

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church February 23, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (2/20), Monica Miller visited with us and preached about Esther's complicated position as the most powerful woman in the Persian empire who was at the same time a threatened ethnic minority in a sermon called, "Who knows?: Glass Ceilings and Genocide."

This Sunday (2/27) is transfiguration Sunday. Brian will be preaching from Exodus 34:29-35, Luke 9:28-36, & 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 about unveiling our faces in the presence of Christ.

Wednesday, March 2 is the first day of Lent, and we will be hosting an in-person Ash Wednesday service at 7pm at Shalom in conjunction with First Mennonite. All are welcome to attend.

Next Sunday (3/6) is the first Sunday of Lent, and Brian will be preaching about Jesus' temptations in Luke 4.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 27

--- 9:30a - Sunday School: "Goal-setting: What might our next steps be?" led by Carol Bither and OlaJowon Turentine

--- 10:30a - *Communion Sunday*. During our Zoom worship service, we will be offering virtual communion. We invite you to bring your own bread (or other food) and juice (or other drink) so that you can participate in communion from home during the service.

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday)

--- 7pm - Ash Wednesday service with First Mennonite **in-person at Shalom**

Friday, March 4 World Day of Prayer services (see attached for details)

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday of Lent)

--- **This will be our first Sunday back for in-person church services. Please note that the Worship Services will go back to starting at 9:30a, with Sunday school resuming at 11a.**

--- 9:30a - Worship service **in-person at Shalom** with a streaming option available for those who want to participate from home

--- 11a/after church - Congregational meeting to give feedback to our delegate about the resolutions under consideration at the Special Assembly meeting

Celebrations

Thursday 2/24 Chris Deiter

Saturday 2/26 Jeanne Smucker

Tuesday 3/1 Mary Tackitt

Wednesday 3/2 Noe Martinez

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Sunday School will begin on March 13. Classes offered will be Pre-K for ages 3-5, K-3rd grade (can include 5 year olds that are in Kindergarten), and combined JYF/MYF.

We continue to seek one more co-teacher. Please reach out to Laura if you can be part of our teaching team. harms.laura@gmail.com

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence February newsletter is attached. Brad Yoder

House Bill 1077 which would end the licensing of handguns in Indiana is now moving again in the Indiana Senate. Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence believes that requiring a license to carry a handgun

helps to keep us safe from people who should not carry guns. Brad Yoder will be testifying against HB 1077 again to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday at 1:30 (see attached testimony). If you have not already contacted your state senator, we encourage you to do so. You could also contact the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee identified below. Also, in the event that the measure passes out of committee, we need to quickly be in touch with our respective senators, again to voice our opposition. Thank you for considering this important social justice matter. Brad Yoder s15@iga.in.gov Brown 317-232-9414; s44@iga.in.gov Koch 317-234-9425; s8@iga.in.gov Bohachek 317-232-9541; s21@iga.in.gov Buck 317-232-9466 shares w/ Sen. Glick; s32@iga.in.gov Freeman 317-232-9490; s26@iga.in.gov Gaskill 317-234-9443; s13@iga.in.gov Glick 317-232-9466 shares w/ Sen. Buck; s35@iga.in.gov Young 317-232-9517; s2@iga.in.gov Randolph 317-232-9532; s25@iga.in.gov Lanane 317-232-9847; s33@iga.in.gov Taylor 317-232-9427

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Sunday school class on Spiritual Gifts Discernment will begin on March 13. If you have interest in discerning your spiritual gifts prior to then, or if you prefer a format other than a group class, please contact Joyce Troyer at troyers_hj@hotmail.com.

Vision and Accountability Team

Chair: Cheryl Martin

As we begin to gather in person for worship, there are some guidelines we will need to follow. These guidelines are meant to help us worship safely without causing illness to our fellow church members. We have planned these guidelines to be respectful to each other, to show our love for one another, and to help others feel safe. Thank you for showing your love and respect for one another in these ways.

1. Please do not attend services if you are feeling ill in any way.
2. All persons must wear a mask during the entire service and while in the building.
3. We request that only fully vaccinated individuals (if eligible for vaccination) attend services.
4. Please space yourselves in the sanctuary so there is sufficient distance between groups and individuals.
5. There will not be a coffee time between church and Sunday school at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Do you have questions about Shalom, the Mennonite Church, or the Christian faith? Are you interested in making a deeper commitment? The Discipling Commission will be planning a baptism exploration class soon, which is designed for people who are new to Shalom, Mennonites, or Christianity to learn, ask questions, and get involved. Please email Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com if you are interested. With the conflict in Ukraine dominating the headlines, few people are paying attention to the ongoing war in Myanmar, where the military took over the democratically-elected government about a year ago and has been brutally oppressing the population ever since. Many of our brothers and sisters at the Mara Christian Church have family members who have fled their homes and are living as refugees in the neighboring state of India, and they support them regularly by sending money to a humanitarian organization called Mara Thyutlia Py (MTP). We are inviting the CAMFell churches to show our support to the Mara community by joining in the relief effort. If you feel led to give to this cause, you can send a check to the "Mara Christian Church of America" at 415 W Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, IN, and write "Myanmar aid" in the memo line. They will then forward your donations to MTP with instructions that it be spent on humanitarian aid. Thank you for considering this!

Indiana AID is running a virtual visitation program for the immigrants at the Clay County jail, under the leadership of the Interfaith Coalition of Detained Immigrants. With several transfers coming into Clay County, the needs are pouring in! We are looking for (1) volunteers - both Spanish and English speakers - who will commit to talking with a partner for 20 minutes per week, (2) donations to help with legal fees and other monumental costs that immigrants face, and (3) people to sign up to be on a transportation or translation call list. You can read more about this at indianaaid.org or email Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Vacation: Pastor Craig will be on vacation from February 21-28. Please contact Pastor Brian if you have any concerns during that time at Brian@shalommennote.com

In addition to our podcast, Shalom has a **YouTube channel**. 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, newcomers, and even outsiders. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReooskuxUXA! **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 now 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

Corinthians 15:15 stood out in the readings for February 13. "We are then found to be false witnesses about God" if we deny the resurrection. What is the consequence of being a false witness about God? Is that only about the resurrection? Or can we be false witnesses about God in other areas?

I'm reading Jim Wallis' book, *On God's Side*, written in 2013. He makes a distinction between the "atonement-only" gospel of his childhood and his current understanding of Jesus' "gospel of the kingdom." Is one of these views bearing false witness about God?

What about justifying war in God's name? That is certainly not a true image of God, is it? The late-night comedians find it amusing to say that one's baptism is invalid if the priest used "we" instead of "I" in the liturgy. Is God amused or abused? What about the church banning someone for wearing a wedding band? Mennonites did that.

In our current discussions, are we false witnesses to God if we get it "wrong" about LGBTQIA inclusion/exclusion? Which of us knows for sure? How important is it? ~ Carol Bixler

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

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