

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 18, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (8/15), Brian discussed systemic racism as one of the "spiritual forces of evil" that Ephesians tells us to struggle against in Ephesians 2:1-6 and 6:10-17.

This Sunday (8/22), Craig will be looking at Psalm 34:1-8 and how seeking the Lord moves us beyond fear.

Next Sunday (8/29), We will be having another virtual communion service, so we encourage you to prepare to have something to eat and drink if you would like to participate in it, and Sabrina Falls will deliver the sermon. At 9:30 Natasha Diener will share with us about her work in Mexico.

Minutes from the last Worship Commission meeting are attached.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Saturday, August 21

4:30PM Informal memorial service and tree planting for Tim Bixler.

Sunday, August 22 10:30 am Worship service on Zoom only, no in person gathering

Sunday, August 22

2 pm Dagne Assefa Public Park dedication

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

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

Celebrations

Thur, Aug 19 – Sheila Y. Abebe

Thur, Aug 19 – Lorraine Hernandez

Sun, Aug 22 – Brad & Kathy Sommer, 1981

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 (5/12), 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

Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association Community Cleanup

Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association is inviting Shalom Mennonite church members to join them during the Community Cleanup day—Saturday, September 18, 2021—9am—Noon

(KIB & Neighbor Link)

This is our neighborhood.

For those who are new or missed the last announcement, Shalom Mennonite church is located within the following 4 major street, which is our neighborhood.

- Shadeland to the east of Shalom
- Sherman to the west
- 21St to the south
- 38th Street to the North

As you see Shalom Mennonite church is very much surrounded by these streets. It would be nice to see 20-30 of us show up from Shalom to help clean up our neighborhood.

If You have any question about the cleanup day, please contact or email:

Darnae' Scales

Exhortation Manager

Eastern Star Church

5750 E. 30th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218

phone [317.591.5050](tel:317.591.5050) ext. 140

fax [317.591.5060](tel:317.591.5060)

email dscales@easternstarchurch.org

web easternstarchurch.org

Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach Commission

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.

Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence

Attached is the August HCGV newsletter

Sharing Corner: School Kits for Mennonite Central Committee:

Contents (NEW items only)

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes. **All metal** sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com) or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. **If you cannot find all metal sharpeners** please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners

Shalom as a Partner with Faith in Indiana

One of the ecumenical organizations Shalom supports through our annual budget and in other ways is Faith in Indiana (FII). Formerly IndyCan focusing in Marion County, FIA became a state-wide organization in 2017, with eight staff, and chapters in Allen, Elkhart, Hamilton, Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph Counties. FII is a partner of the national Faith in Action Network.

FII's overall mission is reflected in its **Families First Campaign**. Faith leaders act on our faith values to put human dignity, abundance, and equity at the center of public decisions, and involve congregations in the quest for social justice. The ecumenical, interracial, state-wide board of directors includes every faith tradition—Jewish, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, and others. Five main goals of **Families First** include:

- 1) restorative justice- a criminal justice system that promotes healing and reconciliation, shifting resources away from mass incarceration of people of color, immigrants, and poor people, ending of cash bail, accountable law enforcement, and rehabilitation for mental illness and addiction; universal background checks for guns, and ban of assault weapons
- 2) immigrant inclusion- welcoming people who travel to make a better, more secure life, access to housing, employment, education, health care, driver's licenses, and a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants
- 3) universal affordable health care- movement toward access for all to preventive and restorative health care, and reduction of costs
- 4) a caring economy- a world in which all workers earn enough to support themselves and their family, paid medical leave when needed, excellent education for all from preschool through college
- 5) fair democracy- automatic voter registration, full participation in elections, fair redistricting, responsive public officials, people at the center of politics.

Several Shalom members participated in the FII nonpartisan Indiana Votes campaign last year, which contacted over 15,000 persons to encourage them to support FII's five goals, and to vote in the 2020 Presidential and legislative elections. (This campaign is credited with electing the first Muslim, Fady Qaddoura, to the Indiana General Assembly).

As people of faith, we believe everyone should feel safe in the community we call home. Within Faith in Indiana, Solidarity in Action is a network of congregations that pledge to support Muslims facing Islamophobia, African-Americans facing racial profiling, and immigrants of all national origins facing detention, deportation, and

traumatic encounters with ICE. We train clergy and congregation members as rapid responders who can show up within minutes if people are threatened by ICE or law enforcement. When people are fearful of being separated from their families and communities, we accompany them to ICE check-ins, and court and bail hearings.

Recently, 7th District Congressman Andre Carson made it clear that he stands with Faith in Indiana and the 5 million undocumented essential workers who have kept our families safe, fed, and healthy during the pandemic. During Faith in Indiana's Freedom Together Town Hall, Congressman Carson pledged to lead the Congressional Tri-Caucus -- which is composed of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) -- in pressuring the Biden Administration to include a pathway to citizenship for 5 million essential workers in his Build Back Better Plan.

Faith in Indiana, working behind the scenes, was instrumental in getting the 2021-22 budget of Indianapolis to include \$115 million to reduce gun violence, fund mental health care, and find alternatives to mass incarceration. We thank Faith in Indiana Lead Organizer Rosie Bryant for her persistent work on advancing the **Family First** agenda of Faith in Indiana.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

CHAIR: Joyce Troyer

The SGDT is pleased to announce that Brittany Bither has accepted our nomination to serve as chair of the Worship Commission effective September 1. In keeping with Shalom's process, we request your affirmation and/or feedback about Brittany's gifts to serve in this role. Please email these to Joyce Troyer at troyers_hj@hotmail.com by August 24. The SGDT thanks Grace Rhine for her 4 years of serving Shalom on the Worship Commission. She began as a member, and stepped into the role of chair this past year. SGDT is also thankful for Linda Showalter's continuing service, and for Emily Fox Ludden's service as a member the past 1 1/2 years.

Please pray for continued discernment in the process of nominating the third member to replace Emily for the Worship Commission and the congregational selection of the VAT Congregational Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Memorial Service

"As most of you know, our community experienced a tragedy last year when one of our church members - Tim Bixler - lost his life to gun violence. Tim, the son of Sam and Carol Bixler, grew up at this church and continued to relate to it in adulthood. We will be hosting a tree-planting service in memory of Tim this coming Saturday, August 21 at 4:30p, and although it is not a public event, anyone from this church is invited to attend. Due to the nature of the service, it will be difficult to socially distance, so we are asking everyone to wear a mask, even though it will be held outside - even if it rains. We also encourage you to bring an umbrella or a folding chair if either are needed during the service."

Park Dedication

"Although we have always sought to share our park with our neighbors, the church leadership has decided to officially make our park public and to name it after our founding pastor, Dagne Assefa. We are going to celebrate this with a short dedication service next Sunday (8/22) at 2pm at the park itself. **Brian could use some help setting up chairs for this event, so if you are available to help around 1p on day, please let him know!** The chairs will be arranged for social distancing and masks will not be required unless we sing or have to move the service indoors due to rain. All are invited to join us for this celebration."

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_ReooskuxUXA!

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 mlwigin@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

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