

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 14, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (4/11) we concluded Act V of the Story of the Bible series by with the "Great Commission," which sends the Chosen People out into the world to complete the mission that God had given Abraham and Sarah so long ago.

This Sunday (4/18) Gemima Trochez will deliver the message as we enter into Act VI of the Story of the Bible - the Church - which begins with the powerful story of the Holy Spirit coming upon Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem.

Next Sunday (4/25) we will reflect on the most momentous decision made by the young church: to include Gentiles in their fellowship without requiring them to adopt all Jewish customs. This major decision still has implications for us today as we continue to think about how God calls us to relate to our brothers and sisters from other cultures and backgrounds.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, April 18 - May 30

Adult Sunday school, "Dismantling Institutional Racism in Congregations"-Wilma Bailey, Frank Kandel

Sunday, April 25

2 pm - FHQ: What do we make of the discrepancy between the New Testament description of healing miracles - which the apostles performed frequently - and relative absence of healing miracles today?

Sunday, May 2

2 pm - FHQ: How should we respond to Biblical passages that seem to tolerate - if not defend - the institution of slavery?

Sunday, May 16

2 pm - FHQ: In light of all of the false prophecies regarding the end of the world, how are we supposed to read and interpret the book of Revelation?

Sunday, May 30

2 pm - FHQ: Can we still believe in the imminent return of Christ and the final judgment when two thousand years have passed and it has not happened yet?

Celebrations

April 15 - Krystal Johnson

April 16 - Jacob Rhine, Charles & Lorraine Harms: 50th Anniversary

April 19 - Brad Sommer

April 20 - Carol Weaver, Nizeet Deiter

April 21 - Riley Castellano

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

"Story of the Bible" Assigned Reading - During our "Story of the Bible" sermon series, recommended daily readings at home for next week:

Monday - Acts 10-11, Ephesians 1-3, Proverbs 4:7-9, 18:15-16, 19:8

Tuesday - Acts 12-13, Ephesians 4-6, Proverbs 19:18, 23:12-16, 27:17

Wednesday - Acts 14-15, Romans 9-11, Proverbs 16:21-24, 20:24, 23:18

Thursday - Acts 16-17, Romans 12-13, 23:19-21, 24:17-18, 28-29

Friday - Acts 18, Romans 14-15, Proverbs 11:12-13, 15:1-4, 26:17

Saturday - Acts 19-20, Romans 16, Proverbs 26:28, 27:18-19, 29:5

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Faith Climate Action Week, April 16-25. What are regenerative farming practices and how do they help improve climate change? This type of farming, which includes planting cover crops, not tilling the soil and grazing livestock on pasture, can build nutrients in the soil, prevent erosion and improve overall soil health. These practices also create a vast carbon sink that can pull greenhouse gases out of the air and stores it in the ground. But it doesn't come without an overhaul of how farmers do what they've done their whole lives. Chris Baggott began farming in Hancock County, Indiana about 10 years ago. He set up a regenerative farm from the start. He grazes pigs, cows and other animals on pasture in a rotating pattern. He sells the pork, beef, chicken and other products on the Tyner Pond Farm website. The farm is located at 90 W McClaron Drive, Greenfield, IN 46140. To learn more about his farm and see pictures, go to www.TynerPondFarm.com or give them a call at (317) 477-7940 if you have questions. **Marilynn Teel**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are all feeling the loss of personal interactions with our friends, families, and our church brothers and sisters. The isolation has caused emotional stress for many of us. Shalom Leadership has discussed when we can start meeting together again. We don't know when that will be, but it is not now. Currently the number of people in our counties getting new cases of COVID 19 is going up and not down. Even though some of us, and hopefully soon most of us, have been vaccinated, we intend to hold off meeting for the above reason.

This will extend our time of physical separation. If you are feeling more depressed and lonely, please reach out to your friends, your Deacon, and fellow Shalom members with a phone call or an invitation to come and talk. CDC recommendations now state that individuals who are fully vaccinated can meet in person with small groups of people. If you have not been vaccinated (including the waiting period after the last vaccination), you may consider meeting with others with the proper protections of mask wearing and social distancing at least 6 feet apart. Now that the weather is getting warmer, you are encouraged to meet outside. By all means meet and renew friendships and get help for depression and loneliness. In addition to your deacon, you can always contact a CLC member (**Herb Troyer, Rose Love, or Linda Kandel**) or **Brian**. All of us want you to know you are supported and loved.

Shalom started a college fund about 20 years ago to support students attending Mennonite colleges. Somehow the original version was lost. Working from old minutes & drafts, Discipling Commission has created an updated version which also clarifies some of the questions that had arisen since the original fund was created. We are re-naming the fund, Mennonite Education Fund, because it will cover some non-college programs. Journey program (a joint program of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary) was paid for in the past from Pastor-Elder Team funds, and we propose it be rolled into this fund. Please review the attached document and send comments & questions to **Martha Yoder Maust**, yodermaust@gmail.com by April 22 (extended since the document was inadvertently not included last week).

Prayer Vigil – Stop Anti-Asian, Immigrant, Racist Attacks: Thursday, April 15, 7-8PM, St. Luke's tent. No registration required. Speakers from the Immigrant Welcome Center, Indy Black Millennials, Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI), National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Go Vote Indy and St. Luke's will join their voices to pray and hold a time of silence. All are welcome. **Becky Wigginton**

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

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 Zoom scheduling, church calendar, and uploads minutes to the church website. To schedule a meeting using the church account or if you have minutes to post, email office@shalommennonite.com or mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.

Sam Bixler manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone number list. Email changes or additions to office@shalommennonite.com or bixlersc@gmail.com.

Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5PM Wednesday.

RELECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Between Easter and Pentecost - This Sunday, Gemima is going to be preaching from one of the most important stories in the Bible: the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' disciples. This dramatic event launches us into Act VI of the Biblical story, and there is even a day on the Christian calendar dedicated to celebrating it: Pentecost Sunday (which actually falls on May 23, not April 18). In order to make it through the Bible at a reasonable pace, we will be celebrating Pentecost a little early this year, but let's bear in mind that the coming of the Holy Spirit did not follow Easter immediately. For whatever reason, God chose to leave some time in-between these two events.

I always find myself struck by that gap of time between Easter and Pentecost, or at least between the Ascension and Pentecost, when the disciples were left on earth without Jesus. In Acts 1, Jesus offers some final words of encouragement to his disciples and then ascends higher and higher into the sky until he is hidden by a cloud, and the text gives us the impression that the disciples just stood there, somewhat dumbfounded, not sure what to do after he left. Apparently, they needed some encouragement to get back to work, because God sent two angelic messengers to ask them, "Why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) The disciples already knew this, but it seems they needed to be reminded of it anyway. I can imagine feeling dumbfounded at a moment like that, not to mention overwhelmed by the responsibility of carrying out Jesus' mission without him physically present to lead me any longer.

Actually, I think this is a fairly common experience. Well, not the ascension itself – that was something that only happened once – but the stunned reaction we sometimes have to seeing doors close or life change. The pandemic has been an extremely disorienting event for many of us, and perhaps some of us have been frozen in place as we have waited for it to pass – something that may take years to fully occur. Changes in our families, jobs, living situation, or health can have the same effect: we watch the life we knew fly away, and we struggle to move on. But perhaps we too can benefit from hearing God's messengers tell us: "You already know what to do. God has promised to be with you, and though life will be different, God will equip you with everything you need to make it. So let's get started!" At a certain point, the time comes when we have to stop looking upward and looking inward for the word from God that moves us forward. ~ **Brian**

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

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

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