

## Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 16, 2020

**WORSHIP:** Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

**Last Sunday (9/13)**, we skipped ahead to the reign of King Solomon, and Brian preached on the pinnacle moment of the Older Testament - the commissioning of the Temple in Jerusalem. We also observed communion.

**This Sunday (9/20)**, we will have a joint service with First Mennonite to celebrate Peace Sunday, which immediately precedes the International Day of Peace (9/21). Shalom members will be continuing our Story of the Bible series, as Brian will preach about the breakdown of the United Kingdom and the Age of the Prophets - who called God's people to peace and justice in the midst of a politically tense time.

**Next Sunday (9/27)**, we will be focusing on the history of the Northern Kingdom of Israel after it split from Judah, which was ultimately conquered and destroyed by the Neo-Assyrian Empire. We have to really understand the anger and pain that the Assyrians caused to Israel through a book like Nahum before we can really appreciate the radical mercy that God showed Assyria in the book of Jonah.

**COMMUNITY LIFE:** Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Herb Troyer

**Calendar** (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

### **Sunday, September 20**

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. Please let Martha Yoder Maust or Brad Yoder know if you need help getting a copy of the book.

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

10:30 am – Worship Service. **This will be a joint service with First Mennonite Church.**

No Facing Hard Questions

### **Saturday September 26**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **Sunday, September 27**

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. Please let Martha Yoder Maust or Brad Yoder know if you need help getting a copy of the book.

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

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: What do we do with the curses and calls for vengeance in our Bible? Is there an appropriate way for us to make use of these texts?

### **Saturday, October 10**

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com).*

Thu, Sept 17 – Carol Stocksdaile

Fri, Sept 18 – Luke Bither

Fri, Sept 18 - Robert Coleman

Sun, Sept 20 – Layla Bither

Mon, Sept 21 – Joel Buller

Mon, Sept 21 – Mia Martinez

**DISCIPLING:** Growing in our relationships  
Chair: Martha Yoder

**Peaceful at Heart:** Tentative Schedule: Sunday School discussion led by Kristen Metzler-Wilson and Brad Yoder. See attachment.

### **“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: 2 Kings 15:1-7, Amos 1-5, Proverbs 22:7-9, 16, 22-23

Tuesday: Amos 6-9, Proverbs 21:27-29, 29:18-19

Wednesday: 2 Kings 15:8-16:20, Hosea 1-5, Proverbs 12:2-4, 23:26-28

Thursday: Psalm 83, Hosea 6-10, Proverbs 30:11-14

Friday: Hosea 11-14, 2 Kings 17, Psalm 78

Saturday: Nahum 1-3; Jonah 1-4, Proverbs 16:5-7

**OUTREACH:** Relationships beyond Shalom  
Chair: Brad Yoder

- Frank will be attending the Advisory Board meeting at Morning Star Church in Muncie on September 29th. If you would like to donate some non-perishable food for their Food Pantry please let him know.

- **CROP Walk:** If you can participate in the Virtual Crop Walk this year please register with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/>. To participate you only have to walk 3 miles on Sunday Oct. 4th anywhere and anytime! And of course, ask for donations! All donations go to help fight hunger around the world.

If you would like to donate, you can do a general donation to Shalom Mennonite Church with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/Team/View/132565/Shalom-Mennonite-Church>. Any questions, email me at [Juliekins7182@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) ~Julie Sanders

### **Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

### **Vision and Accountability Team (VAT)**

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

### **Announcements**

- According to an email received from MennoMedia, the new hymnals, *Voices Together*, will start to ship in November. November is later than hoped for, due to delays due to COVIC-19 in the spring and printer back-ups this fall. Linda S
- Shalom was approached by a 12-step group, which inquired about using our Zoom account to hold virtual meetings on Wednesday nights. Pastor Brian and the Administrative Commission discussed this request, and after observing how infrequently meetings are held on Wednesday nights, decided to approve it. Therefore, it will not longer be possible for commissions or other groups to hold Zoom meetings on Wednesdays from 7p to 8p. Feedback can be sent to Brian or the Administrative commission.
- **Celebrate with us!** Mennonite Central Committee invites you join **Celebration 2020: MCC at 100**, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC's ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, starting at 6:50 p.m. (EDT). The event will feature photos, videos and storytelling that highlight MCC's work over the years. Former MCC leader and pastor Leonard Dow of Philadelphia will inspire participants to walk boldly into the next century of MCC's ministry while talented musicians will lead in prayer and thanksgiving. You can find more information about MCC's centennial and log in for the livestreamed event at [mcc.org/celebration-2020](http://mcc.org/celebration-2020).
- 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.
  - 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 [mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlercs@gmail.com](mailto:bixlercs@gmail.com).
  - Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

## Reflections on the Journey

### Reading Tips for the Rest of the Old Testament

After King Solomon died, the Bible tells us that the ten northern tribes of Israel seceded from the House of David and formed their own nation. Unfortunately, this was not an amicable separation: the northern kingdom and southern kingdom began a decades long civil war, and although they eventually created a truce, they never fully reconciled. As the narrative shifts to tell us about this negative developments, it also picks up the pace and begins moving through history very quickly. This makes it difficult for us as modern readers to keep up, since we are unfamiliar with the names it lists in quick succession, and it can easily become a blur. As we continue in the readings, I want to offer a few tips that may help it make a little more sense.

**Terminology** – After the united kingdom of Israel splits in two, the language that the Biblical authors use to describe these regions changes. For example, when the Biblical characters or prophets refer to “Israel” from this point forward, they are only referring to the northern kingdom, which excludes the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Or as an alternative, the Biblical writers sometimes refer to the northern kingdom as Ephraim, which was the largest of the twelve tribes, just like they call the southern kingdom Judah, even though it included both Judah and Benjamin. As yet another alternative, Biblical writers will sometimes refer to them by their capital cities. It took a while for the northern kingdom to “settle” on a capital, but eventually, a king named Omri built a new city for the northern kingdom called Samaria, which served as the capital ever since. The Biblical authors would then use Samaria and Jerusalem as a shorthand way of referring to the entire regions. For example, when the prophet Micah brings a word from the Lord regarding Samaria and Jerusalem, he is not just talking about those two cities, but the entire regions they govern. This practice extended into the New Testament long after the northern kingdom was defeated. This is why the Jews – that is, the people of the region of Judah – referred to the people who inhabited what was once the northern kingdom “Samaritans.”

**Chronology** – The ancient Jews did not have a fixed dating system like we do today. Clearly, no one said, “It must be the year 702 B.C.,” so what they did instead was to keep track of time in reference to the reigns of kings. This worked well enough for the prophets – Isaiah could start a prophecy by saying, “In the year that King Uzziah died...” and everyone knew when he meant – but what do you do if you give the dates of the reigns themselves? You can’t say, “Uzziah came to power in the first year of Uzziah’s reign.” You have to give them in reference to another kingdom. Consequently, the book of 1 Kings awkwardly jumps back and forth between the reigns of Judean and Israelite kings in order to keep track of time. This is a little hard to follow, but it does give us a way of finding the historical context of the prophetic writings, which is very useful.

Generally speaking, far more attention is given to the southern kingdom of Judah than the northern kingdom of Israel, because these books were written from a Judean perspective and to a Judean audience. So, we will approach this by studying the remaining history of the northern kingdom next week, and then focusing on the southern kingdom for the following three Sundays. Along the way, we will be reading from the prophets who related to those times and places – starting with Amos and Hosea, whose prophecy was directed to the Kingdom of Israel - and followed in roughly chronological order by all of the great prophets, whose prophecy was directed to the Kingdom of Judah or to the community of Jews after the kingdom fell.

- 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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