

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 20, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (1/10), We began our study of the gospels by considering the unique emphasis that Matthew brings to its account of Jesus' life. Matthew depicts Jesus as the "recapitulation of Israel" - the one who embraces the People of God in his very self and shows us the way.

This Sunday (1/17), We will look at the gospel of Mark, which places a unique emphasis on "the Messianic secret," and Jesus insists that his message is only for those "who have ears to hear."

Next Sunday (1/24), We will study the gospel of Luke, which highlights the social and political aspects of Jesus' message - especially his concern for the poor.

Minutes for the latest Worship Commission meeting are attached.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Thursday, January 21

Join MCC and Great Lakes BIC for a free webinar: [Consuming Media Responsibly](#). Framed with a time of biblical reflection, Bishop Lynn Thrush will facilitate a discussion with Pastor Tracie Hunter and Nekeisha Alexis, AMBS' intercultural competence and undoing racism coordinator, about how we should understand the ways the media influences us. The free webinar will take place on [Thursday, January 21](#), from 7:00-8:30 p.m. EST. Participants will come away with a better understanding of the racial undertones of media consumption. Please register by January 20 at mcc.org/gl-webinar-media to receive the webinar link.

Sunday, January 24

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: How historically reliable are the gospels, and how should we understand inconsistencies between the different gospel accounts?

Thursday, January 28

12:00 CT - Christian Peacemakers Team webinar. See announcement under Outreach

Sunday, January 31

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, February 7

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions: What do we make of Jesus' teachings on hell and damnation?

Sunday, February 14

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, February 21

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, February 28

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Celebrations

No birthdays or anniversaries this week.

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: Luke 1, Psalm 145, Proverbs 17:3-5, 21:12-13

Tuesday: Psalm 15, Luke 2-3

Wednesday: Luke 4, Proverbs 29:6-7, 31:8-9

Thursday: Luke 5-6, James 2, Proverbs 14:20-21, 31

Friday: Luke 7, Proverbs 3:13-20, James 3

Saturday: Luke 8, James 4-5, Proverbs 12:23, 26:18-22

Thank you for suggestions for additions to our church library! The following new books will be available by next week:

- ***Might from the Margins***, by Dennis R. Edwards. The Gospel’s power to turn the tables on injustice. See page 41 in the December 25th issue of Anabaptist World magazine.
- ***and we walk***, by J. E. Misz. J.E. shared in our service several weeks ago. This is a poetry collection of confessions on faith, hope and love.
- ***Every Time I Feel the Spirit***, by Shannon W. Dycus. This is a women’s Bible study book on “How is the Spirit nudging you?” (men are allowed to read it as well!)
- ***All Authority has been given to Me***, by Tim Lehman. Hearing and seeing Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Recently reviewed in the December 25th copy of Anabaptist World (page 27).
- ***Maddi’s Fridge***, by Lois Brandt. A child’s book that addresses child hunger.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Thank you! Thank you, Shalom for your donations to our Honduras Aid project. Photos of the aid distribution are attached. Families are beginning to return from shelters to their homes. In addition to meeting immediate needs with the hygiene kits, we have sent a generator that will power a pump to bring water to the town once a well can be drilled. [This link will take you to a video.](#) ~ Erik Rosales and Laura Harms

From Christian Peacemakers Team: JANUARY 28, 2021 | 12:00 CT:

Join us for a webinar with our Program Support Coordinators (PSC) from Palestine, Iraqi Kurdistan, Colombia, Turtle Island Solidarity Network, and Aegean Migrant Solidarity, who will discuss the work and experience of the teams over the past year and expectations for the year ahead. Get more information and register at <https://cptaction.org/looking-back-acting-now-planning-ahead/>.

Thank you for your contributions on behalf of the ministry at Morning Star! Tuesday, Robert Coleman and I had the privilege of delivering a van load of food pantry items to Gladys Mania and Ron & Cherri Wills. In addition, we were able to see three new freezers and one new refrigerator that have been put in place. This food and equipment is an essential part of Morning Star's ministry to their neighborhood in South Muncie. In addition to their weekly Saturday morning feeding program, they have a special community outreach at their summer neighborhood picnic and with their Thanksgiving food baskets.

Gladys, Ron, and Cherri express a wholehearted "Thank You" to Shalom's partnership with Morning Star. ~ Frank Kandel for the Outreach Commission (see attached photos)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **From Amigo Centre:**

- January 27 & 28 First Full Moon Campfires at Amigo. Spend the afternoon and evening at Amigo Centre hiking, going on a prayer walk or enjoying a campfire with your family. As the sunsets enjoy the full moon rising over Perrin Lake. More info at www.amigocentre.org/fullmoon. Please RSVP by calling 269-651-2811 or emailing cheryl@amigocentre.org.

- 2021 marks 50 years of outdoor education experiences at Amigo Centre. To celebrate this milestone we will be sharing some of our lessons with families who want to spend time outside. On January 30th from 2-4pm we have our first lesson on no-match firebuilding. This will focus on campfire building techniques and starting fires using flint and steel. To RSVP call 269-651-2811 or cheryl@amigocentre.org

- Amigo Centre Baked Oatmeal is back. Ordering is open until January 27 with pickup times on January 29 at Amigo Centre and January 30 at East Goshen Mennonite Church. Orders can be placed at www.amigocentre.org/baked-oatmeal-fundraiser.

- 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_ReoskuxUXA!

- **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.

Please note:

- o 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 or mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.
- o 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.
- o Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Praying for the President

Today marked the beginning of a new presidential administration, as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn in as the President and Vice-President of the United States. For some, this is a welcome change, as the Biden administration plans to do things in a drastically different way than the Trump administration did. For others, it is a moment of dread, as they find themselves in a position with much less political representation and power. Either way, Christians must be especially careful not to get so caught up in the moment that we forget that our allegiance is not to any person, party, or even nation, but to Jesus Christ. So how can we appropriately respond to an event this significant without dipping into idolatry? The Bible invites us to pray for government officials (cf. 1 Timothy 2:1-2), not only for their sake, but also for our own.

For those of us who are happy about having a new president and vice-president, praying for them reminds us that they are still human, and even if we like them, we can't assume that they will always make the right decisions. So we pray that God will help them, because they really do need divine assistance for such weighty responsibilities, and we pray in order to open ourselves up as vessels of God, whether that means offering encouragement or critique or even rebuke when necessary.

For those of us who are unhappy about the change in administration, praying for political leaders reminds us that they are still human. Although it's often appropriate to be disappointed in or angry with political figures, prayer changes the nature of that anger. Rather than seeing them as enemies, accepting the caricatures of them as realistic, or allowing them to become some symbol of evil or oppression, prayer teaches us to think of them as human beings - children of God - who deserve love and honor, regardless of what they have done, and who could still be led in the right direction by God's grace.

And for all of us, praying for leaders reminds us that God is ultimately "above" even our highest political officials. There is no doubt that presidents and vice-presidents can have a monumental impact on society, but nothing can happen apart from God's will, and there is a hope and security in that. So wherever you fall on that spectrum, I encourage to take this Biblical instruction seriously and spend some time both today and in the years to come praying for President Biden and Vice President Harris.

~ Brian

Pastor: *Brian Bither*, (317) 322-7320

Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson,
Brian Bither