

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 23, 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (3/20), was the third Sunday of Lent and Brian preached from Luke 13:1-9 about the urgency of repentance.

This Sunday (3/27), is the fourth Sunday of Lent, and Brian will be preaching about the freedom of confession from Psalm 32.

Next Sunday (4/3), is the fifth Sunday of Lent, and Craig will be preaching about unreserved worship from John 12:1-8

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:30 with Sunday School following

Adult Sunday School will be in the sanctuary and will also be available on Zoom.

Thursday April 14, 7 PM Maundy Thursday service at the church.

As we begin meeting in person, 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

Sat, March 26, 2005 -- Kim & Krystal Johnson

Sun, March 27 -- Marilyn Teel

Mon, March 28 -- Jerry Teel

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Sunday School classes offered:

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

Early Elementary for K-3rd grade - Taught by Debora Akototonou 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

harms.laura@gmail.com

March 27 will be your opportunity to share your favorite Bible story or passage and why it's important to you--and if you can recite it from memory, better yet!

April 3, 10, 24: OlaJowon will lead us in Bible study using tools from BibleProject.com
April 17, Easter, no Sunday school for adults or children

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

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

During the month of March please bring **non perishable** items to church for the Morning Star Church Food Pantry in Muncie.

Thank you!

Frank Kandel for the Outreach Commission

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence newsletter is attached

Disability Awareness Month

Although not as well-known as basketball and Saint Patrick's Day in Indiana, March also has the title of Disability Awareness Month. Shalom is a member of Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) whose vision is "Faith communities are transformed when individuals with disabilities and their God-given gifts and experiences enjoy full inclusion in the Body of Christ." Their website includes comprehensive resources for all categories of disabilities including caregiving and hidden disabilities: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Resources/Pages/resources.aspx>.

One gem of many in ADN's resource list is the inspiring recorded webinar ***Do You Want To Get Well? Healing What Divides Us*** with Amy Julia Becker. She addresses the many social divisions in our society and how we can move beyond inclusion to belonging: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrvtYdSxvc8>.

Planning for the care of a dependent family member with disabilities is the subject of free webinar provided by ADN on March 31. It can be attended at 2:00pm ET or 8pm ET, or viewed later. For more information, please click here: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Resources/Webinars/Pages/After-We're-Gone.aspx>.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

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

Several Shalom households participate in a group subscription to Anabaptist World. Our subscription expires in June 2022 and we will be submitting our updated list of subscribers by the end of March. **If you would like to receive Anabaptist World, please let me know** and I will add your name to the list of subscribers. It is a monthly publication and the group rate is **\$39 per year**.

Bob Love

People of Shalom we would like to hear from you! We are looking for people to write reflections for Journeying Together. It can be a story, an experience, a poem, or a response to a piece of Scripture. If you would like to give a try sometime email the office at, office@shalommennonite.com and we would be happy to schedule a week for 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 is 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

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. Psalm 146:1-7

While it is true that many psalms praise God for specific, miraculous acts of individual and national deliverance, here is precisely that these divine acts are *not* special interventions, not extraordinary instances of divine compassion, but rather this is who God is. God provides in a world that God created. God made the heaven and the earth, praise God! God made the sea and all that is in heaven and earth and sea, praise God!

Psalm 146-150 are a part of the morning daily prayers. To be prayed at the start of each morning. For at the start of each day we are reminded to praise God for what God has done, and what God has done is given us life again for the day. This Psalm invites us to not think of praise and worshiping God based on a feeling or a result of what God has done right here right now, it is something that happens no matter the circumstances of life. In this Psalm of praise we get a glimpse of something else. In praising God we are in fact trusting God praising God is played against trusting in mortals, specifically human rulers.

May I be reminded that praising God is also an act of trusting God.

– Craig Oury

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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Brian Bither
