

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 4, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Linda Showalter

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

This Sunday (11/8). Brian will be preaching about the return of Jewish exiles back to Jerusalem. Although they were still under the imperial rule of a foreign power, which was not ideal, they were able to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem and resume worship in a new context.

Next Sunday (11/15), we will look to the stories of Daniel and Esther and consider what it means to be faithful to the people of God while also acting as subjects of an empire, which in this case was Persia.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

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

Saturday, November 14

9:30 – Noon - Shalom work day

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

12 noon (right after worship) - Congregational Meeting for Budget discussion and approval

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.

Thu, Nov 5 - Ernest Turentine

Fri, Nov 6 – Peter Wigginton

Sat, Nov 7 – Martha Yoder & Rod Maust, 1981

Sun, Nov 8 – Caleb Martin

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. One more conversation has been scheduled for November 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:

Mon: Nehemiah 1-4, Proverbs 15:26-28, Psalm 35

Tues: Nehemiah 5-8, Proverbs 11:15, 19:17, 22:26-27

Wed: Nehemiah 9-13, Proverbs 22:24-25, 29:8

Thurs: Daniel 6, Esther 1-3, Proverbs 31:10-31

Fri: Esther 4-7, Proverbs 21:14, 22:10-11

Sat: Esther 8-10, Proverbs 11:16-18, Psalm 124

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Shalom continues to **support the Food Pantry at Morning Star Church** in Muncie. Frank Kandel will be traveling to Morning Star on November 10th. If you have non-perishable food items to send, please drop them off at Frank's or at church. Notify Frank at 309-532-2859

Please find attached latest minutes from Outreach Commission.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)
Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)
Chair: Jeanne Smucker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The six-month evaluation of the monthly support provided to the Trochez/Hernandez family was conducted in October by the support group. The family has celebrated many successes in the past six months. Gemima is in the process of applying for a work permit after being granted approval at her August hearing. Melanie has started her university studies at IUPUI with a full scholarship. We recommend continuing to provide monthly support and welcome your continued pledges through our next 6-month period. Laura Harms On behalf of Trochez/Hernandez Support Group
- Save the date: Shalom work day, Saturday November 14, 9:30-Noon. More details to follow...
- 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 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 or bixlersc@gmail.com.
 - Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

Reflections on the Journey

Finding Peace in the Midst of an Election

Last night was election night in the United States, and as of the moment I submitted this reflection

(late Wednesday afternoon), the outcome is still undecided. For many people, this has been an emotional rollercoaster, and no matter who wins, many people in our country will be devastated and/or outraged by the outcome. Our democracy seems fragile right now, and most of us feel helpless to do anything about it as we wait to hear how other people voted as the results continue to be tallied.

I find myself asking: As God's people, how can we be a channel of peace in the United States during this tense moment? Or perhaps - if I am being perfectly honest - how can we *ourselves* find peace as this electoral battle rages on? We certainly shouldn't turn to cheap platitudes which downplay the significance of the impact this election will have on people for the next four years. But is there anything we can say or do to reduce anxiety and soothe tempers for the next few days and weeks?

The Election Day Communion service that was hosted by the Conference last night ended with a blessing from Psalm 46. This is the psalm that promises that God will be our refuge and strength, even when the mountains shake, the seas roar, and the kingdoms of the world totter. Notice: This passage does not deny that terrifying and terrible things happen - on the contrary, it highlights our powerlessness in the face of these great forces - but it encourages us to think of the long view of history, to remember that God is the Alpha and Omega, and to remember that in the end, that which is good and right and just will win in the end. This does not invalidate the fear people have of the present moment, but it infuses it with hope, as we acknowledge that the God who has already seen the results for all of human history is with us.

If you are struggling to find peace in this moment, I encourage you to take some time to read and reflect on Psalm 46 as a way to center yourself in God during this stressful time. Moreover, I pray that we will not keep the hope that this offers to ourselves but that may we be a source of calm for those who are anxious, grace for those who lose this election, and peace to everyone we encounter.

~ Brian

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

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