

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 16, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (12/13) was the third Sunday of Advent, and we joined East Goshen Mennonite Church, with their church planning the service and Pastor Naomi Yoder preaching the sermon.

This Sunday (12/20) we will be studying the apocalyptic writings of the Older Testament, which involve disorienting images of supernatural creatures and global events. Although these passages may seem strange to us, they pave the way for a new concept to emerge in the Bible - that of powers and principalities - which shaped the hopes and expectations that the Jewish people had for their Messiah.

Next Sunday (12/27), we will be celebrating Christmas by considering the ways in which Jesus fulfilled, challenged, and exceeded the expectations that Jewish people had for their Messiah, with the book of Hebrews serving as our guide.

Longest Night Service: (please note corrected day of the week is Monday):

The Christmas holidays can be difficult when our personal experience of life doesn't match the "holiday spirit" projected around us. Also, holidays are often times of experiencing the dark night as we grieve the loss of loved ones. 2020 has been a year of challenges and grief in many forms for varied reasons. A Longest Night service is one Christian tradition to companion those of us who seek hope and restoration in the healing love of God.

On Monday, December 21, at 7:00 pm, Shalom will have a Longest Night service on the eve of the winter solstice, the night we literally have the longest period of darkness during the year. This will be meditative with time for reflection. You will be invited to light one or more candles if desired to commemorate different categories of losses. As this will be virtual via Zoom, if you wish to light candles (or flashlights), please have these supplies nearby prior to the beginning of the service. The service will be recorded so it can be accessed at another time if the 7:00 time is not convenient for you. Please invite others who may be interested. If you wish to post on social media, tell friends to message you for the link to attend rather than posting the direct link to maintain security. ~ Joyce

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: we will have opportunities to talk about coping with the pandemic.

9:30 am - Elementary school children (Kindergarten through 6th grade) are invited to log into a children's breakout room

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: Did the virgin birth really occur, and if so, what are the theological implications?

Monday, December 21

7 pm - Longest Night Service on Zoom.

Thursday, December 24

7 pm - Christmas Eve service on Zoom.

Sunday, December 27, Christmas Sunday

No Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

No Facing Hard Questions

Sunday, January 3

No Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

No Facing Hard Questions

Sunday, January 10

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

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.

Thu, Dec 17 – Aliyah Wigginton

Fri, Dec 18 – Laura Harms & Erik Rosales, 1999

Mon, Dec 21 – Solomon & Sheila Y. Abebe, 1997

Tue, Dec 22 – Frank Kandel

This month, Amber Goodloe is finishing her nursing training and will receive an RN degree on December 17. The Community Life Commission offers Amber our congratulations for this impressive achievement! For anyone who would like to send a card or blessing to Amber, you can mail it to her at 7948 Welchwood Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46260. You are welcome to join the ceremony online. The link is: link.ivytech.edu/Nursing-graduation

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Adult Sunday School beginning January 10: Emily and Tim Ludden will be leading an adult class on *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today* by Meghan Larissa Good. Feel free to buy your own copy from any source and send your receipt to Bob Love if you would like Shalom to pay you back. If you would like me to order the book for you, please let me know by December 28.

“Story of the Bible” Assigned Reading

We are taking a break from our normal daily reading assignments, but I am offering these supplemental readings from the Apocrypha for those who want to learn more about the historical context behind the Bible's story. To read from the Apocrypha for free, go to biblegateway.com and look up these references in the NRSV version.

Monday: 2 Maccabees 1-2, Sirach 11-12

Tuesday: 2 Maccabees 3-4, Sirach 13-15

Wednesday: 2 Maccabees 5-7, Sirach 16-17

Thursday: 2 Maccabees 8-9, Sirach 18-19

Friday: 2 Maccabees 10-12, Sirach 20-21

Saturday: 2 Maccabees 13-15, Sirach 22-23

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

What is Mennonite Women USA? Mennonite Women USA includes any woman who desires to connect with other Mennonite women through our publications, events, and social media. Mennonite women are diverse in age, ethnicity, geography and theology. We meet in Bible study groups, during [seminars](#), mission and service groups, one-on-one in friendships, and at retreats. We are women who juggle work, family, and spiritual growth yet seek to be part of faith circles that fit our needs.

Check it out here: <https://mennonitewomenusa.org/>

From **The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice**: How do activism and scholarship contribute to our understanding of Scripture in the world today?

In this session, CPTer and lifelong peace activist, Weldon Nisly and biblical scholar Tom Boomershine will discuss their commitment to understand and respond to the Gospel's call to peacemaking — within the academy, within Christian community, and in conflict zones around the world. They will focus on the struggle of the Kurds in Northern Iraq targeted by Turkey's military in the context of the Iraq war, as well as the Palestinian struggle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

This event is part of the Center & Library for the Bible and Social Justice's Scholar-Activist Encounter series and is additionally co-sponsored by the Network for Biblical Storytellers International. To register, click on <https://cptaction.org/scholar-activist-encounter-weldon-nisly-and-tom-boomershine/>

Several months ago our congregation approved supporting Indiana Assistance to Immigrants in Detention (IAID). Brian has been involved with the development of this ecumenical non-profit organization which seeks to provide support for persons detained in Indiana by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. The only detention facility used by ICE in Indiana is the Clay County Jail at Brazil, Indiana. We have not known of any persons being detained by ICE over the past few months, so there is little to report about IAID activities. A goal is to arrange visitation with any persons who are detained in order to: 1) provide support to those persons, and 2) check on how person's needs are being met while they are in detention. The Outreach Commission will keep you informed if there are further developments in the ministry of IAID, and how we might be involved. ~ Brad Yoder

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Mike Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dear Brothers and Sisters at Shalom Mennonite Church: We have good news from Honduras. Three hospitals received your help!! Comayagua, Trujillo Regional Hospitals, and Maria Hospital in Tegucigalpa. We partnered with Casa David Harms to ensure flowmeters, masks, connecting tubes, and humidifiers were successfully delivered to the places most needed. Please click here to watch the youtube update: [Give Hope To Live Update](#) / [Dá Esperanza de Vivir Informe Actualizado](#). The next step is using the remaining donations to send the last package that will help regional hospitals in need. We no longer need donations but are asking for your prayers for Honduras, that God would make the way for this to happen. May God be glorified! Thank you for participating! ~ Fresia Kelley. Grace Pointe Community Church of the Nazarene Severn, MD

- **Amigo Centre.** 2020 has been a year full of challenges. Bring the year to a close with a memory making evening at Amigo. Dec 28, 29, 30, or 31 come enjoy some of your favorite activities as a family: hiking, a campfire & snack, stargazing, enjoy the full moon as it rises. Call Amigo (269-651-2811) to RSVP and reserve your campfire spot. More information at amigocentre.org/fullmoon.
Matthew Ropp | Executive Director | Amigo Centre | 269-651-2811 | www.amigocentre.org
- 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.
- **Please note:**
 - 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 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 or bixlersc@gmail.com.
 - 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