

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 7, 2021

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

Chair: Grace Rhine

**Last Sunday (7/4)**, fell on Independence Day, and Brian took the opportunity to reflect on the fine line Christians must learn to walk between honoring the nation in which we live without idolizing it.

**This Sunday (7/11)**, Jeanne Smucker will deliver the message.

**Next Sunday (7/18)**, Brian will preach about spiritual fatigue and how we may find refreshment and renewal in Christ.

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, Sunday, July 11**

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

#### **Monday, July 26**

9 am to 3 pm - Roving Office at Panera Bread, 789 U.S. Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

#### **Sunday, Sunday, July 18**

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

#### **Celebrations**

Today – Laura & Noe Martinez, 2012

Thu, Jul 8 – Raphael Edou

Sat, Jul 10 – Rod Maust



**Music Ensemble invitation!** Since we're able to sing now, the Ensemble is meeting again. Please let me know if you have an interest in being involved in this aspect of our worship services - whether instrumental or vocal - or if you have questions. Linda Showalter

### **VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)**

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Minutes from the most recent meeting are attached.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale** (September 24 and 25) is looking for individuals or a group of people to help manage the garage sale portion of the event. I plan to help and would welcome your participation! See me for further information. Linda Showalter

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

MennoCon21: Bring the Peace

For those of you who are new or newish to the Mennonite world, the Mennonite Church USA hosts a denomination-wide gathering called "Mennonite Convention" biannually in which it hosts a series of worship services every morning and evening, offers youth activities and educational seminars for adults, creates an opportunity for Mennonite individuals and agencies to connect and network, and holds a delegate session in which representatives from each church and agency can participate in denominational decision-making. This year, "#MennoCon21" is being hosted in Cincinnati as a hybrid service, which – like our services here at Shalom – include both in-person and online participants. This year's theme is "Bring the Peace," and from my perspective, it has already been very good. (And it's just started!)

For the morning worship services, there is a recurring preacher/teacher – Dr. Safwat Marzouk – who has been teaching at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary but recently accepted a post at another theological institution. Dr. Marzouk acknowledged that we are coming out of a time of a double-pandemic – the COVID-19 pandemic and a racism pandemic – and he encouraged us to approach peacemaking through the covenantal model of the Bible. As you may recall from the Story of the Bible series, the covenant between God and the People of God is at the very center of the Story. It is essential for us to keep both of these parts in view as we seek peace. On the one hand, we have to acknowledge that peace is beyond our capacity as individual human beings to create or control, and so we turn to God to do Her part in bringing peace. Praying to God, waiting for God, and lamenting what seems to be the absence of God are all Biblical ways for us to beckon God to intervene.

On the other hand, we should not use our belief that "God is in control" as an excuse for inaction. On the contrary, God has committed to intervening in the world *through us*. On our end, we must be sure that we are being receptive to peace, following Christ as he leads us to peace, and repenting when we ourselves fall short of peace. Through this dynamic process of turning to God and then being empowered by God, we can be agents of peace in the world. Pastors Lesley and Caleb McClendon summarized this process in their sermon on opening night in a memorable phrase: Receive peace. Extend peace. Protect your peace. For times like this, such advice is important!

As someone who was not born into the Mennonite tradition, I have always found it to be deeply comforting to connect with other believers in the Mennonite Church who share my values and are working for the kingdom of God all of the world in ways I didn't even know about. I still find that reassuring, even through this virtual connection, and I hope the knowledge of it brings you some comfort too. ~ 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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Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson, Brian Bither