

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 9, 2020

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

**Last Sunday (8/30)**, Gemima preached about David, the future king of Israel, and encouraged us to interpret the battle with Goliath as a spiritual metaphor, in which we (like David) ignore those voices that tell us that we will fail and we put our faith in God to help us overcome any obstacles to our spiritual growth and calling.

**This Sunday (9/13)**, we will skip ahead to the reign of King Solomon, and Brian will preach on the pinnacle moment of the Older Testament - the commissioning of the Temple in Jerusalem. Note that we will be also be observing communion (see note in calendar section).

**Next Sunday (9/20)**, we will have a joint service with First Mennonite to celebrate Peace Sunday, which immediately precedes the International Day of Peace (9/21). Shalom members will be continuing our Story of the Bible series, as Brian will preach about the breakdown of the United Kingdom and the Age of the Prophets - who called God's people to peace and justice in the midst of a politically tense time.

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

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

## **Saturday September 12**

9 am - Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) bi-monthly meeting (via Zoom)

## **Sunday, September 13**

9:30 am – 1) 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. Please let Martha Yoder Maust or Brad Yoder know if you need help getting a copy of the book.  
2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time  
10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom  
**Our worship service will include a virtual communion observance. Bring whatever bread and juice you would like to use for this portion of our time together.**  
2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: How can feminist and egalitarian Christians read and revere Biblical texts that reflect gender stereotypes and relegate women to minor roles?

## **Sunday, September 20**

9:30 am – 1) 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. Please let Martha Yoder Maust or Brad Yoder know if you need help getting a copy of the book.  
2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time  
10:30 am – Worship Service. **This will be a joint service with First Mennonite Church.**  
No Facing Hard Questions

## **Saturday September 26**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Sunday, September 27**

9:30 am – 1) 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. Please let Martha Yoder Maust or Brad Yoder know if you need help getting a copy of the book.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: What do we do with the curses and calls for vengeance in our Bible? Is there an appropriate way for us to make use of these texts?

### **Saturday, October 10**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, October 24**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, November 7**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, November 21**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Saturday, December 5**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **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).

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: Proverbs 16:10-15, 2 Chronicles 13-16, 1 Kings 15-16

Tuesday: Proverbs 21:18-20, 28:28-29:2, 1 Kings 17-22

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 17-21, Psalm 60

Thursday: Proverbs 12:9, 22:22-23, 2 Kings 1:1-6:23

Friday: Proverbs 21:7-10, 24:21-22, 2 Kings 6:24-11:21, 2 Chronicles 22-23

Saturday: Proverbs 20:26-30, 2 Chronicles 23-25, 2 Kings 12-14

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

- August 26 Outreach minutes are attached.

- **CROP Walk:** If you can participate in the Virtual Crop Walk this year please register with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/>. To participate you only have to walk 3 miles on Sunday Oct. 4th anywhere and anytime! And of course, ask for donations! All donations go to help fight hunger around the world.

If you would like to donate, you can do a general donation to Shalom Mennonite Church with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/Team/View/132565/Shalom-Mennonite-Church>. Any questions, email me at [Juliekins7182@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) ~Julie Sanders

### **Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) has asked Raphaël Edou to become a member of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Please address any feed-back to a member of the VAT. After two weeks, VAT will consider any feedback and present him as the new member of the SGDT.

### **Vision and Accountability Team (VAT)**

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

### **Announcements**

- **Gathering safely:** Our local new Covid-19 case numbers continue to be high. In Marion County, our daily rate of new cases per 100,000 people has increased to 15.4, putting us in the "orange" category, in which large in-person gatherings are discouraged. Commission chairs discussed this information at our 9/1 meeting and it seems clear that it is not safe to gather for indoor worship this month and probably also next month. Instead, we encourage participants to make use of the grounds for outdoor small group meetings or informal gatherings, with masking and safe distancing. We continue to monitor the numbers and will update you from time to time. (Details are at <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> . Hamilton County is currently at 17.4 and surrounding counties are also in the orange category with the exception of Shelby County which has the highest rate in Indiana at 149.2.) ~ Martha
- 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 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 him at [mlwiggins@sbccglobal.net](mailto:mlwiggins@sbccglobal.net).
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

### **Reflections on the Journey**

The Mixed Legacy of Solomon

In our Story of the Bible series, we continue to read about the era that is considered by many to be the Golden Age of Israel: the period when all of Israel was under the reign of a single king. Saul was the first to be appointed king of Israel, and from an institutional perspective, his major contribution to the kingdom was that he united the twelve tribes into a single state that recognized Yahweh as its only God. He was followed by David, who was famous for his military victories over all of Israel's enemies and for securing a family dynasty in Jerusalem that would last for centuries. David is the most important figure of this period, but even he was flawed and limited. For example, 2 Samuel explains that he was ineligible to build a temple for God because of all the blood he had shed. Therefore, according to the Biblical narrative, the kingdom of Israel reached its pinnacle under Solomon, who took advantage of the peace that David had acquired and used it to build structures, wealth, and international status for Israel. Solomon thus represents the pinnacle of the Golden Age, but at the same time, his reign marked the beginning of its undoing.

At one level, these positive and negative aspects of Solomon's reign seem to correspond to the first and second halves of his life. 1 Kings describes Solomon in extremely positive terms from chapters 1-10, but then tells us in chapter 11, "when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David." Interestingly, there are three books in the Bible that have traditionally been attributed to Solomon, and they correspond to different stages of his life. The Song of Songs – a joyful book – is written from the perspective of a young man who is discovering the passion of love for the first time, and it is associated with the early period in Solomon's life. In the early chapters of 1 Kings, only one wife is mentioned – the daughter of Pharaoh – and the Song of Songs gives the impression that all of his attention was fixated on her. Proverbs is a little harder to connect to a particular time in Solomon's life, for it contains little narrative material and was likely collected from several points in his life (as well as from other sources). However, Proverbs addresses a young son early in the text, which when applied to Solomon means that it represents the middle of his life, and its sober tone matches the seriousness of Solomon's peak years. Ecclesiastes – which is officially an anonymous text – has often been attributed to Solomon in his twilight years. It has a melancholy tone, writing from the perspective of someone who sought after fame and pleasure and now sees how meaningless such pursuits are. These three books give take very different perspectives on life, and correlating them to different stages of Solomon's life can help make sense of them.

That being said, the good parts and bad parts of Solomon's reign cannot be completely divided according to different parts of his life, for they are in fact intertwined with each other. After all, Solomon's multiple marriages helped create the political alliances that gave his nation international standing, but these same marriages led him into idolatry. Likewise, the fact that Solomon built Yahweh a temple is a highlight of his reign, but the labor he conscripted to do it became the source of the split of the kingdom under his son Rehoboam. Solomon's reign thus exposes the inherent weaknesses of the monarchy, which seeks to lead God's people in the right direction by using fame and power. These tools inevitably lead to the downfall of those who rely on them.

- Brian

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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