

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 6, 2021

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

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (10/3)**, we started our sermon series on the book of Numbers, looking especially at chapters 1-2. At the outset of the wilderness journey, the Israelites structured their community life in a way that literally put God in the center. We ought to follow their example and ensure that God is at the center of our individual and collective lives as well.

**This Sunday (10/10)**, Brian will preach about the "pillar of cloud" that led the Israelites through the wilderness and which represented God's continual presence among them, noting that we too have access to God in our lives.

**Next Sunday (10/17)**, Wilma Bailey will continue our sermon series by preaching from Numbers 11-12. After worship business meeting to vote on Widerstand

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

**From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21**, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey is leading us in a study of the book of Numbers. **Texts to read for the Adult Sunday School Class this week: Numbers 10-12**

**Sunday, October 10**, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Zoom worship

**Sunday, October 17**, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Zoom worship, following worship will be a business meeting to vote on Widerstand Consulting do a Dismantling Racism audit of Shalom's policies and practices

### **Celebrations**

### **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

#### **Business Meeting October 17**

Our September 12 meeting to vote on a proposal to have Widerstand Consulting do a Dismantling Racism audit of Shalom's policies and practices was cancelled due to Dagne's passing. After consultation with the Commission Chairs' Team, it has been rescheduled for October 17 after worship. We will have some time for updates since the last meeting and for conversation, then we will vote on the proposal.

If you would like to refresh your memory of the earlier conversation, a summary of the September 5 meeting is included in the September 8 Journeying Together and also attached below.

Once again, there will be three ways you may vote. 1) By putting your name and your vote in the chat at the meeting, 2) By raising your hand at the meeting, or 3) by emailing me [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) before 9:00 AM on October 17. (For the 2 persons who had emailed me before September 12, I will keep your votes unless you tell me otherwise.)

Martha Yoder Maust

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

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

**TO: Shalom Mennonite Church**

**FROM: Tilahun Beyene,  
MK Seminary Update**

As you may know, the MK Seminary (formerly called MK College) was established close some three decades ago to address the needs of the fast growing Meserete Kristos Church (the Mennonite Church in Ethiopia). Today it is continuously producing pastors, evangelists and other trained leaders to serve the ever-expanding Kingdom of God. In this effort, the Seminary is deeply grateful to you the supporters and partners because it could not have done it on its own.

Currently, the enrollment stands at 436 of which 351 are men and 85 women. The urgent need is for funds for scholarship as they continue to struggle with the effects of the Pandemic and a shortfall in inflow of support. They are also working on a kitchen and assembly hall project and are moving forward in spite of challenges faced by the sudden escalation of the cost of building materials. The building is about 73% complete.

They now look forward to the 2021/2022 fiscal year with great anticipation as the Lord enables them to continue to prepare more Kingdom workers for the harvest that is white and abundant. As always, your support and partnership in this, is crucial. Thank you!

## **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who serve Shalom! At this time, the official positions for the church year 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)).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Help Haitians learn English**

Volunteers are needed to help teach English to Haitians on Sunday afternoons 2:00 – 3:30 on the near East Side off 38<sup>th</sup> Street. The class is led by Dave Williamson, pastor of Zionsville UMC. He teaches the first half of the class and then divides the 80 students into smaller groups based on their levels; 2/3s are beginners. Dave and his wife Jamalyn previously lived in Haiti. Jamalyn is the CEO of Zanmi Fondwa which builds houses in Haiti. If interested go to

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080945a8ac2fa5f49-english> or contact Jamalyn at [jamalyn@zanmifondwa.com](mailto:jamalyn@zanmifondwa.com) to answer questions. – Joyce Troyer

### **Interrupting Racism for Children (IRFC)**

“Racism is an grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it.” Ruby Bridges

Over the last few years, I (Jeanne Smucker) have had the privilege of becoming a facilitator for a program called Interrupting Racism for Children, offered by Child Advocates. They describe it this way:

Interrupting Racism for Children (IRFC) educates and moves individuals to action to stop racism in its tracks, creating a future where children thrive and race does not predict their life outcomes. IRFC is a two-day, interactive workshop where community members and leaders have the opportunity to feel, heal and grow with one another to confront racism.

Participants leave the workshop with a greater sense of their own power and tools on how to interrupt the key elements designed to keep racism in place.

Sometimes there are openings for community members to attend at no charge. If you are interested in attending, please let Jeanne know and she will contact you when there are openings that you might be interested in attending. Workshops may be one- or two-day and may be in person or virtual. – Jeanne Smucker

### **Support for Gemima and daughters**

Gemima has shared the great news that she received her work authorization and has a job interview lined up. The "support group" that meets to evaluate continuing with financial support for the family recommends we continue providing the monthly support during this transition time.

Donations are needed to cover October's support of \$600 and for future months as well. Please send checks made out to Shalom Mennonite Church with "Hernandez/Trochez fund" on the memo line. Send checks to the church address or to Bob Love. These donations are not tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Laura Harms. [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

**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)

### 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



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 **MCC or MCC Great Lakes (note correction from previous announcements)** 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

**Let your voice be heard by taking part in our denomination-wide survey.** Your responses will help Mennonite Church USA better serve the needs of its members. Take the survey here. [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey) En español: [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol)

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** (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 zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

### Remembering the Lessons of the Wilderness

When I was in college, I often played card games with my roommates on Friday nights, and a familiar dynamic played out almost every week. Whoever performed the worst in the card game usually attributed their lack of success to "bad luck," but whoever won the game felt that they had done so through skill and strategy. I often wondered: which of these two views was correct? Was the winner determined primarily by luck or by skill? It was probably a little bit of both, but in light of the fact that there was no dominant card player among us - a different person won and lost each week - it seems to me that luck was a greater factor than skill. This was just hard for the person on the winning side to see, because we took so much pride in our small contributions to our success.

I believe this dynamic plays out in most people's lives as well. When things are going well, we assume that it is primarily a result of the choices that we have made and that we exercise a significant degree of control over our lives. We don't realize how much "good luck" - or rather the grace of God - contributes to our well-being through blessings such as good physical health, a stable economy that gives us opportunities, or a safe & healthy physical environment - as well as many other factors that are outside of our control. However, when we feel like we are "losing," when we find ourselves in the wilderness, our dependence on God becomes much clearer. This is a painful lesson, but it is a valuable one.

Here's why: We will not all be stuck in the wilderness forever. Some of us will emerge from it and life will resemble something like it did before, but we should never forget the lessons that we learned here. We are fragile, mortal, and inter-dependent creatures. We are sustained by the grace of God in ways both seen and unseen. Therefore, we should not put our faith in earthly things that can be destroyed, but we should invest our lives in the God who transcends life and death. I pray that we hold this in our minds as individuals and as a church community long after this pandemic is behind us. – 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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