

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

March , 2022

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

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

This Sunday (3/6), is the second Sunday of Lent and Craig will be preaching from Luke 13:31-35.

Next Sunday (3/13), is the third Sunday of Lent and Brian will be preaching on the theme of repentance.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

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

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.

Shalom encourages participants to be connected to others in the church in multiple ways for support and fellowship. Small groups are a primary way for these contacts and connections to occur. Now that many of us are able to meet in person again, it's time to rethink small groups. Some groups have kept meeting virtually during the past two years, some have met infrequently when weather permitted, and some haven't met. Most of us have learned the basics of using Zoom and other apps to stay in touch with others. Technology will continue to be a valuable means of connecting for individuals who remain at risk, are at a distance, or have other reasons to avoid in-person meetings.

Interest has been expressed in a virtual small group that meets weekly to discuss the sermon and meditate on related scriptures. Please contact Herb Troyer (troyers_hj@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining this group or want to be in a small group with a different focus. Herb Troyer

Celebrations

Wed, March 16 -- Jason Rosales Harms

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

We are ready to invite children back to in-person Sunday School on March 13. Classes offered will be:
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 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
harms.laura@gmail.com

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

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Sunday School Class

If you would like to discern your spiritual gifts and get to know some folks on a deeper level, you are invited to participate in the class that will begin this Sunday, March 13. It will meet at the church with a virtual option to attend in a breakout room after the Zoom worship experience. The class format will be similar to a small group that meets during Sunday school. I (Joyce) will present some content, but the majority of the class time will be sharing personal life stories and responses to these stories. The duration of the class will depend on the total number of participants.

The text we'll be using is Network Participant's Guide, Revised (2005) by Bruce Bugbee and Don Cousins. The church library has these books to borrow. If you prefer to buy your own, it's available online at Amazon and other new and used book sellers. But it isn't necessary to have or even read the book if you don't find reading helpful.

Please email me (troyers_hj@hotmail.com) if you wish to attend, have questions, or would like information on alternative methods of discerning your spiritual gifts. If you plan to attend virtually, please contact me so I can email materials to you.

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

ARLINGTON WOODS NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

From time to time, our congregation has been briefed on activities at the Neighborhood Association. For now, Shalom Mennonite Church's involvement in this organization is limited to Zenebe Abebe attending monthly association meetings. However, the past couple of years, several Shalom members were involved in neighborhood cleanup days, which is very much appreciated by members of the Neighborhood Association.

Our involvement as a church is a positive one and has created energy and great appreciation about our partnership by the Neighborhood Association. We hope that Shalom congregation will be more actively involved in our neighborhood's affairs.

You're Invited:

The outreach commission agreed to have one other person from Shalom attend the Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association meeting with Zenebe. This will strengthen our relationship more, and when Zenebe is unable to attend a meeting, there will always be someone at the table representing our congregation.

All meetings are scheduled for Monday evenings once a month for about an hour and starts at 6:00 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, March 28. If interested to be part of this ministry, please contact Zenebe at (920) 602- 7339.

Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach Commission.

There has been a very disappointing development on the social justice matter of Indiana handgun licensing. The Indiana General Assembly, after a series of questionable legislative maneuvers last night, passed SB

209/HB 1296 to **end handgun licensing** in Indiana. (They put the language of the original HB 1077 into these bills, and passed it without any opportunity for public comment.)

If you agree with Hoosiers Concerned about Gun violence that ending handgun licensing is going to make life in Indiana less safe, we urge you to contact Governor Eric Holcomb, and ask him to **veto** this bill. (For reasons, see attached testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee.) Thank you for considering this action. Questions? Email Brad Yoder, or call 260-479-5128.

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=lrvtYdSxvc8>.

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

Eastside Creation Care Network Meeting We will have our bi-monthly meeting via Zoom this Saturday, March 13, from 9:00 to 11:00. The zoom link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82235532250>

Update from Jim and Linda is attached.

MCC thank you letter is attached

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 in the next two weeks** 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

Indiana AID - Indiana AID is an organization that reaches out to the immigrants who are detained in Indiana's only long-term ICE facility - the Clay County jail - through our video visitation program. Shalom's donations made it possible for Indiana AID to get started (We have to pay \$14.11 for every video visit we make and \$.50 for every email we write). Since then, the program has really taken off. We have communicated with over 100 people already and are in active visitation relationships with several more. And we need more help.

First and foremost, we need people who are willing to commit to a 20-minute visit once per week with someone who is detained at the jail. You would have to go through a 2-hour training session to prepare for this, but then you can set the 20-minute visits for basically any time that works in your schedule. You do **not** have to speak Spanish to participate, although Spanish speaking is certainly an asset. Second, we need people who are willing to be on a "call list" for things like long-distance transportation, translation, and other needs that may come up. Being on call does not mean that you commit to helping at any particular time, but that you will be a person we contact if a sudden need arises. Third, we need money. We just learned that our primary source of funding will not longer be able to support us financially, and so we need to do our own fundraising. And finally, we need people to be informed. Let us know if you would like to receive a monthly newsletter from Indiana AID with updates about developments at the Clay County jail and with our program. If you'd be willing to help in any of these ways, contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com

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

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
