

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 10, 2021

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

Chair: Grace Rhine

**Last Sunday (2/7)**, we studied the gospel of John, which puts the most emphasis on Jesus' divine identity as the Son of God and the one who can offer us eternal life.

**This Sunday (2/14)**, Sabrina Falls will preach on "Prayer of the Heart", based on Psalm 131.

**Next Sunday (2/21)**, we begin the season of Lent by considering Jesus' radical call to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow him and the theological principle of kenosis.

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

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

#### **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

#### **Wednesday, February 17**

- 9:30-10:30 am - *Toward a Just Society: Global Perspectives, Race, Caste, and Inequality: A Conversation with Isabel Wilkerson* (see link under Outreach)
- 12 noon EST – Virtual Luncheon with Peter and Delicia (Sign-in information: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://MCUSA.zoom.us/j/94800199934>)
- 7 pm - "Entering Lent" service  
<https://zoom.us/j/95366104811?pwd=QjFFZ0Rra1JBQ01CU2ZHbzBidDcwdz09>

#### **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 – Craig Oury, pastoral candidate will share his faith story. There will be a time for questions.
- 10:30 am - Craig Oury, will bring the message.

#### **Celebrations**

Sat, Feb 13 – Melanie Martinez

Tue, Feb 16 – Laura Martinez

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

Chair: Martha Yoder

### **“Story of the Bible” Assigned Reading**

Monday - Psalm 121, Matthew 16, Philippians 1  
Tuesday - Psalm 99, Matthew 17, Proverbs 16:8, 18:23-19:1  
Wednesday - Psalm 120, Mark 8:1-9:1, Philippians 2  
Thursday - Psalm 75, Mark 9:2-50, Proverbs 18:13, 27:1-2, 21-22  
Friday - Psalm 41, Mark 10, Philippians 3  
Saturday - Psalm 28, Luke 9, Philippians 4

**Sunday School news:** Due a visit from a pastoral candidate on February 28, the reading schedule for our Sunday School class has changed slightly. The revised schedule is attached. Please feel free to reach out to Emily or Tim with any questions.

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

Chair: Brad Yoder

An Indiana – Michigan Conference Office Update and Arlington Neighborhood Association Update is attached (in the same document)

Outreach Commission will join with Mike Wigginton and the Administration Commission to participate in a Keep Indianapolis Beautiful 2021 Spring Tree Planting project. Faith communities in Marion County will work with their neighbors nearby to plant trees beginning in March. Mike will be Shalom's lead person in this exciting project. More beautiful trees will be coming to Shalom and our neighborhood!

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful will provide: 1) free large native trees (minimum 12 trees per community), 2) watering, pruning and mulching for three years, 3) all necessary permits and marking of underground utilities, 4) training and leading volunteers on planting day, led by KIB's staff arborists, 5) ideas for community engagement. Shalom's community would include our church property and neighbors within a 2-block area of the church.

Community Responsibility: maintain the trees after the first 3 years, provide a small number of volunteers and consult with KIB about tree species and locations.

We learned of this opportunity through our affiliation with Eastside Creation Care Network. Joining Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to fund this project is the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Creation Care Ministry. ~ Marilyn Teel

Go [here](#) to learn more about and register for *Toward a Just Society: Global Perspectives, Race, Caste, and Inequality: A Conversation with Isabel Wilkerson*. February 17, 9:30-10:30 am

Good news about changes in immigration policy with the new Biden-Harris administration. This week an entire flight of persons scheduled to be deported to Cameroon [West Africa] was cancelled, and those persons will be allowed to stay in the United States. Immigration advocates are working to get other deportations stopped to other countries, in line with the high priority that the new administration has put on immigration issues. With a little more time we hope that Congress will pass a comprehensive immigration bill which will change the whole atmosphere toward immigration during the past four years, especially toward non-European countries. ~ Brad Yoder

Other information from the Outreach Commission is attached.

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

### **VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)**

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Chair: Mike Wigginton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, February 8 to Sunday, February 14. If you need to reach someone during that time, please email Jeanne Smucker, chair of the VAT, at [jmrsmucker@outlook.com](mailto:jmrsmucker@outlook.com)
  - Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) is seeking a part-time (one-half to three-quarters) pastor for the Conference Pastor team. If you (or someone you know) are energized by working with pastors and leaders, visioning a new future for the Conference, dismantling racism, supporting diversity (racial/ethnic, rural/urban, new and established congregations), and listening for God's call for the church, we would love to hear from you. The job description is posted on the [IMMC website](#). Please submit applications and/or questions to the search committee: [immsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:immsearchcommittee@gmail.com)  
Many thanks, Anna Board, Administrative Coordinator, Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference  
M-Th 8:00am-4:30pm  
PO Box 702, Goshen, IN 46527 Phone: (574)534-4006  
Email: [imoffice@im.mennonite.net](mailto:imoffice@im.mennonite.net) Website: <http://im.mennonite.net/>
  - **Pastoral Search:** The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to announce that we have a candidate to introduce to Shalom. He has met several times with the search committee and also with Brian and the Vision and Accountability Team. Craig Oury will join us (virtually) on Sunday, February 28. We will have a chance to hear his faith story during the Sunday School hour and to ask him questions. He will then present the sermon during our worship service. That day, after a "lunch break" of 30 minutes, we will offer the opportunity to return to ask any further questions that you may have of him. (Sorry, no potluck this time.) Two weeks later (March 14), we will have a congregational meeting immediately after worship for any further discussion about Craig's calling and follow that with a vote. A vote of 85% approval is required to go ahead and call Craig to be our copastor. A brief biographical sketch for Craig is attached to the newsletter. ~Jeanne Smucker, CoraLyn Turentine, Carol Bixler, Herb Troyer and Linda Kandel.
  - 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** 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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).
  - o Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

**Down the Peace Path**

It's been awhile since the last installment of this occasional feature. In the midst of Zooming, masking, hand washing, sanitizing, vaccinating, and other things that fill our lives... we took some time recently to do some winter observing on our Shalom property. You might find that a winter stroll through the Shalom woods might prove to be refreshing...

Some Shalom folks have an understanding of Greek and/or Hebrew. Others may know some Latin, like *Lonicera maackii*, *Lonicera sempervirens*, *Rhamnus cathartica*, *Euonymus fortunei*, and *Pyrus calleryana*. Well at least they know the common names of the invasive plant species on the Shalom property like, Bush honeysuckle, Vining honeysuckle, Common buckthorn, Winter creeper and Bradford pear. One might say that Shalom Mennonite continues an up-close-and-personal interaction with these exotic invasive species of plants.

To date we have used a number of tools in our anti-invasive plant toolbox. We have cut and *glyphosate* stump treated honeysuckle. We have cut and pulled vines and broadcast applied *Triclopyr* to deal with winter creeper. At the fall work day we discovered a new invasive we had never noticed before, common buckthorn. Cutting those plants and applying *glyphosate* got us started with this newly found invasive. These efforts have yielded a bounty of native species like the white and yellow trout lilies that now proliferate in the spring after the invasive pressure for resources is diminished.

Experts will tell you that it's difficult to deal with invasive species without using agricultural chemicals. With that in mind we have always attempted to limit and direct our use of chemicals to the target plants. Some time ago Becky had asked me to investigate a tool that can be used to "uproot" invasive plants. After some research and just in time for winter weather, we acquired a **Polar Bear**. So what does this arctic animal species have to do with invasive plants?

What we actually purchased from a small family owned business in Canada is called a **Puller bear** (see attached photo). They even offer to weld your name onto the tool. So now we have a "Shalom Mennonite" monogrammed Puller bear! The tool takes some effort, but it beats sitting around the house waiting for the virus to pass!? We tried it out at Shalom a couple weeks ago and it works great. For the scientists in our midst, "a lever amplifies an input force to provide a greater output force, which is said to provide leverage." All I know is that you can clamp this tool onto a 3" diameter honeysuckle bush and pull that sucker out by the roots. No cutting, no herbicide.

We look forward to putting the Puller bear into action in our continued attempts to make the most out of the resource that we have on our Shalom Campus.

~ Mike Wigginton

### **RELECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY**

#### **Who me racist? No way!**

I mean when I was a kid, the Mission Board called on rural Mennonite Churches to establish city missions so our family, for a year, worshiped with a colored church in Gibson City eight miles away. And when I was a teenager, our youth group did stuff together with the youth from Englewood Mennonite Church on the south side of Chicago. And, of course, you know about the "Fresh Air Program" where kids of color from urban areas came down and stayed with us on our central Illinois farms for a couple of weeks in the summer. And don't forget, Mennonites were one of the first groups to denounce slavery in the United States. Me racist?—No way!

And yet today, we are called upon to renounce and turn away from our complicity in systemic racism and our unconscious responses and implicit racism.

Yes, I am part of the American Dream—and I identify with what Debby Irving writes here:

“I now understand that acting like a white American wasn’t a “When in Rome do as the Romans do” cultural sensibility, but a matter of survival. In policy after policy, act after act, the United States has reaffirmed its commitment to being a melting-pot society adhering to Anglo-Saxon standards, as opposed to a mosaic nation built on the diversity of multiple cultures. Be its Europeans’ initial assumption of the right to invade in the 1600’s, the Indian Removal Act in the 1800’s, or the English-only acts in the 1900’s, the white settlers established and the white government of the United States has enforced a model of dominance and assimilation that elevates those who can fit the prescribed mold while excluding and destabilizing those who can’t....stemming from a deeply entrenched belief that the superior Anglo culture should be spread far and wide because everyone would benefit from being more like the English...this deep subconscious wiring makes finding new ways to think about race and racism so hard...English attempts to save others by imposing their culture on them can be traced back to their 12<sup>th</sup> century invasion of Ireland, home to people they considered inferior and savage.

English conquest of North America was part of a much larger expansion effort that took them to South America, Africa, and Asia. Seven centuries after that first invasion of Ireland, with ideas of white superiority and dominance embedded in US culture, the US government embarked on an expansion of its own. Complete with a brand name, the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century quest called “Manifest Destiny” sought to spread American democracy, capitalism, and Christianity westward to the coast (including Mexican land) and eventually throughout the world.

Though it’s tempting to point to the arrogance of such an attitude, I can imagine that in the minds of early Anglo Americans, belief in their mission to civilize the world felt justifiable if not noble. After all, isn’t this a close cousin of what I was doing in my work to “help” and “fix” children of color? The *last* thing I thought I was doing was imposing my culture on students. I thought I was being helpful. This is one of the many horrors of whiteness—the ease with which good intentions can instead perpetuate one’s attachment to racial roles.<sup>1</sup>

And from Dagne’s history book I read about the life of a slave family-

Although some slave holders were reluctant to break slave marriages by sale, such masters could neither bequeath this reluctance to their heirs nor avoid economic hardships that might force them to sell off slaves. The reality, one historian has calculated, was that on average, a slave would witness in a lifetime, the sale of eleven family members....the common place buying and selling of slaves severely disrupted the slaves’ attempts to create a stable family life...aside from the disruption of sale, slave families experienced separations and degradations from other sources. The marriage of a slave woman gave her no protection against the sexual demands of a master nor, indeed, of any white.<sup>2</sup>

Frank needs to get over the idea, that this is somebody else’s doing, and that he can fix the issue. Yes, deeply entrenched and long-standing--this issue has been long time in the making and we need to think hard together about where we go from here.

Who, me a racist? Yes. Let’s tackle this cancer together

~ Frank Kandel

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<sup>1</sup> *Waking up white; and finding myself in the story of racism*, Debby Irving, 2014, pp. 47-48.

<sup>2</sup> *The Enduring Vision: a history of the American People*, Editor Jean Woy, 2000, p. 339.

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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