

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 2, 2020

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

**Last Sunday (8/30)**, we took a break from "The Story of the Bible" series, as Frank preached about how we need to yield ourselves to God's enabling Spirit in order to walk in God's ways.

**This Sunday (9/6)**, we will resume our Story of the Bible series, with Gemima preaching on how to defeat the giant, based on the story of David in 1 Samuel 17.

**Next Sunday (9/13)**, Brian will preach on the pinnacle moment of the Older Testament - the commissioning of the Temple in Jerusalem.

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

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

## **Sunday, September 6**

No 9:30 session (a Labor Day break for our ushers)

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom: Gemima will preach on the life and reign of David

No Facing Hard Questions

## **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

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 on Zoom

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).*

Sun, Sept 6 – Bill & Mary Albrecht, 1959

Mon, Sept 7 – Chuck Dunn

Mon, Sept 7 – Carmen Tackitt

**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: 1 Kings 5-8, Psalm 48

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 2-7, Psalm 65

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 8-9, Ecclesiastes 1-3

Thursday: 1 Kings 9-11, Ecclesiastes 4-6

Friday: Proverbs 27:23-27, 1 Kings 12-14, Ecclesiastes 7-9

Saturday: Proverbs 11:14, 14:28, 29:4, 2 Chronicles 10-12, Ecclesiastes 10-12

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

- **Act Indiana:** Among the local ecumenical organizations that Shalom supports is Faith in Indiana (formerly IndyCan). Faith in Indiana is not permitted to participate directly in any political activity, so it has a parallel organization called Act Indiana, which becomes active in encouraging people to vote. We are invited to participate in this **nonpartisan** voter engagement program by:

- 1) participating in a Zoom rally on Thursday, September 3, 7-8:00PM,
- 2) doing a Zoom training on a Tuesday evening, and
- 3) phoning people on 1-6 Thursday evenings during September and October, to encourage them to vote.

To participate, one must have a mobile phone, and an additional device with Internet access, such as a laptop or tablet. The links to register for the rally and the training are below. We encourage you to seriously consider participating in this effort to improve political participation in our community. Questions? Call Brad Yoder at 260-479-5128 or email [blyoder2@gmail.com](mailto:blyoder2@gmail.com).

Here is the link for the Sept 3, rally at 7:00 PM.

<https://faithindiana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMqcOCorz0tH9HKpJn4z5SblEI8gmNPNT4V>

Sign up for a Tuesday training here:

<http://actindiana.org/voterprogram/>

- **Shalom to help furnish housewares for Family Promise Apartment:** Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis has received a grant allowing them to rent 10 more apartments! These apartments will bring their total to 20 and help so many more families than usual.

Zionsville UMC, Shalom Mennonite Church, and Major Tool have accepted the responsibility of getting household goods for one 2-bedroom apartment. Furniture is being provided by The Mustard Seed of Indianapolis and we are collecting new and gently used household items that are clean and in working order. We need these items **by September 10**. To help with this project, please click the following link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/familypromiseapt>.

- **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

See minutes from the August 24 meeting [here](#)

### **Announcements**

- Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference is offering a series of webinars, one per month on Thursday nights, about intercultural competency. Led by Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, this series, called "Built Together: A Foundation Series," addresses topics such as Introducing Race, Understanding Whiteness, Introducing Intersectionality, Addressing Systematic Oppression, and Working for Change. For more information or to register, follow [this link](#).

- On September 23, the VAT hosted a congregational discussion and vote about whether to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Indiana AID, in which we would become their organizational sponsor and formally adopt them as a "project" of Shalom. The measure passed with a 35-1 vote. To learn more about this, look for the recording of the discussion in our Members section.
- For those interested in the Facing Hard Questions discussion last Sunday about the history of Israel in light of archeology and world history and the challenge of dealing with political bias in Scripture, Brian's PowerPoint is attached. You can find the video of that conversation on [our YouTube page](#).
- [MennoExpressions Aug 8 Online](#) (see attached pdf for preview of articles). This issue includes articles by Martha and Emily.
- **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
- Pastor Brian will be on vacation with his family from Wednesday, September 2 to Tuesday, September 8 and will not be checking email during that time. If you have an urgent church matter, please email Jeanne Smucker, our congregational chair, at [jmrsmucker@outlook.com](mailto:jmrsmucker@outlook.com)
- 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 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 [mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net).
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

## Reflections on the Journey

David, the model king

From 1 Samuel through Revelation, David is honored as one of the great heroes of the Bible, whose descendants (or descendant?) would rule forever. But to be perfectly honest with you, David is *not* one of my favorite characters. In my mind, he has too many faults that have been emulated and multiplied by many believers who have followed in his footsteps, including the extreme and severe violence he showed toward his enemies. So why was David honored in this way?

According to the Biblical narrative, the reason that God chose David to be the leader is because he was "a man after God's heart." (1 Samuel 13:14). For all of his flaws, David sought to follow the greatest commandment, which is to love the Lord your God with all of your *heart*, mind, soul, and strength. Everything that David did, he did to please God. He consistently looked to God for guidance rather than making decisions by himself. He trusted in God for protection rather than military power (although he certainly looked to that a secondary source of protection). And he worshipped God so fully that he was willing to debase himself in front of his people in order to please God. One of the particular ways that David sought to please God was by not killing Saul, even when Saul was trying to kill David. Despite having several opportunities to take Saul's life, David chose risky and costly non-violent options every time, because he understood that Saul was *God's anointed*. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us that every person is an anointed child of God, and we might wonder how David would have led the people if he treated all of his enemies with the same care that he treated Saul, and later, Absalom. The more we learn about God, the more we see that *loving God with all our hearts* leads to *loving our neighbors as ourselves*.

- 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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Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Wilma Bailey, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson, Brian Bither