

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church     June 17, 2020

**WORSHIP:** Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

**Last Sunday (6/14)**, we finished the book of Genesis and considered how the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was much bigger than any of them could imagine, and that God used dreams, pagan kings, and even evil plans to bring forth good purposes.

**This Sunday (6/21)**, we will finish the book of Job and spend some time dwelling on the beginning of Exodus – specifically on the period of time when the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians and consider how this painful part of Israel's history played a tremendous role in shaping both their identity and their ethics.

**Next Sunday (6/28)**, we will listen to a message from Dan Miller, our Conference pastor, about how to do the work of love in the midst of a pandemic.

**COMMUNITY LIFE:** Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Herb Troyer

**Calendar** (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

**Sunday, June 21**

9:30 am - Jeanne Smucker will lead a conversation on racism and becoming an anti-racist church

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom – Brian will preach “Enslaved in Egypt”

*No Facing Hard Questions session*

**Sunday, June 28**

9:30 am - Bob Love will share about his medical volunteering and reflections on health care

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom – Frank Kandel will preach on “The Exodus”

2 pm - Facing the Hard Questions - How should pacifist Christians respond to Biblical celebrations of the death of Israel's enemies?

**Sunday, July 5**

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

*No Facing Hard Questions session*

**Sunday, July 12**

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?

**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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com).*

Thu, June 18 – Jeanne Smucker & Brad Yoder, 2016

Thu, June 18 – Dirk Wilson

Sat, June 20 – Carol & Sam Bixler, 1981

Sun, June 21 – Jacob Martin

Next Wed, June 24 – Leo Maust



**Youth Vegetable Stand:**

Jason and Marcela Rosales will be working at Lawrence Community Gardens again this year.

You can buy fresh, organic veggies from 8-12 Monday thru Friday, 10am-2pm on Saturdays.

Located at  
9240 E. 46th St.

You can call the organization at 317-747-1811 or text Marcela at 317-238-9422 to ask what they have on hand.

**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 85, Exodus 5:1-7:7  
Tuesday: Psalm 115, Exodus 7:8-8:30  
Wednesday: Psalm 97, Exodus 9-10  
Thursday: Exodus 11-13, Psalm 38  
Friday: Exodus 14-15, Psalm 77  
Saturday: Proverbs 3:1-12, Exodus 16-18

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**  
Chair: Brad Yoder



**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary** <https://www.ambs.edu/> AMBS, located in Elkhart, Indiana is one of two seminaries owned by the Mennonite Church U.S.A. The seminary educates people for pastoral and other types of ministry through Master of Divinity programs, Master of Arts programs and programs for lay people who are not intending to enter professional ministry. Some lay people enroll in a certificate program called Journey or in one of the continuing education courses, many of which are entirely online. You do not need to be enrolled in a program or have an undergraduate degree to take a continuing education course. Many regular courses are available for audit. This past year, 88 students were enrolled in Master's degree programs and 24 in the Journey program. AMBS is hoping to hold some classes on campus this Fall if the CDC guidelines for Covid permit it. All in-person classes will also allow for distance participation for those who cannot come to campus. Safwat Marzouk, Associate Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at AMBS will be speaking during the on-line sessions of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference on Friday and Saturday of this week (June 19-20) [https:// im.mennonite.net/2020-annual-sessions/](https://im.mennonite.net/2020-annual-sessions/). You might want to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know one of the AMBS professors. Do visit the website [www.ambs.edu](http://www.ambs.edu) for more information. Wilma Bailey

**Pastoral Team Search Committee update**

Over the last few weeks, the Committee met with two possible candidates. However, after much prayer and discussion, it was determined that, for various reasons, neither person was the person we are seeking. We are continuing to actively work with Indiana/Michigan Conference in discerning who might best serve on our Pastoral Team. Please continue to hold the Pastoral Team Search Committee in your prayers.

We want to remind everyone to continue saving your **bottle caps** to bring to Shalom to recycle when you can do that again. We are saving toward a new outdoor picnic table for our preschoolers.

Pastor Brian has been involved over the past several months with the development of an organization called **Indiana Assistance to Immigrants in Detention (IAID)**. The organization is committed to addressing the needs of recent immigrants to the United States who end up being detained in facilities in Indiana. IAID is interested in developing a close relationship with Shalom, as they move forward with providing services to recently or currently detained persons. The challenge of the coronavirus has understandably slowed down the work of IAID.

Outreach Commission is in the process of studying a memorandum of understanding that spells out exactly how IAID would like to relate to us at Shalom. We will keep everyone informed as we proceed with this potential collaborative ministry that fits with other activities Shalom has been involved with, serving the rights and needs of recent immigrants. ~ Brad Yoder

**ADMINISTRATION: Congregational support systems**  
Chair: Laura Harms

The commission chairs met on Tuesday June 16 to continue the conversation about when we might start to meet in person again for worship, and how to do that safely.

A subcommittee considered guidelines from the CDC and from an article in Christianity Today written by a pulmonary specialist and epidemiologist, Dr. Daniel Chin <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/may-web-only/when-churches-reopen-phase-coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines.html> and presented findings to the commission chairs. We reviewed an air flow study of the sanctuary done by Jim Showalter. We looked at the numbers of deaths from Covid-19 in central Indiana over the past 2 weeks.

We decided not to move forward with meeting in person until the death toll from Covid-19 in central Indiana stays below an average of 5 deaths/day for 3 weeks. (see <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>) Once that happens we will poll the congregation to see how many are ready to meet in person. If we have an adequate number of volunteers to take care of the needed logistics, we will set a date for meeting in person.

Shalom will continue to have virtual worship and adult ed classes through the end of July, as even if the deaths stay low in June it will take us a few weeks to accomplish the needed polling, planning, and preparation of the building. We recognize that people have different levels of risk tolerance and different health risks, so we will plan to have a hybrid service, with some in the church building and some on Zoom, and our tech staff have the equipment to make that possible.

Here are some of the changes we anticipate for those who worship in the building:

- do NOT come to church if you feel unwell
- hand sanitizer at the door
- put on a mask before you enter the building and wear it until you reach your car
- no handshakes or hugs, greet each other with a wave or a bow
- keep a 6 foot distance from each other, including skipping 2 pews between persons
- best airflow is near the center aisle
- hymnals and Bibles will be removed from the pews
- no paper bulletins
- no singing initially (since singing can send the virus as far as 16 feet) but may hum (with mask), clap, wave
- no nursery or Sunday school in the building, as it is very difficult for young children to distance from each other, and those under 2 cannot safely wear masks. (Children are still welcome!)
- no coffee or food
- limit 2 people in each restroom and try to keep your distance

There are still many details to figure out. Thank you for your patience as we work toward gathering safely. ~ Martha Yoder Maust, for the commission chairs

### **Announcements**

- **Annual Sessions Registration:** The Annual Sessions of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference will be held on-line on June 19 and 20, with the theme of Built Together based on Ephesians 2. No registration needed to join in the worship times on Friday evening at 7pm (preacher Dan Miller) and Saturday morning at 9am (preacher Joanne Gallardo) at this link: <https://boxcast.tv/channel/n12gpk18euckrb3gcgs4> **Streaming will start 5-7 minutes after the publicized start time.** Each worship will also include congregational stories from the hosting Goshen area congregations. \$20 registers you for the entire event, including interactive Bible study with Safwat Marzouk of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, seminars on prison ministry, intercultural competence, and grieving, and conversations about the work of the conference. More information and registration is on the conference website: <https://im.mennonite.net/2020-annual-sessions/>
- **Nizeet's host family (the Weavers)** are going to a wedding on August 1 in Kansas, and they are passing through Indianapolis on their way there and back. The six of them are looking for a place to stay on the nights of July 30 and August 2, before and after the wedding. If you would be available to host them on either or both days, please email Nizeet and Chris at [deiteraquilar@gmail.com](mailto:deiteraquilar@gmail.com).
- **Cumberland First Baptist Church** is a congregation about 20 minutes east of Shalom with whom we have partnered on several occasions. They run a preschool at their church and are currently looking to hire preschool teachers and teacher assistants for the fall who share their values of love, inclusivity, justice, and stewardship of the Earth. If you are interested in applying for a job with them, you can email Mary Montgomery at [cfbcweekdaypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:cfbccweekdaypreschool@gmail.com).

- 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. – Jim Showalter
- 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 [mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net).
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

### Reflections on the Journey

Commission chairs had a conversation about Shalom's response to racism in our church, our society, and ourselves. At least a dozen Shalom folks participated in Faith in Indiana's demonstration for racial justice on May 31. A letter to the editor of the Indianapolis Star is being drafted and will be circulated for comment. Jeanne will lead a conversation on Sunday about becoming an anti-racist church.

It's a temptation for white people to want to turn to a friend who is a person of color for advice and education about racism. This can be a sign of respect, but can also become wearying for persons of color who already have to cope with the racism itself. I propose that all of us who identify as white spend some time this week educating ourselves with some of the following resources (and there is much, much more available):

- Tim Wise speaks and writes extensively about racism and white privilege. Uses humor (and sometimes strong language) to get his point across. One example is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9WeQrC0DL8>
- Jen Hatmaker and Lisa Sharon Harper speak particularly to white women in this dialogue <https://www.facebook.com/jenhatmaker/videos/white-womens-toxic-tears/917605212052111/>
- Here's a long list of articles, books, films, podcasts, etc. recommended by Katie Couric <https://medium.com/wake-up-call/a-detailed-list-of-anti-racism-resources-a34b259a3eea>

"Come walk with us, the journey is long," but it is an important journey to undertake together.  
~ Martha Yoder Maust

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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