

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 27, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (10/24), Craig looked at Numbers 13-14 looking at how a community is responsible to each other for our faith as well as the importance of honesty in leadership.

This Sunday (10/31), Brian wrestle with some of the difficult passages of God's wrath from the books of Numbers and Joshua and consider how that might relate to the concept of "unintentional sin" in Numbers 15.

Next Sunday (11/7), Craig will continue the sermon series from Numbers 21-24

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey is leading us in a study of the book of Numbers.

Sat, November 20, from 9 am-noon, Fall work day at the church.

Celebrations

Sun, Oct 31 – Bethany Martin

Mon, Nov 1 – Brad Yoder

Mon, Nov 1 – Reuben & Katy Maust, 2014

Wed, Nov 3 – Delicia Bravo Wigginton

We are delighted to welcome Micah Emmanuel Urquizo Maust, born 10/26, 8 lbs 2 oz, 22 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well.

Martha and Rod

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Last spring we had a Sunday school class on Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations, using an online curriculum from Widerstand Consulting. You should have received an email in March inviting you to participate in Niche Academy, which provided the structure for our participation. If you would like to review any of that material, or if you would like to see their material on how to do a congregational audit, your username is your email address and your old password should still work. If you have lost your password, you can click on "forgot password" to create a new one. If you need help, email Martha Yoder Maust at yodermaust@gmail.com and I can send you a new invitation. We have access to this material until the end of February.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

For the past three years, three groups I'm involved with have been working persistently together toward getting the City of Indianapolis to develop an effective program to reduce gun violence. Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence, Faith in Indiana, and the Intercongregational Gun Violence Intervention Sub-Committee of St. Luke's United Methodist Church are all working toward the goal of reducing gun violence. On October 13th, Mayor Joe Hogsett announced that Indianapolis will use some of the money from the federal American Rescue Plan to address directly persons who are at risk of becoming involved in gun violence. The plan, in partnership with the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, will involve hiring 50 interveners who will become directly involved as life-coaches with persons identified as being at risk of resorting to violence as a means to meet their needs. We are hopeful that this approach will address long term, both the root causes of violence in our area, and also guide persons on a path toward successful improvement of their situation toward a viable future. If you're interested in more details, I'd be glad to discuss this with you.

Brad Yoder, for OUtreach Comission

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence October Newsletter is attached

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who serve Shalom! At this time, the official postions for the church year are filled, but volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Although the pandemic limits what we can do in person, the work of the church continues. If you are interested in an area of service, please contact Joyce Troyer (troyers_hj@hotmail.com), Frank Kandel (kandel93@gmail.com), or Raphael Edou (raphaedou@gmail.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's coming up to end of October which means also an end to the Crop Walk Month. Thank you all who walked (not pictured Brad & Jeanne) and donated! You can still donate anytime to Crop with the link below.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/shalom-mennonite->

2021 Virtual Crop Walk



**Shalom Mennonite
Church**

– Julie Sanders

Safely Gathering Committee met on October 21. We reviewed data on local cases at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm> and new cases/100,000 population/day

at <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> Marion County is currently (as of October 25) at 17.7 cases/100,000/day and surrounding counties range from 16.4 in Hamilton County to 25.8 in Johnson County. We also looked at vaccination rates at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/2680.htm> and reviewed CDC guidance for schools at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Our guide in making decisions about when to meet has been epidemiologist Daniel Chin in his article <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/january-web-only/church-reopening-vaccine-coronavirus-covid-advice.html> who recommends starting in-person worship when cases/100,000/day are below 5-6. In May 2021 we reached that level and by the time we started meeting 4 weeks later we had reached 2 cases/100,000/day. Based on that experience, we plan to start hybrid services two weeks after reaching 10 cases/100,000/day in Marion County.

Those who meet in person will need to wear masks at all times when in the building, and sit by households with 6 feet of separation from other households. Song leaders, worship leaders, and preachers may remove masks to perform those ministries on the stage if they are fully vaccinated. Participants are encouraged to exit the building after worship and fellowship outside. The nursery space will be available for parents to use but will not be staffed by volunteers at this time.

Sunday school for children will follow the CDC guidelines of having teachers and students mask and try to keep a 3-foot distance. We will also ask teachers to be vaccinated. Increasing ventilation by opening classroom doors and windows and/or using fans is encouraged as feasible. Adult Sunday school will initially be in the sanctuary to allow distancing.

Commission Chairs Team had previously decided that when both worship and Sunday school started in the building, we would change to our old schedule of **worship at 9:30** with Sunday school following. There will not be fellowship time between worship and Sunday school, or coffee or tea, at this time.

Questions will surely arise, as they did when we started hybrid services the first time. Feel free to contact any member of the Safely Gathering Committee: Jeanne Smucker, Linda Kandel, and Martha Yoder Maust.

Advent Devotional

Mennonite Church USA is once again offering its **free Advent at Home devotional**. Written by Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor of Christian Formation at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, Indiana, the 2021 guide follows the theme of Leader magazine and is appropriate for all ages. Download your copy here. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/adventathome>

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 (MP4) of our Zoom worship services are available online. A link to the worship service recordings is on the Member's page of our website.

PLEASE NOTE: You can only watch the first 60 minutes of a recording while online at this site. However you can watch the **entire recording if you download it** onto your computer/tablet and then watch it from the downloaded MP4 file. Be aware that these files are 300MB - 1200MB in size. First click on the recording and then the download (direct download) function is at the top right. When finished watching, delete that downloaded MP4 file from your computer/tablet so you gain back that space. -Jim

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.

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday. Craig is now managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at office@shalommennonite.com or craig@shalommennonite.com.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Getting lost while following

When I was in seminary I had a roommate who needed his car worked on and he needed someone (me) to follow him to his uncle's house in Topeka, IN so he could have a ride back. I did not yet have a cell phone and if I would have it was pre smart phone days of google maps. I was completely at my roommates leading for I had no idea where we were going. While following him on the back roads he kept getting further and further ahead of me. The faster I went to try and catch up the faster he went. Before I knew it he was gone. I was still following but I had no idea where to go and what to do.

Luke 9:52b-55 NRSV

On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

In reading this passage from Luke, it made me think of Numbers and how God's people were unable to keep up with God's leading as smoke and a pillar of fire. They were able to keep up physically but they were having troubles keeping up both spiritually and in understanding. Likewise, James and John in their following of Jesus were unable to keep up with Jesus in the way of understanding God's ways. They were physically following but something kept them from being able to keep up with the way that Jesus was leading them. Do you want us to smite these people who won't listen and receive you? I read that as an unhealthy desire of Godly power. Jesus had to rebuke them, because they were not receiving Jesus' mission.

It is easy to get lost on the way, even when following one who knows the path ahead. There are many ways that we can be sidetracked or lost. It takes time for the message of Jesus to get through to us, but the disciples kept following Jesus after getting things wrong and the Israelites kept on following after the times they missed the mark. We at times falter. We at times misunderstand. But we must keep following Jesus, to learn from our mishaps and keep on looking to where and how God is leading us. It is hard, it takes time, it takes commitment to keep up with God. – Craig

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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