

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 8, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, 4/5 Wilma Bailey resumed her Sunday school class on 1 & 2 Kings and then the congregation had an opportunity to meet and pray together during a "Gathering in Spirit" session over Zoom.

This Sunday, 4/12 is Easter Sunday, and **the Worship Commission has decided to stream an Easter service via Zoom at 10:30a**, which will include another extended prayer & sharing time. [Here is the link to that service](#), which will be sent out again through a congregational email on Good Friday. In coming weeks, we hope to offer more services in this online format.

Next Sunday, 4/19 we will not have a full worship service, but Wilma's Sunday school class on 1 & 2 Kings will be offered at 9:30a, followed by Gathering in Spirit at 10:30a.

New Hymnals. Money was budgeted to purchase new hymnals this spring, and the deadline for a 10% purchase is May 1. Before sending in our order, we would like to give people in the congregation an opportunity to place individual orders, also receiving the discount. A check for the cost of how many hymnals you order can be given to Bob Love with "hymnal" noted in the memo line. This is time sensitive, so please let me know *by April 24* what edition and how many you would like. Editions that are available for purchase: pew \$23.99 (\$21.59); large- print \$43.99 (\$39.59); accompaniment \$89.99 (\$80.99). Additional information can be found at <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/products/catalogue/>. - Linda Showalter

The Worship Commission recently approved an agency guidelines policy for partner organizations that come to promote their agencies at Shalom, which you can find [here](#).

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Small Groups

The Community Life Commission encourages all Shalom small groups to stay in contact with each other by meeting through phone calls or a Zoom conference. If you would like to use the church's Zoom account for this conference, please submit your request to office@shalommennonite.com and you will be given the date and the information you need to host the meeting – provided that it does not come in conflict with another Zoom meeting.

In addition to the small groups that already exist, we are forming a new small group specifically to weather this crisis. If you are interested in joining it, email Joyce Troyer at troyers_hj@hotmail.com

Social Phone Tree

The social phone tree program at Shalom will begin this week. All Shalom members – except those who have expressed that they do not want to be a part of the phone tree – will be assigned one person for them to call during the week, and a different person will be assigned to call them. We invite you to use this opportunity to deepen your relationships in the church, especially with those whom you do not know very well. If you have any questions or concerns about the phone tree, please email Mike Wigginton at mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

No Sunday school class this week
In observance of Easter, there will not be a 1 & 2 Kings Sunday school class this week.

Good Friday Bible Study Session

On Good Friday (April 10) at 6p, Brian is going to host a zoom session that will imagine what it would have been like to be a Christian in the first century. In that session, he will read through the book of Mark in one sitting, which is how it was originally intended to be read. [Here is the link to that service](#), which will be sent out again through a congregational email earlier on Good Friday.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Spiritual Gifts Databases. Attached to this document and [posted to the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team page](#) are two new documents. The first is a list of the Shalom church members and their gifts. The second is a listing of persons by gift. In the future we will be updating the spreadsheet but in the meantime these documents are available for use. Any comments submit to Joyce Troyer, Cheryl Martin or Mike Wigginton"

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Using Zoom safely and effectively

"Because we are holding most of our congregational meetings over Zoom during the COVID-19 outbreak, we face new challenges, including threats to our privacy and technological obstacles for those of us who lack internet access or expertise. To address these concerns, we are creating a new position for our congregational meetings called a "virtual usher." This person will host the meetings, operating mostly behind the scenes. He or she will be available to answer technical questions through the chat feature on zoom and will be monitoring attendance in order to protect the community from unwelcome intrusion.

For any sessions that involve a "prayer & sharing" element, we are requiring all participants to provide some identifying information so that the usher will know who is "in the room" when sharing occurs. For most of us, this will not require any effort: if we can see your face or if a name that we recognize is listed as your ID, then we will not need any additional information. However, if someone

logs in and does not provide identifying information, we will move them to a "waiting room" until we can verify that they are either a Shalom member or were invited to join by one. If you are having trouble accessing the conversation, you can contact the virtual usher directly. This week's virtual usher is Sam Bixler, whom you can reach at 317-701-3864."

Minutes

The Commission Chairs Council met on 3/31 and their minutes can be found [here](#).

CONGREGATIONAL NOTES

A space to share your news

Another religious-right leader is claiming that COVID-19 is a form of God's wrath -- but Ralph Drollinger isn't just any pastor. He leads a weekly Bible study for Trump's Cabinet members, including multiple members of the White House coronavirus task-force.

I just signed a petition from Faithful America asking Secretaries Alex Azar and Ben Carson to quit going to Drollinger's Bible study. Will you join me? - Jeanne Smucker

https://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/coronavirus-cabinet?referring_akid=3334.431539.HC0S5V

Reflections On Pilgrimage

A prayer for Christians during the COVID-19 pandemic: *"God, we ask that all who are affected by this virus be held in your loving care. In this time of uncertainty, help us to know what is ours to do. We know you did not cause this suffering but that you are with us in it and through it. Help us to recognize your presence in acts of kindness, in moments of silence, and in the beauty of the created world. Grant peace and protection to all of humanity for their well-being and for the benefit of the earth."*

--by Richard Rohr

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577
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Please submit information by Wednesday, 3pm,
to office@shalommennonite.com