

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 7, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (12/4), was the second Sunday of Advent, and Brian encouraged us to think of John the Baptist's warnings for us to repent as similar to that of an impassioned driver's ed instructor, who wants us to enjoy the positive experience that is coming but who knows we really need to be prepared for it..

This Sunday (12/11), is the third Sunday of Advent, Craig will bring the message from Matthew 11:2-11, hope in times of waiting.

Next Sunday (12/18), is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Brian will be looking at the stories of Ahaz in Isaiah 7:10-16 and Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25 and considering the risks that we are asked to take in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Shalom Mennonite Christmas Dinner, The evening of December 10th. The dinner will be a planned carry-in. More info below.

Sunday, December 11, 9:30 am Worship, Sunday School.

Coffee and teatime between Worship and Sunday School will be downstairs. The coffee time clean up for December are those whose last name begins with K-M.

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

Sun, Dec 11 -- Abigail Deiter
Sun, Dec 11 -- Julie Sanders
Tue, Dec 13 -- Sam Bixler
Wed, Dec 14 -- Carlos Reyes & Gemina Trochez

Christmas Dinner, on the evening of December 10 we will be having a Christmas dinner pot luck. At 5 pm we will begin with a caroling in the neighborhood. 5:30 will be appetizers, 6:00 pm will be the dinner. If you'd like to bring something for the pot luck please see the sign-up sheet at the entrance to the sanctuary. If you are planning to attend the caroling please also sign-up for that, either at the back of the sanctuary or by emailing Craig, craig@shalommennonite.com.

Also if you are interested in planning any program for the dinner please contact Herb or Craig.

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Sunday School

NEW

Bathroom/Hall assistant - We'd like to have a volunteer or a rotation of volunteers to be near the classrooms to support teachers by walking children to the bathroom, filling water pitchers, grabbing a needed supply from the craft cabinets, etc. You can help with anything so that teachers can stay in the classroom with the larger group of kids.

Copy the chart below into an email, adding your name next to the date you can cover.

Date	Name
Dec 11	
Dec 18	
Jan 8	
Jan 15	
Jan 22	
Jan 29	

ON-GOING Teachers needed to start in January:

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

Elementary: Frank and Rod will co-teach

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to share that the congregation has affirmed Dan Rosenberger to serve Shalom on the Administration Commission. He joins Mike Wigginton (chair) and Sam Bixler.

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

Administration

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

New book: The Land is not Empty, by Sarah Augustine: Following Jesus in dismantling the doctrine of discovery. White settlers saw land for the taking. They failed to consider the perspective of the people already here. A study guide is available for download at MennoMedia.

Children! Don't miss the Christmas books by the doors in the library!

Deacons. You may have noticed some new people coming to Shalom lately. Which means it is time to add some new deacons! If you have an interest in becoming a Deacon or have any questions please contact pastor Craig, he'll be happy to hear from you.

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

Good News... for Animals?

"The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together and a little child shall lead them... The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." - Isaiah 11:6-10

Last Sunday, I focused on the story of John the Baptist in my sermon, but the lectionary also offered this beautiful passage in Isaiah about wolves lying down with lambs and other antagonistic creatures getting along. Many interpreters would say that this is a metaphor for the people of various nations coming together in peace - something that would have been as hard to imagine as a calf getting along with a lion. I am sure that this interpretation is correct, but I wonder if this passage is *also* a hope for the redemption of the animal kingdom in God's restorative reign. Could the coming of Christ be good news for animals too?

An argument in favor of this is the suggestion that Isaiah 11:8 may be a reference to Genesis 3. Genesis 3 is the chapter which introduces the "Fall," which was event that describes how the world became the way it is - full of

evil and not as God intended. According to Genesis, the Fall not only impacted human beings but the earth and the animal kingdom as well. Specifically, Genesis 3:15 says that God "will put enmity between you [the serpent] and the woman, between your offspring and hers." The enmity between a snake and the woman's child is the symbol of the brokenness between humans and animals. If that's true, does the image of a child putting its head on the adder's den represent reconciliation between humans and animals as the very reversal of the image in Genesis 3:15?

This is certainly not the only passage that expresses God's concern for animal well-being. (Some others include Proverbs 12:10, Luke 12:6, and Jonah 4:11) If we take this concept seriously, it makes me wonder what kind of implications it has for our lives. For example, if carnivorous animals are getting along with herbivores, does that mean we all will be vegetarians? If God cares this much about animals, shouldn't this impact the choices we make about how new construction or the use of resources impacts the animals who need them? Does it impact the way that we relate even to our pets?

I am not sure if there are clear answers to these questions, but simply thinking about them can have an effect on the way we live. ~ 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 Stocksdales
Brian Bither, Craig Oury