

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 29, 2020

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, (4/26), we met through Zoom on Sunday morning to share and pray together in a "Gathering in Spirit" session.

This Sunday, (5/3). Following the 1&2 Kings SS class, Shalom will host a worship service at 10:30a in which Brian will introduce our 13-month long "Story of the Bible" series, with the Song of Songs as a guiding text. [Tim Ludden](#) will be the virtual usher for SS, and [Sam Bixler](#) will be the virtual usher for the worship service, both of which will use [this Zoom link](#). If you plan to invite guests, please inform the virtual usher.

Next Sunday, (5/10), Starting our journey into the Bible text, Brian will preach from Genesis 1-2 and reflect on God's desire for creation.

Infant Dedication

This Sunday, we will have an infant dedication service for Elise and Kara Hochstetler. Kara and Elise were scheduled to be dedicated on March 22, but church was canceled that day due to the COVID-19 virus. After consulting with the Administrative and Worship Commissions, we have decided to move forward by having the Hochstetler family meet Brian at the church while the rest of us celebrate through Zoom.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar

(All events are Zoom meetings)

Sunday, May 3 –
- 9:30a – 1 & 2 Kings SS class
- 10:30a – Worship Service
- 2p – Facing the Hard Questions: What do we do with apparent flaws in the Bible?
- 7p – Sunday Night Small Group

Tuesday, May 5 –
- 3:30p – Tuesday afternoon small group

Sunday, May 10 –
- 9:30a – 1 & 2 Kings SS class
- 10:30a – Worship Service on Zoom
- 2p – Facing the Hard Questions: Can we really believe the description of creation in Gen 1 & 2?

Tuesday, May 12 –
- 3:30p – Tuesday afternoon small group

Sunday, May 17
- 9:30a – 1 & 2 Kings SS class
- 10:30a – Worship Service on Zoom
- 2p – Facing the Hard Questions: Can we reconcile Genesis 1-3 with the theory of evolution?
- 7p – Sunday Night Small Group

Tuesday, May 19
- 3:30p – Tuesday afternoon small group

Sunday, May 24
- 9:30a – 1 & 2 Kings SS class
- 10:30a – Worship Service on Zoom
- *No Facing the Hard questions session*

Tuesday, May 26 –
- 3:30p – Tuesday afternoon small group

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.

April 29 – Rosemary Harvey's birthday

April 30 – Liam's birthday

May 3 – Ernie Hodel's birthday

May 4 – Olivia Tackitt's birthday

New Small Groups

Two new small group have formed that are open to new members:

- The Tuesday Afternoon Small Group meets every Tuesday from 3:30p to 5p. Contact [Sabrina Falls](#) if you'd like to join it.

- The Sunday Night Small Group meets every other Sunday from 7p to 8:30p. Contact [Herb Troyer](#) if you'd like to join it.

Support for Trochez/Hernandez family

The funds for Gemina and the girls are dwindling at a time when more support than ever is needed. A support check for May has been sent but we don't currently have the funds for a complete June check of \$600. You can make a donation by mailing a check to the church and writing "Trochez/Hernandez fund" in the memo line.

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: Song of Songs 1-3
- Tues: Song of Songs 4-8
- Wed: Genesis 1:1-2, Psalm 90, 29, 33
- Thurs: Genesis 1:3-25, Proverbs 8:22-36, Psalm 104, 19
- Fri: Genesis: 1:26-31, Psalm 139 & 148
- Sat: Genesis 2, Psalm 8

Facing the Hard Questions sermon discussion

As a correlary to our "Story of the Bible" sermon series, Brian will host a sermon discussion class at 2p on Sundays through [this link](#) that will wrestle with the critical questions about the Bible in light of modern insights into science, history, and ethics. These sessions may be recorded and posted on the internet.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Legislative Updates

Outreach Commission encourages you to email Governor Eric Holcomb (in.gov/gov/, under Ask Eric) to thank him for vetoing Senate Enrolled

Act 148 in order to prevent Indiana residents from being evicted or having their homes foreclosed during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Indiana General Assembly dealt with several social justice issues during this year's session in addition to protecting renter's and homeowner's rights. Several bills expanded and facilitated provision of addiction and mental health services. Another bill eased some requirements to qualify for certain anti-poverty programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP [food stamps], school lunch program, and Medicaid.

Regarding gun safety, there was a mixed picture. Bills expanding the presence of guns were defeated, but also bills requiring safe storage of guns and universal background checks for gun sales didn't pass either.

Mental Health Resources

As we enter the second month of America's response to the coronavirus pandemic, it's important to stay connected to social systems of support. If you are experiencing stress, anxiety or loneliness during this pandemic, the *Mental Health for US* coalition has to put together this list of resources for you to consult:

- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention:** [Mental health and COVID-19](#)
- **Active Minds:** [Mental health amid the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- **Child Mind Institute:** [Supporting families during COVID-19](#)
- **Crisis Text Line:** [COVID-19 update](#)
- **The Flawless Foundation:** [Flawless resources during COVID-19](#)
- **The Jed Foundation:** [COVID-19 tips & resources](#)
- **Mental Health America:** [COVID-19](#)
- **NAMI National:** [NAMI updates on the coronavirus](#)
- **National Council for Behavioral Health:** [Resources for addressing COVID-19](#)
- **Psych Hub:** [COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Hub](#)
- **Schizophrenia And Related Disorders Alliance of America:** [Going digital – Psychosis Support & Acceptance \(SA\) and Families For Care \(FFC\) Conference Call Support Groups](#)

#BringThePeace

Mennonite Church USA has released a statement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that denounces anti-Asian racism and provides **tips and resources for helping us recognize and counter racism** in our community. Read more

at: <http://mennoniteusa.org/statement-anti-asian-racism-covid-19/>

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Minutes

Outreach Commission, 4/21/20. The minutes from the meeting can be found [here](#).

Reflections On Pilgrimage

Join us in reading through the Bible!

Although I know a great many Christians who are deeply committed to the Word of God, only a small percentage of them has actually read through the entire Bible. This is understandable, as the Bible is a long and intimidating book. There are parts of it that are extremely tedious, others that are difficult to understand, and it's easy to get discouraged. I myself have only read it cover-to-cover twice, and I went to a seminary in which it was required reading!

That being said, I have to say, I am grateful to have read it even that much. Reading through the entire Bible – especially in a relatively short period of time (such as a year) is a powerful experience! And as we work through the entire story of the Bible through our sermons this year, I want to encourage you to take the opportunity to read through the entire Bible as we go.

For many people, the narrative material in books like Genesis, Ruth, and Acts is quite manageable, but it is the genealogies, the legal codes, and the works of the prophets that really make it hard to get through the entire text. However, all of those materials are much more interesting when you understand how they are connected to the larger stories. With the prophetic writings, for example, general complaints against the Chaldeans don't mean anything to us, until someone explains that the Chaldeans are the Babylonians and that the

passage is a response to the destruction of the temple described at the end of 2 Kings. So, to facilitate the Bible reading experience, we are going to offer “assigned” Bible readings each week and connect them to the broader story.

There are a few ways in which this assigned reading system can be helpful. First, when I know that some challenging material is coming, I will try to offer some context in *Journeying Together* to make it more engaging. Second, in order to keep the narrative at the center, all of the reading assignments will be arranged in *thematic* order. We will attempt to present the texts in the chronological order of the stories they describe (as opposed to the order in which they were written), and we'll try to pair psalms, prophecies, and apostolic writings to the events on which they are commenting. Because we are trying to keep certain themes in focus each week, the reading will not be spaced out evenly: some weeks, you may only be reading two to four chapters per day, while other weeks you will be reading seven or eight. However, we will try to keep the reading manageable and to balance out the dry material with more engaging material. The psalms and Proverbs in particular will be scattered throughout the entire time of this series, but if you follow the guide, you will have read them all by the end.

We encourage you to find a partner with whom you can talk about what you are reading, to hold you accountable and give you a space for discussion and exploration. Feel free to use *Journeying Together* as space for exploring your questions, or to bring your questions to the “Facing the Hard Questions” Sunday school session.

- submitted by 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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Please submit information by **the new deadline**, Wednesday, 3pm, to office@shalommennonite.com