

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 15, 2021

### **WORSHIP: Our relationship with God**

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (9/12)**, Brian preached about the kind of humility that “considers others better than ourselves.”

**This Sunday (9/19)**, This Sunday is Peace Sunday, Craig will preach from Matthew 5:43-48 and how peace is connected to growing in God's likeness.

**Next Sunday (9/19)**, We will have a special licensing service for Pastor Craig, and we will be joined by one of our new Conference pastors, Sharon Yoder.

### **Songs in worship**

Due to our Zoom services and copyright restrictions (because we are recording our services), we have needed to use a lot of unfamiliar music recently. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to plan worship services, with meaningful but unfamiliar music. – The Worship Commission

### **COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom**

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

**This Friday, September 17 at 11a**, we will be hosting a memorial service for our founding pastor, Dagne Assefa. Seating in the sanctuary is limited to invited guests, but everyone in the congregation is invited to participate either through the Zoom link ([here](#)) or by attending the outdoor viewing in the Dagne Assefa Park behind our church. Because the outdoor viewing could be a little crowded, **we are asking all guests to wear masks, whether they are indoors or outdoors.**

**Sunday, September 19** Sunday school at 9:30 and Worship at 10:30 on Zoom

**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

**Sunday, October 3**, World Communion Sunday

### **Celebrations**

Fri, Sept 17 – Carol Stocksdale

Fri, Sept 17 – Luke Bither

Sat, Sept 18 – Robert Coleman

Mon, Sept 20 – Aletheia Bither

Tue, Sept 21 – Joel Buller

Tue, Sept 21 – Mia Martínez

### **Small Groups at Shalom**

Returning to Zoom meetings has been emotionally difficult, but the rise in Covid cases around us requires minimizing contacts. The hard part in all this is staying connected to friends, family members and church members. But there are some solutions.

At Shalom Mennonite Church we have a small groups that help to keep us in contact with each other. There are several that are still meeting, and you are invited to join one of them. The groups each meet at different times and places. Depending on what is happening, some are continuing by Zoom and others meet outside when weather permits or zoom meetings when needed. Being in a small group myself, I find it helps to have more contact with others during these times of Covid.

Another option is for a few people to start a new small group based around a common interest. The group can be time-limited and each group is asked to evaluate if the group is still working for them on a regular basis.

Let a Community Life Commission member know if you are interested in either joining an ongoing small group or in starting a new small group: Herb Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Rose Love ([rhlove@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhlove@sbcglobal.net)), or Linda Kandel ([linidakandel@gmail.com](mailto:linidakandel@gmail.com)).

### **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

#### **Dismantling Racism Audit Update**

The business meeting scheduled for September 19 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a future date.

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### **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Brad Yoder

#### **Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence**

On Thursday, September 16th at 7-8:00PM, is the Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence Forum and Annual Meeting, with Guest Speaker State Senator Fady Qaddoura. Pre-register at [info@hcgv.org](mailto:info@hcgv.org) with "RSVP Annual Meeting".

#### **The Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association Cleanup Day**

The Arlington Woods Neighborhood cleanup day plan has changed slightly.

The **date (September 18, 2021, and the time 9AM - 1 PM.)** remain the same.

However, at this past Monday nights' meeting the association announced that volunteers would be asked to go **to 3315 North Drexel Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46218** to pick up trash, clean gutters, trim shrubs and other cleaning task around this home.

The use of a ladder will be required and therefor anyone willing and interested

to volunteer would have to visit the following site...

<https://nlindy.volunteerhub.com/lp/arlingtonwoods/> and complete a waiver form before coming to work at the property. If you need more clarification about the waiver, please contact Ms. Talia Shivers at [taliapar@aol.com](mailto:taliapar@aol.com).

Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach Commission.

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## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

CHAIR: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who serve Shalom! At this time, the official positions for the coming church year that begins September 1 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](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Frank Kandel ([kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com)), or Raphael Edou ([raphaedou@gmail.com](mailto:raphaedou@gmail.com)).

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## **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.

**Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, an MCC Great Lakes partner, will hold its 2021 Faith Climate Summit on Sunday, Oct. 10, from 12-5 p.m. in Noblesville.** Faith leaders from across our state will discuss the [Faith Climate Declaration](#), a statement of action for Hoosiers who believe we must “join together with a conviction and responsibility to care for our neighbors and for creation, both of which hold inherent and undeniable dignity.” The event will also feature food trucks, live music and family-friendly educational activities. More information and registration at: [hoosieripl.salsalabs.org/2021FaithClimateSummitOctober102021](https://hoosieripl.salsalabs.org/2021FaithClimateSummitOctober102021)

**Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for the third MCC U.S. Color of Compromise webinar featuring Sandra Maria Van Opstal on September 28th at 1:00 p.m. EDT.** From the depth of her experience ministering to the Hispanic and Latino community, writer, speaker and co-founder of Chasing Justice movement, Sandra Maria Van Opstal will speak about the impact of the church's complicity in racism on the Hispanic and Latino community here in the U.S. Register for the free webinar here: [mcc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mn84mcwBTHu\\_ggUajNFQKw](https://mcc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mn84mcwBTHu_ggUajNFQKw). For more information on past webinars in the series, visit [mcc.org/color-of-compromise](https://mcc.org/color-of-compromise).

### 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](mailto: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 with memo line "MCC", and mailed to me, John Amstutz, 1185 N 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

**Addendum 9/11/2021:** I had previously given consideration to designating your contributions as an honorarium for Dagne. Now, with his passing on Thursday, all SMC contributions will be designated as a memorial instead.

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!](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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto: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 account or you have minutes for him to upload, you can email the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or at [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com)

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

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

Vision & Accountability Team: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdales  
Brian Bither, Craig Oury

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