

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 27, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (1/24), We looked at the gospel of Mark, which placed a unique emphasis on "the Messianic secret," and Jesus insisted that his message was only for those "who have ears to hear."

This Sunday (1/31), We will study the gospel of Luke, which highlights the social and political aspects of Jesus' message - especially his concern for the poor.

Next Sunday (2/1), we will be studying the gospel of John, which puts the most emphasis on Jesus' divine identity as the Son of God and the one who can offer us eternal life.



The new hymnals, *Voices Together*, have arrived! Many thanks to Linda Showalter for all the time and effort she spent to get us to this point. Per the recommendation of the Safety Committee, the new hymnals will remain in boxes (and not be placed in the pew holders) until it is considered safe to sing together as a congregation.

If you pre-ordered your own hymnal back in April 2020, you can pick it up at the church. Pre-ordered hymnals can be found on the pew bench in the front entryway; your name/household name will be attached to your hymnal.

In addition, the Worship Commission would like to offer every household the opportunity to temporarily borrow a new hymnal during the months that we continue worship virtually. Borrowed hymnals will need to be returned when we resume meeting together in person. If you are interested in borrowing a new hymnal, you may pick it up at the church. The hymnals to be borrowed can be found in a box on the pew in the front entryway. If you borrow a hymnal, we ask that you please sign out your copy so we can keep track of who has borrowed one. A sign-out sheet will be provided by the box of hymnals.

Lastly, we have been asked about what will be happening with the blue hymnals. We plan to save several copies of the blue hymnal to keep at church (not in the pews) but we will not be keeping them all. So, we are also inviting all who would like to permanently have their own copy of the blue hymnal to take one! These can be found stacked in the back of the sanctuary, under the north windows. No sign out sheet is needed for this. Any blue hymnals that remain after everyone has had the opportunity to take one will be donated to church or group in need.

***Please note:** If you do not have access to a church key, you will need to arrive at a time when Brian is working in the building. If you have any questions, please contact Grace Rhine, Linda Showalter or Emily Ludden (Worship Commission)



Although we will not be meeting in person for an **Ash Wednesday** service this year, we are planning to hold a virtual service on that day to prepare ourselves to enter this season. This "Entering Lent" service will take place in the evening of Wednesday, February 17 and will feature confession, meditation, and prayer. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (All events are Zoom meetings)

Thursday, January 28

12:00 CT - Christian Peacemakers Team webinar. See announcement under Outreach

Sunday, January 31

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, February 7

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm - Facing Hard Questions: What do we make of Jesus' teachings on hell and damnation?

Sunday, February 14

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Wednesday, February 17

12 noon EST – Virtual Luncheon with Peter and Delicia (see announcement under Outreach)

“Entering Lent” service – more details coming later

Sunday, February 21

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

Sunday, February 28

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

We will be taking a break from Facing Hard Questions during Lent, but will resume after Easter.

Celebrations

Thu, Jan 28 – Tim Ludden

Sun, Jan 30 – Kathy Sommer

Mon, Feb 1 – Calvin Hochstetler

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:

Monday - Proverbs 30:1-4, John 1, Colossians 1-2, 1 John 1

Tuesday - Psalm 63, John 2-4, 1 John 2

Wednesday - Psalm 34, John 5-6, 1 John 3

Thursday - Psalm 36, John 7-8, 1 John 4

Friday - Psalm 100, John 9-10, 1 John 5

Saturday - Psalm 116, John 11, Colossians 3-4

Books recently donated for the library:

The Lord's Prayer: In Times Such as These, by Frank A. Thomas

The Heart of the Matter: Pastoral Ministry in Anabaptist Perspective, by Erick Sawatzky, Editor

Life on the Spectrum: Faith. Hope. Love. Autism., by Deborah Abbs, Kelli Ra Anderson and Kevin R. O'Brien

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

In response to our giving last year, Shalom has received thank you letters from Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Circle City Clubhouse, Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis, and Mennonite Mission Network (MMN). (Thank yous were in the newsletter last week from our ministry in Honduran hurricane relief and Morning Star congregation.) Mennonites gave over \$2 million last year to MMN, with Indiana-Michigan Conference's 26 congregations leading the 16 Mennonite conferences, at \$326,133.00. Shalom was one of the leading supporters of MMN in our Conference. We hope that you feel good about the ministry that we are able to do together through these wonderful people-serving organizations. Brad Yoder

Please see the attached information from the Outreach Commission.

From Christian Peacemakers Team: JANUARY 28, 2021 | 12:00 CT:

Join us for a webinar with our Program Support Coordinators (PSC) from Palestine, Iraqi Kurdistan, Colombia, Turtle Island Solidarity Network, and Aegean Migrant Solidarity, who will discuss the work and experience of the teams over the past year and expectations for the year ahead. Get more information and register at <https://cptaction.org/looking-back-acting-now-planning-ahead/>.

You are cordially invited to join Peter and Delicia and their ministry support team for a virtual luncheon on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 12 noon (eastern standard time). Sign-in information: Join Zoom Meeting: <https://MCUSA.zoom.us/j/94800199934> Meeting ID: 948 0019 9934

Soup is an essential part of Ecuadorian lunches. Although we cannot host you in person, I am including a recipe for a typical Ecuadorian soup that should warm you up in our cold North American winter. You are invited to make up a batch and eat while we visit with you and you hear about happenings in Ecuador. Crème soups are often accompanied with popcorn, so feel free to pop up a bowl.

Sopa de Zapallo (Squash or pumpkin soup)

Ingredients

- 2-3 tbs olive oil
- 1 white onion diced
- 3 garlic cloves crushed
- 1 tsp cumin
- 4 Roma tomatoes peeled and chopped
- 6 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 large butternut squash or 1 small pumpkin peeled, seeded and cut into small chunks
- Salt and pepper to taste

Garnishes:

- Queso fresco or feta or goat cheese
- Avocado slices
- Chopped chives

Instructions

1. Heat the oil over medium low heat in a large saucepan or soup pot.
2. Add the onion, garlic, cumin, and tomatoes, sauté until the onions are translucent or about 5 minutes.

3. Add the 6 cups of chicken or vegetable stock and bring to a boil.
 4. Add the squash chunks, bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer until the squash is very soft, about 30 minutes.
 5. Let the soup cool down enough to blend to obtain a puree, you will probably need to work in batches or use a handheld immersion blender.
 6. Add salt and pepper to taste, re-warm if necessary.
 7. Serve warm with queso fresco, feta or goat cheese and chopped chives. Can also serve with avocado slices.
- (Recipe from Laylita.com)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Pastoral Search:** The Pastoral Search Committee is pleased to announce that we have a candidate to introduce to Shalom. He has met several times with the search committee and also with Brian and the Vision and Accountability Team. Craig Oury will join us (virtually) on Sunday, February 28. We will have a chance to hear his faith story during the Sunday School hour and to ask him questions. He will then present the sermon during our worship service. That day, after a "lunch break" of 30 minutes, we will offer the opportunity to return to ask any further questions that you may have of him. (Sorry, no potluck this time.) Two weeks later (March 14), we will have a congregational meeting immediately after worship for any further discussion about Craig's calling and follow that with a vote. A vote of 85% approval is required to go ahead and call Craig to be our copastor. A brief biographical sketch for Craig is attached to the newsletter. ~Jeanne Smucker

- 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_ReoskuxUXA!

- **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:

- o 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 mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net.

- o 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.

- o Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

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

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

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