

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 21, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (10/18), we read about and reflected on the most traumatic moment in all of the Older Testament: the conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the destruction of the temple of Yahweh.

This Sunday (10/25), we will spend time dwelling on the grief that the Jews experienced in response to the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple. Specifically, we will look at three different ways that the Bible responds to this tragedy: lamenting, questioning God, and calling for vengeance.

Next Sunday (11/1), Gemima Trochez will continue our Story of the Bible series by preaching on the experience of Daniel and the other Jewish exiles in Babylon



Election Day Communion: You are invited to join us via Zoom for Election Day Communion on November 3rd at 7 pm. Planning for this even is initiated by the CAMFell congregations (Ft. Wayne and South) and is for all Indiana-Michigan Mennonite congregations. This is an opportunity to affirm that our hope is in Jesus, even as we participate with others in national elections. See the attached to register for this event.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

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.

Sunday, October 25

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.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions: Many scholars believe that European anti-Semitism has its roots in Christian supersessionism - the belief that the Israelites failed in their mission as God's people and the Church had to replace them. Is there a way to understand the Biblical story without this interpretation?

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Saving Time Ends

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.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: How historically reliable are the narratives and stories of the last part of the Older Testament?

Tuesday, November 3

7 pm - Election Day Communion via Zoom



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.

Sunday, November 8

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.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, November 15

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.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10 30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions: Did religions and ideologies other than Judaism influence the development of Christianity? If so, what are the implications of that?

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.

Sunday, November 22

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.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, November 29, First Sunday of Advent

No Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom



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.

Sunday, December 6, 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: we will have opportunities to talk about coping with the pandemic.

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: we will have opportunities to talk about coping with the pandemic.

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: we will have opportunities to talk about coping with the pandemic.

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, December 27, Christmas Sunday

No Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, January 3

No Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

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.

Mon, Oct 26 – Sabrina Falls

Conversation about current politics: If you would like to be a part of an informal conversation about current events related to politics, let Wilma Bailey know. Two other conversations have been scheduled for Oct. 23 and Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

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: Psalm 89, Daniel 1-4, Proverbs 23:1-3, 29:26-27

Tuesday: Psalm 123, Jeremiah 40-44, Proverbs 28:17-18

Wednesday: Psalm 44, Proverbs 14:25, Ezekiel 34-37

Thursday: Psalm 113, Isaiah 40:1-43:13, Proverbs 15:30

Friday: Proverbs 2, Isaiah 43:14-46:13, Proverbs 21:1, 25:25

Saturday: Isaiah 47-48, 2 Chronicles 36, Daniel 5, Proverbs 20:1, 29:23

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Faith in Indiana (formerly IndyCan) is an ecumenical social justice organization which Shalom supports through our budget each year. Over the past six weeks, and leading up to the elections on November 3rd, Faith in Indiana is carrying out a campaign contacting many Indiana residents to encourage them to vote as a means of improving the quality of life throughout our state. Jeanne Smucker, Sabrina Falls, and Brad Yoder have participated in contacting over 15,000 persons to encourage their political participation. Faith in Indiana's goals include everyone having access to health care, adequate food and shelter, and supporting good public schools for everyone.

If anyone else would like to participate in the campaign leading up to the election, please contact me..

~Brad Yoder

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

See attached Minutes from the October 1 meeting.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

When the new structure for Shalom was initiated in 2017, an interim organizational structure was developed with the understanding that it would be revised and refined during the first years of implementation. Last year, a task force surveyed the congregation and the commissions about how the new structure was working and what modifications were recommended. It

concluded that the new structure has been successful at facilitating our responsiveness to the Holy Spirit and our effectiveness at fulfilling our mission in many ways and also that there are some aspects of it that were not working very well. Following the review, the taskforce along with the VAT has been developing a modified version of the structure that retains the best elements of the 2017 version while making some amendments to address its weaknesses.

After getting feedback about this, the VAT hopes to have the modified version of the new structure ready for congregation input by late January or February. We acknowledge that processing the structure virtually will be challenging and we hope to provide adequate time for input from the whole congregation since this affects how we function as a church. We value your ongoing prayers and support during this process.

In addition to this, Shalom has experimented with a deacon model of pastoral care during the pandemic that has gotten positive feedback, and it has been proposed that we incorporate this as a permanent part of our structure so that the deacon ministry can continue even after the pandemic has ended. The VAT plans to seek congregational input about this deacon ministry when we are able to again meet in person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Gathering safely:** The ad hoc committee on gathering safely has reviewed the current Covid data. Cases in Indiana and in central Indiana have been rising again the past 2-3 weeks, and Indiana has hit some new record highs. While Governor Holcomb has not added new restrictions, it seems clear that gathering together (especially indoors) with people not of our households is the best way to spread the virus. Based on this, and in consultation with the Commission Chairs who met on 10/20, we are recommending no in-person services through the end of December. We will continue to monitor the data, and should there be a significant improvement before then, we would act on that information.

Since eating together requires removing masks, it is even less safe for us to eat together, so there will not be a Thanksgiving meal or a Christmas banquet at the church.

You are still welcome to make use of the church grounds for family or small group gatherings with masks and safe distancing. We also encourage you to think of other ways to reach out to each other (phone calls, Zoom calls, etc.) so we can support each other through these difficult times. ~ Martha

- 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.

- **Please note:**

- 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 mlwigginton@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.

- Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

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

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

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