

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 26, 2021

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

Chair: Grace Rhine

**Last Sunday (5/23)** Frank preached about Jesus' command to wait for the Holy Spirit before jumping into action, which highlights the importance of making space in our lives to hear from the Holy Spirit before filling up our schedules.

**This Sunday (5/30)** Brian will preach the final sermon in the "Story of the Bible" series by taking a glimpse at life everlasting, especially as it is described in the final chapters of Revelation.

**Next Sunday (6/6)** Wilma Bailey will deliver the sermon.

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, May 30**

9:30 am - Adult Sunday school, Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations - Wilma Bailey, Frank Kandel  
10:30 am – Worship service via Zoom  
2 pm - FHQ: What hard questions do *you* still have about the Bible and the story it tells?

#### **Sunday, June 6**

9:30 am - Adult Sunday school,  
10:30 am – Worship service via Zoom

#### **Monday, June 7**

9a - 3p - Roving Office at Northwest Panera, 2902 W. 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

#### **Sunday, June 13**

Hybrid Worship service. Details to be announced.

#### **Monday, June 21**

9a - 3p - Roving Office at McDonald's, 9851 E. Washington St, Indianapolis, IN

#### **Monday, June 28**

9a - 3p - Roving Office at Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96th St, Fishers, IN

### **Celebrations**

Missed last week: Sat, May 22 - Herb & Joyce Troyer, 1976

Thu, May 27 – Lexie Bither

Thu, May 27 – Carlos Reyes

Wed, Jun 2 – Lorraine Harms

Wed, Jun 2 – Jim & Linda Showalter, 1973

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

Chair: Martha Yoder

**Children's Church:** When our Shalom community begins to worship in person again on June 13, we would like to offer Children's Church for children ages 2-8. Children in this age-group would be dismissed before the Scripture Reading to go outdoors (or to Fellowship Hall in case of bad weather). I am looking for adult and youth volunteers to provide a short program and supervise play-time. Please let me know if you would be willing to cover a Sunday or two in June, July, and August. More details to come. ~Laura Harms

## **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Brad Yoder

See the attached copy from Mennonite Mission Network's Extending Beyond about Peter and Delicia's work, for any that may not have seen it. Please continue to hold their family and the work in Ecuador in your prayers.  
~ Jeanne Smucker

See the attached note from **Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association**.

December a year ago, the extensive solar array on Shalom's south roof went on the electrical grid and since inception, the panels have produced 53.14 megawatts of power. This translates into **2,277.58 lbs** of CO2 emissions saved, or the equivalent of **621.68** trees planted! If you want to see the daily output of Shalom's solar array, you can access it [here](#).

First Mennonite Church on Indy's west side, recently brought on grid their own 100 panel solar array. They wrote, "Shalom served as an inspiration and example for FMC when we undertook our plans for solar. Our panels are now installed and generating and this is cause for celebration!" FMC held a celebration and dedication on May 22 and entitled it "**Let Your Light Shine**".

The mission of **Interfaith Power and Light**, an organization with which we are affiliated, is to mobilize a religious response to global warming. Their mission is "to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change." We are in the process of applying to this organization for their "Certified Cool Congregation" status which is intended to help congregations continue taking steps to enhance the environment. ~ Frank Kandel for the Outreach Commission

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Brian is now fully vaccinated, and so he plans to begin holding "Roving Office" meetings at various parts in the city on most Mondays. Anyone is welcome to come and visit during those hours, but it is strongly recommended that only people who are fully vaccinated participate and that considerations regarding health and safety are given the first priority.

**Responding to conflict in Gaza: You can provide emergency relief today through MCC.** The recent violence has made poor humanitarian conditions in Gaza worse, at a time when hospitals were already overwhelmed with COVID-19. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed and damaged with thousands displaced. Your gifts will help MCC partners provide emergency relief, like emergency food, hygiene supplies, household items, housing reconstruction and trauma healing. Thank you for supporting vulnerable families, your compassion and care will be felt across borders and walls. You can donate online at [mcc.org/gaza-relief](http://mcc.org/gaza-relief), by phone at (888) 563-4676, or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

The **Gathering Safely Committee** reviewed the survey results. 65% of those who responded said yes, and there were a number of helpful comments. We reviewed current cases in Central Indiana and current CDC guidance, and decided that we could start hybrid worship services on June 13 (to give commissions time to prepare). Here's how it will look:

- About 20 persons or households will be able to participate each Sunday. Every other pew has been roped off to keep a 6-foot distance, and one person or household will be able to sit at each end of each open pew. Tech personnel, preacher, and worship leader may sit in the front pews. There are chairs in the back that could be used for unexpected guests or ushers.
- Martha will work with Tim on a signup process, as not all those who said "yes" can be accommodated all at once. Details to come later.
- We will mask and distance while indoors. Preacher and worship leader may remove masks while in the pulpit if they have been fully vaccinated (last dose of the series at least 2 weeks earlier) so that their faces can be seen and their speech understood on Zoom.
- Initially, at least, there will not be Sunday school. Laura Harms, who is our children's ed coordinator, is working on an outdoor activity for kids 2 years old and up during part of the worship service.
- Since we have unvaccinated persons among us, and since singing transmits more virus than speaking, we will not sing while indoors. We may hum (while masked), clap, stand and move, or play a rhythm instrument during the recorded music. If Worship Commission chooses, a final song could be sung outside, with unvaccinated persons keeping masks on.

- After worship, we will exit promptly, and do our chatting outside.
- Anyone who feels ill should stay home, even if they have signed up to attend.
- Safely Gathering Committee will continue to review the cases in the community and make adjustments as needed.

Martha Yoder Maust, for the Safely Gathering Committee

**Amigo Centre Leadership Transition:** Amigo Centre continues its search for their next Executive Director. This full-time position is responsible for the oversight of all the administration of Amigo, offering strategic vision toward the future. A job description can be found at [amigocentre.org](http://amigocentre.org). This position also includes publicly representing Amigo Centre and finding various ways to strengthen support for Amigo within its diverse constituency. Qualified applicants will demonstrate strong leadership skills of leading and managing an organization. They will have a passion for transformative faith experiences and a gift for working with people, including excellent communication skills. Letters of interest and resumes can be sent to [amigosearch@amigocentre.org](mailto:amigosearch@amigocentre.org). Join us in praying for Amigo and the search process as we discern a new Executive Director.

- 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!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReooskuxUXA!)
- **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, 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 [mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).
- Send announcements for *Journeying Together* to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

### Our Chapter in the Bible's Story

This Sunday, I will preach the last sermon in the Story of the Bible series. In a little over a year, we will have read and discussed the entire scope of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. However, that does not mean that we have "read" or covered all of God's Story, which reaches outside of the pages of the Bible and includes us as well.

I have said on a few occasions that we are in Act VI of the Bible's Story. That is the Act entitled "The Church," in which God's people do the ground-laying work of reconciling the world to God in anticipation of the final reconciliation between God and the World in Act VII. Although the Bible is "closed" in one sense, in that believers are forbidden from adding or detracting Scriptures from the Biblical canon (cf. Revelation 22:18-19), the Bible intentionally looks to the future, to our times, and gives blessings and speaks about the work God will do through us, even though we are doing God's work thousands of years after they were. This is clear in passages like Psalm 102:18, which says, "Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord" and in Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-21, which says, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The Bible's Story is not designed for our entertainment, but for our participation. The mantle of God's people has passed from generation to generation, starting with Abraham and Sarah and coming all the way down to us, and it is in light of the work that our forebearers have done that

we can know how to move forward in faith. Although this series has been somewhat tedious and academic at times, my prayer is that it will help ground us all in the faith and help us as individuals and as a church to understand our own role in God's work of salvation.  
~ 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)

Pastor: *Brian Bither*, (317) 322-7320

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