

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 19, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (8/16), Brian preached from the book of Judges about the need for voluntary submission to moral authority in times (like ours) when there's no universal authority and tribalism reigns.

This Sunday (8/23), we will study the formation of the United Monarchy of Israel, which began with the reign of King Saul. Although this is often seen as Israel's Golden Age, the book of 1 Samuel raises the question, "Is this really what God had in mind in calling the Israelites to be a set-apart people?"

Next Sunday (8/30) is TBA

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am - Wilma will lead a conversation about laments and spiritual songs

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

1:30pm - Congregational vote on whether to adopt Memorandum of Understanding between Indiana AID and Shalom Mennonite Church

Sunday, August 30

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: Did the human authors of the Bible have political biases and agendas? If so, should that impact the way we read the text?

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 - Sheila Y. Abebe

Today – Lorraine Hernandez

Sat, Aug 22 – Brad & Kathy Sommer, 1981

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: Proverbs 15:20-25, 22:28, 1 Chronicles 1-5

Tuesday: Proverbs 11:29, 23:10-11, 1 Chronicles 6-10

Wednesday: 1 Samuel 31 - 2 Samuel 4, Psalm 18

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 11-14, Psalm 122

Friday: 1 Chronicles 15-18, Psalm 132

Saturday: Proverb 25:23-24, 2 Samuel 5-9, Psalm 108

Frank Kandel and Carol Bither will be teaching a baptism exploration class this fall. They will use the book *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger (we have some copies available). The class will meet (virtually) on Saturdays from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, on September 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21, and December 5. The class is open to adults and teens who are interested in exploring the meaning of baptism and what it means to follow Jesus. If you are interested, please contact Frank Kandel, Brian Bither, or Martha Yoder Maust.

September-November adult Sunday school: Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Shalom to help furnish housewares for Family Promise Apartment: Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis has received a grant allowing them to rent 10 more apartments! These apartments will bring their total to 20 and help so many more families than usual.

Zionsville UMC, Shalom Mennonite Church, and Major Tool have accepted the responsibility of getting household goods for one 2-bedroom apartment. Furniture is being provided by The Mustard Seed of Indianapolis and we are collecting new and gently used household items that are clean and in working order. We need these items by September 10.

To help with this project, please click the following link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/familypromiseapt>.

Mennonite Central Committee is accepting donations to support people in need of food and other assistance in Beirut, Lebanon. A massive explosion on Aug. 4 destroyed the country's main port and silos filled with grain and worsened an existing economic crisis. You can donate online at mcc.org/beirut-response, by calling (888) 563-4676 or by sending a check earmarked for "Beirut response" to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., Akron PA 17501.

It's August & time to commit yourself to walk virtually for the **Crop Walk** on Sunday October 4th. To participate you will need to register online with this link:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin>

When registering find Shalom Mennonite Church as your team & start sharing your page!

To walk virtually we will walk 3 miles on Sunday October 4th sometime during the day! If you feel comfortable you can form a small group or just walk with your family! Please email me at Juliekins7182@hotmail.com if you have any questions! ~ Julie Sanders

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)
Chair: Joyce Troyer

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) announces new leadership members
The SGDT appreciates the willingness of the following individuals to serve Shalom as new and continuing leadership members:

- Carol Bixler: selected by the congregation to be the Vision and Accountability Team Congregational Representative for a three-year term.
- Mike Wigginton: Chair of the Administrative Commission for a two-year term.
- Brad Yoder: Chair of Outreach Commission
- Grace Rhine: Chair of the Worship Commission beginning January 1, 2021 through August 30, 2021.
 - Linda Showalter will continue serving as chair until January.
- Emily Fox Ludden: Member of Worship Commission for a two-year term.

Thank you to all listed here as well as those who are continuing to serve in ongoing positions!
Submitted by Joyce Troyer for the SGDT

Announcements

- A newer Shalom participant has asked us to pray for Lucas and Molly Corrick, a couple from Illinois who lost all three of their children and at least one of the grandparents in a tragic car accident earlier this week, as reported in [this article](#).
- Several of you have raised good questions and made valuable comments about the proposed *Memorandum of Understanding* between Shalom and Indiana AID. I have passed these along to the other Indiana AID members, and I intend to send out a follow-up email that addresses some of these issues on Friday. Thanks for your engagement and your patience with this process. – Brian
 - Although many folks read *The Mennonite*, for those who don't this article in the most recent "T-Mail" might assist with preparation and discernment for the congregational meeting on our affiliation with Indiana Assistance to Immigrants in Detention: <https://themennonite.org/daily-news/learn-pray-join-immigration-justice-radical-hospitality/>. Sabrina Falls
- 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

Slowing Down for the Golden Age

The Biblical narrative offers us the entire story of the world, from its creation in Genesis 1 to its consummation in Revelation 22. It seeks to offer us a continuous narrative from the

beginning to the end, but it does NOT offer this narrative at a steady pace. As we have seen, there are some points in which the Bible moves very quickly through history. For example, consider the 400 years of slavery that are described in a single chapter at the beginning of Exodus. At other times, the Bible slows down and spends entire books focusing on just one era or even one individual. The life of Jesus is one of the points where this happens. There are four separate books in the New Testament that describe the short but world-changing years when Jesus was on earth. The only other individual who gets this kind of attention is King David. David's life is described in 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 1 Chronicles, and is also addressed repeatedly in the Psalms. So I want to offer some explanation about how these books overlap and how we will proceed.

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel are a part of a larger series that begins with the book of Joshua and includes Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, and 1 & 2 Kings. Most scholars believe that they were all written or composed by the same author, so they call the collection of books "the Deuteronomistic History." The books of 1 & 2 Chronicles cover much of the same history but were probably written later. Just as most scholars believe that the Gospel of Luke drew much of its material from the Gospel of Mark, so do most (but not all) scholars believe that Chronicles draws much of its material from the Deuteronomistic History. One of my goals is to keep us moving through the Biblical story in chronological order of the events, which means that we will be jumping back and forth between the Deuteronomistic version of events and the Chronicles version of the same events in the weeks to come. It also means that the daily readings will be higher for the next 6 or 7 weeks to get us through this material at a reasonable pace. Most days, we'll be reading five or six chapters a day. Fortunately, this is narrative or story-based material, which means it is a little easier to read than some of the other parts of Scripture (for the most part, anyway).

The book of 1 Samuel starts with stories about Samuel and Saul, but David soon arises as the main character of the book. His time serving as a general and then political refugee of Saul is recounted throughout the book, and this is not included in Chronicles. By contrast, 1 Chronicles begins with a famously long genealogy that "recaps" the story of the Bible starting with Adam and moving forward in time to the Babylonian exile. Although this can be boring for many modern readers, this genealogy acts as its own summary or re-telling of the Bible's story and offers some unique insights that we don't get anywhere else. After these introductions, both 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles begin their narratives at the death of Saul and end - more or less - with the death of David, while 1 & 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles describe the life of Solomon and the remaining Israelite kings all the way until the exile. As you read these stories side-by-side, I encourage you to pay attention to the different details and emphases of the two accounts and to consider what God may be teaching us by offering two different takes on the same story.

- Brian

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

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

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