

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 25, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (8/22), Craig looked at overcoming fear to speak out and our need for support for each other while being engulfed in the Lord's embrace to do so.

This Sunday (8/29), Sabrina Falls will bring the message and we will also partake in communion. At 9:30 Natasha Diener will share with us about her work in Mexico.

Next Sunday (9/5), Brian will preach from the book of Ruth and consider how the Bible identifies and responds to the challenges of xenophobia

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 29 9:30 Natasha Diener will share with us about her work in Mexico.
10:30am Worship service on Zoom, with communion.

Sunday, September 5 around 12p (after Zoom church) - Virtual Discussion about Antiracism Audit

Sunday, September 12 around 12p (after Zoom church) - Virtual Vote on Antiracism Audit

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

Sunday, September 26 at 10:30a (during Zoom church) - Pastor Craig Oury's installation

Celebrations

Thur, Aug 26 – Craig Oury, 1978

Sat, Aug 28 – Solomon Abebe

Sat, Aug 28 – Grace Rhine

Sat, Aug 28 – Jerry & Marilyn Teel, 1965

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Dismantling Racism Process

The Commission Chairs of Shalom Mennonite Church are proposing that Shalom hire Widerstand Consulting to perform an antiracism audit on our church. Widerstand is a nonprofit organization with ties to the Mennonite Church whose curriculum was used in a Sunday school class that was recommended by Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference and taught here at Shalom. Their mission is to help white institutions become anti-racist,

which is also a mission that our congregation adopted last year. One of the tools they offer to facilitate this is an anti-racism audit, which is a deep evaluation of our church culture, history, and policies to determine what racial barriers may be present within our congregation. The cost of this audit is \$5000.

On Sunday, September 5, there will be a discussion after the church service about this proposed audit, which all are invited to attend. Frank Kandel and CoraLyn Turentine will facilitate a discussion that invites questions about why we are pursuing this and solicits congregational feedback. The following Sunday (9/12), there will be a congregational vote after church about whether to move forward with this audit. If you consider Shalom to be your home church, whether you are a newcomer or longtime member, we strongly ask you to consider participating in this discussion and subsequent vote.

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Attached is an announcement of the Church Women United Forum on Gun Violence on Thursday, August 26th, at 7:00PM.

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence Thursday, September 16th at 7:00PM, is the Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence Forum and Annual Meeting, with Guest Speaker State Senator Fady Qaddoura. Pre-register at info@hcgv.org with "RSVP Annual Meeting".

The Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association Cleanup Day is Saturday, September 18, 9-12:00 noon. We hope for a big turnout from Shalom.

Food pantry

Frank will be attending the semi-annual advisory board meeting of Morning Star Church in Muncie on September 7th and would like to take along a load of food stuffs for their food pantry. Please leave your non-perishable food donations at church or drop them off at Frank's house or call him to pick them up at 309-532-2859.

Family Promise of Indianapolis, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) update see attachment

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

CHAIR: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is grateful to announce the following:

- Brittany Bither has been affirmed as chair of the Worship Commission (WC).
- CoraLyn Turentine has accepted the one-year term on the Vision and Accountability Team (VAT).

We continue the search for a WC member position and a VAT three-year term position. Please pray for the discernment process for these important roles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renewing the Deacon Program. As we enter yet another round of quarantine and virtual church, the Pastoral Team and VAT have decided to temporarily renew the Deacon Program. The Deacon Program is a system of pastoral care that we adopted in April 2020 in which every regular attendee of the church was assigned to a deacon, who was responsible for keeping in touch with them and acting as a point of spiritual support from the church. Although we had talked about implementing something like this for years, we never formally discussed it as a church, and so we decided to experiment with it at the beginning of the pandemic when the need for

pastoral care increased beyond what Brian could handle by himself. Now we have experimented with it for over a year, and we have gotten a wide range of responses, from people who really appreciated it to others who did not find it to be helpful or effective. When the church starts meeting in person, we plan to have a congregational evaluation of the deacon program to decide whether to continue it or not, but until then, the church leadership has decided to renew the program, while making two key changes:

(1) New deacons - All of our deacons did a wonderful job serving in their roles, but some need to end their service, which means that **we need new members of the congregation to volunteer as deacons**. If you have any interest in serving as a deacon, please contact Brian to learn more.

(2) Congregational Participation - The make-up of our congregation has changed in the last year, with some folks ceasing to attend Shalom and others joining the church. The Community Life Commission is going to re-evaluate the list of regular attendees, which will be re-distributed among the deacons. However, if you do not want to be contacted by a deacon, please email Brian that you would like **to opt out of the deacon program**, and you will not be assigned one. Of course, you will still be valued as a member of our community.

Crop Walk

It's that time of year again to think about participating with the Crop Hunger Walk!! Due to COVID the walk will be virtual again in October; the walk is 3 miles. As people sign up we will decide if we want to meet up to walk as a group or individually. You need to register online to walk with Shalom Mennonite church. Ask for your donations to help stop hunger as the donations go to people around the world to stop hunger.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/indianapolisin>

Please email me at Juliekins7182@hotmail.com if you have any questions! – Julie Sanders

MCC bike ride



This year I am again planning to participate in the annual MCC Bike Michiana tour at Amigo Centre on October 8-10. This year's project is directed to Climate Change Mitigation in Zimbabwe, and I am soliciting your sponsorship as I have in prior years. With last year's cancellation, the worldwide needs are still critical in the face of the pandemic, I invite you to share with those who are less fortunate than us. With the limits of in-person worship, I am asking you to make your contributions by mail.

Checks should be made payable to AMIGO CENTRE and mailed to me, John Amstutz, 1185 N 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

Thank you for your contributions and sponsorship. With your past support, you have helped me to raise close to \$30,000 for mission services of MCC, and I am hoping that this year is the year to exceed that goal. John Amstutz

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

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 or mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.

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.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

The hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you

I'm sure that each and everyone of us has done things that go unnoticed. I lived in a house with a couple of guys for a few years and for some reason I was the only one who could ever remember to take the garbage to the curb for pick up on Friday morning. I could have told them to do it, or reminded them about it, but it was a simple enough task so if I remembered to do it, why not just do it. A few months after I moved, I was talking to one of my former roommates and in our conversation he said, I didn't realize that you took care of the trash and recycling every week, until you moved out. We all have done things for others that largely go unnoticed, at home, at church, at work, for friends, for neighbors, for strangers perhaps, but that doesn't mean we stop doing them. And likewise, I'm sure each and everyone of us have had things done for us that we may not have noticed, or noticed but did not dwell to much on, where we just went about our lives or routines.

I was inspired by the park dedication for Dagne on Sunday. Hearing and seeing how many people appreciate who he is and what he has done. How there were so many people who wanted to honor him and let him know how important the things he has done are and their lasting impacts.

The days following Sunday's dedication I have been thinking about how there have been so many people at times in my life who have impacted me. Some often and for many years and some just in certain seasons and times of my life, both are important. I've wondered how often I have let those people know that I have appreciated their impact on my life. I've wondered why I haven't done so as much as I wish I have. May we all live in thankfulness and share that gratitude for the things people have done in our lives. Perhaps Paul's words to Philemon will help me to do so more often.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

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

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317)-332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

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

