

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

A Belated Earth Day Reflection

With everything else going on in our church and the world, I forgot to celebrate Earth Day last week, so I'd like to do that now. Although Earth Day did not come out of the Christian tradition in the same way that Christmas and Easter did, it's a holiday that Christians would do well to support. It was created in 1970, when humanity was growing and consuming at a faster rate than it ever had before, and people were beginning to notice that our economic practices were not sustainable for the environment. So some Republican and Democratic leaders got together and created Earth Day to encourage people to think about the impact their choices has on the earth at least once per year. I often use the opportunity to commit to better environmental practices, such as bringing re-usable grocery bags to the mall, recycling and composting, and trying to reduce waste. I'm grateful that a day is set aside to call our attention to this.

It shouldn't take much work to convince Christians that the earth is worthy of our protection. Our Scriptures tell us that God created the earth and called it good (Genesis 1:1-4), that the first human job was to tend to the earth (Genesis 2:15), and that God cares about the animals (Matt 6:26) and even the land (Leviticus 25:1-7) for their own sakes, not just in terms of how they benefit humans. All of these should motivate us to be better stewards of our environment.

However, the verse that I personally think about the most on Earth day is 1 Corinthians 10:31, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." When I heard this passage growing up, I was a little puzzled by it. I wondered how I could "eat" in a way that glorified God - maybe eating with my mouth closed? But Earth Day reminds me that all of my choices have consequences for the environment, including what food I buy, how I transport it, and what I do with whatever is left when I am finished eating. So one way that I can glorify God in my eating and drinking is by doing it in a way that respects and sustains the earth that God loves.

Yes, Earth Day has passed, but it's not the date that really matters - it's the practice. Is there any way that you could change your everyday routines and behaviors to better glorify God by protecting the earth this year?

~ 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, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdale
Brian Bither
