

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 4, 2021

### **WORSHIP: Our relationship with God**

Chair: Grace Rhine

**Last Sunday (8/1)**, Brian looked at James 1:19-25 and 3:13-18 to consider how we as a church community can have fruitful conversations rather than frivolous ones.

**This Sunday (8/8)**, Brian will be offering some initial reflections on racism, including why and how we ought to talk about it, with Philippians 2:1-4 as a guiding text.

**Next Sunday (8/15)**, Brian will discuss the systemic issues which go beyond personal prejudice that we have to tackle in order to dismantle racism.

### **COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom**

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, August 8**

10:30 am Worship service on Zoom only, no in person gathering

**All of Brian's Roving Office Hours have been cancelled until further notice.**

#### **Saturday, August 21**

4:30PM Informal memorial service and tree planting for Tim Bixler.

### **Celebrations**

Wed, Aug 11 –OlaJowon Turentine, 1998

Wed, Aug 11 – Julie & Donald Sanders, 2012

### **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

**Children's Church:** Volunteers needed for when we resume in person worship for Children's Church.

Email Laura if you are willing to help:

[harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

**Sunday School:** No word yet on when Sunday School might start but I'd like to know if you are interested in teaching when that becomes a possibility again. We may have up to 4 classes: 2's and 3's; PreK/K; Early Elementary; Youth. To show your interest for Children's Church or Sunday School email Laura at

[harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

**Help needed with children's toy bags:** Something that helped my kids (Laura) get through worship when they were little were personalized toy bags that they could use at their seats in the pews during the service. Carol Stocksdale was one of the volunteers on the initial project years ago and has agreed to help again. Is there someone willing to work with Carol to dig through the existing stash of toys, make a few purchases, clean toys,

and assemble bags? We'd like to have these bags ready for fall either when Sunday School starts up again or when weather stops us from going outside for Children's Church. Please reach out to Carol to coordinate a time - [csstocksdale@gmail.com](mailto:csstocksdale@gmail.com)

### Dismantling Racism Process

At the close of our Dismantling Racism class in the spring, the curriculum recommended doing an audit of our congregational structures and procedures to see what changes needed to be made. Outreach Commission, which initiated the Anti-Racism statement of our congregation the year before, has recommended we use Widerstand Consulting (the same organization that created our curriculum) to do the audit. The process would last 2 months and cost \$5000. This recommendation was approved by the VAT. Commission Chairs recommended that the question come to the congregation for discussion.

Dates for that discussion will be announced later.

### **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Brad Yoder

#### **Sharing Corner: School Kits for Mennonite Central Committee:**

##### **Contents (NEW items only)**

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com) or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

CHAIR: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who use their gifts to serve Shalom in so many ways!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Safely Gathering

With new Covid cases per 100,000 per day surging up to 18.7, Safely Gathering Committee feels that in order to protect the most vulnerable among us, we need to return to Zoom church, starting this Sunday August 8. This also means Brian will cancel Roving Office, and most on-site activities will be canceled.

Two upcoming outdoor events, Tim's memorial service on August 21 and the dedication of the park on August 22, should be safe enough since they

are outside and participants can distance.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but hoping to prevent much worse news.

Martha, for Safely Gathering

### Crop Walk

It's that time of year again to think about participating with the Crop Hunger Walk!! Due to COVID the walk will be virtual again in October; the walk is 3 miles. As people sign up we will decide if we want to meet up to walk as a group or individually. You need to register online to walk with Shalom Mennonite church. Ask for your donations to help stop hunger as the donations go to people around the world to stop hunger.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/indianapolisin>

Please email me at [Juliekins7182@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) if you have any questions! – Julie Sanders

### Memorial Service

Please join us Saturday August 21 at 4:30PM for an informal memorial service and tree planting for Tim Bixler. Tim attended Shalom for many years and was lost to gun violence in 2021. More details to follow.

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 at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q\\_ReooskuxUXA!](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.

**PLEASE NOTE: You can only watch the first 60 minutes of a recording while online at this site.** However you can watch the **entire recording if you download it** onto your computer/tablet and then watch it from the downloaded MP4 file. Be aware that these files are 300MB - 12000MB in size. First click on the recording and then the download (direct download) function is at the top right. When finished watching, delete that downloaded MP4 file from your computer/tablet so you gain back that space. -Jim

Mike Wigginton manages our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads 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 the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net).

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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or email him at [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

### A Catholic nun and a Mennonite pastor walk into a tamale joint...

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!...It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore. – Psalm 133:1,3*

Last week I had a wonderful (and long) lunch with a "retired" St. Benedictine nun. At first it felt like I was giving a major presentation for a class I didn't know I was taking as she jumped into a barrage of questions. She started with, what are the 3 most important things that Mennonite believe. Partially tongue in cheek I said, 'God,

Jesus, and the Spirit,' but that is not what she meant, the cliff note response was peace, stewardship, and service. Great she said, now why are those important? This wasn't as casual of a lunch that I had anticipated.

Her questions got more and more specific. "Do you believe that you have to be baptized?" Well, on the cross Jesus told the person on the next cross that tonight they'll be together in paradise and I'm fairly sure they weren't able to baptize. "Who then gets to go to 'paradise'?" was her follow up. She seemed to like my response that it is Jesus' responsibility to decide that but we are to invite and encourage people to live faithfully.

There were many more questions, but once she asked all of those questions she then shared her "retirement" passions and how they connected with my responses, especially her concern for gun violence. She shared her desire for followers of Christ from different traditions to focus on what unites us instead of what we do differently. She shared how wonderful it was that a 40 something Mennonite pastor and a 70 something Catholic nun could spend a couple of hours eating tamales, discussing theology and ecclesiology while finding how much alike we actually are. With that, Sister Jenny and I completely agreed. – Craig

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

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