

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 8, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (7/5), we took a break from our Story of the Bible series to listen to a message from Dan Miller, our Conference pastor, about the challenging call from 1 Corinthians 13 to do the work of love in the midst of a pandemic.

This Sunday (7/12), we will take our first extended look at the commandments and legal guidelines of the Bible, beginning with passages in Leviticus and Deuteronomy that focus on justice and purity.

Next Sunday (7/19), we will continue our look at the commandments and guidelines of the Torah, focusing on the sacrificial system that was created so that the Israelites could worship God properly.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, July 12

9:30 am - Panel conversation on providing health care in a time of Covid

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions - How do we determine which aspects of the Mosaic Law still

apply to us as Christians and which ones do not?

Sunday, July 19

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Celebrations

To help alleviate the isolation felt during the pandemic, we have decided to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in Journeying Together. If you do not want your birthday to be listed, email office@shalommennonite.com.

Today – Raphael Edou

Fri, July 10 – Rod Maust

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder

“Story of the Bible” Assigned Reading

Throughout our "Story of the Bible" sermon series, we will recommend daily readings at home. Next week's readings are:

Monday: Psalm 119:97-104, Psalm 103, Exodus 32-34

Tuesday: Psalm 119:105-112, Leviticus 1:1-6:76

Wednesday: Psalm 119:113-120, Leviticus 6:8-10:20

Thursday: Psalm 119:121-128, Psalm 66, Leviticus 16-17, 23

Friday: Psalm 119:129-136, Leviticus 24-27

Saturday: Psalm 119:137-144, Exodus 35-40

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

The IN-MI Mennonite Conference (IMMC) Annual Session 2020 report is attached.

Minutes of June 23rd meeting are attached.

Temeika Green and Herman Sadler, a local couple whom several members of Shalom helped get into permanent housing last year, are facing some renewed challenges in light of COVID-19, specifically relating to food and air conditioning. If you would be willing to donate food, help provide transportation for them to pick up food, or donate a fan or window air conditioner, they would greatly appreciate it. You can contact Temeika directly at temeikag@ymail.com.

CROP Walk: As Shalom's team caption I just got word about the Crop Walk being held virtually this year! It's on Sunday October 4th! Will let you know how we will walk virtually at a later date. As it will be virtually anyone who wants to participate can do so and register now. Go to this website. <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin>. When you register find Shalom Mennonite Church as our team! And you can start to get donations right away!! I set our goal high as we are 4 months away from the walk! If you have any questions please email me at Juliekins7182@hotmail.com.

ADMINISTRATION: Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Announcements

There has been a renewed effort led by First Friends of Indianapolis to have the peace churches of our city connect, pool resources, and work together to advocate for justice in our city through nonviolence. This activity is centering around a new website called "The Peace Church Alliance" at <https://www.peacechurches.org/feed>. We encourage Shalom members to join the site and become informed and involved about the advocacy being sponsored by our fellow pacifist Christians here in Indianapolis.

- In addition to our podcast, Shalom now 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 [here!](#)

- **Video recordings** of our Zoom worship services are located online with our normal worship service recordings. A link to this location is on the Member's page of our website.
- Mike Wigginton is now managing our Zoom calendar and uploading minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church account or you have minutes for him to upload, you can email him at mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

Reflections on the Journey

Some Thoughts on taking down Confederate Monuments

"You shall not make for yourself an image [carved from wood or stone] or any likeness [of anything] that is in the sky above or on the earth below or that is in the waters underneath the earth; you shall not bow down to them and you shall not serve them because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" Exodus 20:4-5

A number of Confederate monuments have been taken down recently in cities and towns across the country including one that stood in Garfield Park here in Indianapolis. Those who put them up said that they represent states' rights, venerable ancestors and the southern way of life. Those who pulled them down argue that they are honoring people who fought to preserve slavery and who were in fact traitors to the United States. As the Confederate monuments came down, zeal for the righteous cause erupted around the world and images of Thomas Jefferson, Cecil B. Rhodes, Leopold 11, Christopher Columbus and other slave holders, racists and conquistadores fell to the chopping block. Collectively these people and others like them were responsible for the deaths of tens of millions of people and the extraction of resources and labor that enriched themselves and their countries while impoverishing others. However, the problem is not just these individuals, but the statutes themselves or to use the biblical term "idols" made of any human that is used to persuade the masses that this person was different from and superior to other folk.

In ancient times, statutes were erected of pharaohs and kings to intimidate ordinary folk. They were not built to the size of the actual person but colossal so that they would dwarf any who passed by and make them feel small and insignificant. Pharaohs and kings thought of themselves as being not like ordinary folk but divine or semi-divine figures worthy of reverence. The representations of themselves in statutes was a reminder of that. In chapter three of the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar sets up a golden image that is 60 cubits in height (about 90 feet). When various musical instruments are played, the people are commanded to stop

what they are doing and worship the image. If they do not, they will be thrown into a fiery furnace. Daniel's three friends, refusing to worship the image, make one of the most remarkable statements in the Bible. They say that even if God does not deliver them from the furnace, they will still not worship the image that Nebuchadnezzar set up. Their devotion to God is not transactional. They will be faithful whether they are miraculously saved from the furnace or not. Later in the book, Daniel faces a similar situation. In order to trap Daniel, the advisors of then King Darius advise him to sign a decree stating that for thirty days, no one in the kingdom may worship any god except Darius himself. That is what all these statutes are about the worship (ascribing worth to) of an individual. Daniel ignores the decree and is thrown into the Lion's den.

Statues and images whether religious or secular are not about the past, they function in the present, whatever present, for political or ideological purposes. The cult of the individual so prominent in western culture directs attention away from the role that a community plays in whatever achievements a person might make in life. It is not possible for a general no matter how capable to win a battle all by himself or herself. It is not possible for a scientist, no matter how brilliant to not build on the work of others. No one will create a vaccine against the coronavirus without studying the work of past virologists. We should learn from indigenous communities where it is not common to elevate individuals. Stories of heroism are often told in fables or myths and the actions of the whole community to alleviate a problem or make decisions are at the core of passed down wisdom. The community not the individual is appreciated as the source of accomplishment. All individuals are flawed and some on the monuments, monumentally so. I would propose that not only Confederate monuments but all monuments to specific named individuals be dismantled so that we can pass on a truer story of our past and present, a story about how we worked together to build our communities and create a more just, a more wholesome, a more innovative and a more faithful society.

Wilma Bailey

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Please submit information by Wednesday, 5 pm, to office@shalommennonite.com