

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 29, 2021

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

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (9/26)**, was Pastor Craig's installation service. He used Jeremiah 29:11-13 in connection with his call to ministry.

**This Sunday (10/3)**, is World Communion Sunday, we will also be starting our sermon series on the book of Numbers. Brian is going to offer a little background on Numbers and compare their journey through the wilderness to our spiritual journeys through uncertain and challenging times. For Sunday School this week, please read Numbers 6:22-9:23

**Next Sunday (10/10)**, Brian will continue our sermon series on Numbers by preaching from Numbers 11-12 about the Israelites complaining in the desert.

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

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

**From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21**, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey is leading us in a study of the book of Numbers. **Texts to read for the Adult Sunday School Class this week: Numbers 6:22-9:23**

**Sunday, October 10**, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Zoom worship

### **Celebrations**

Fri, Oct 1 – Brittany Bither

Fri, Oct 1 – Martha Yoder Maust

Fri, Oct 1 – Mark Stocksdale

Tue, Oct 5 – David & Sabrina Falls, 1980

### **Small Groups at Shalom**

Returning to Zoom meetings has been emotionally difficult, but the rise in Covid cases around us requires minimizing contacts. The hard part in all this is staying connected to friends, family members and church members. But there are some solutions.

At Shalom Mennonite Church we have a small groups that help to keep us in contact with each other. There are several that are still meeting, and you are invited to join one of them. The groups each meet at different times and places. Depending on what is happening, some are continuing by Zoom and others meet outside when weather permits or zoom meetings when needed. Being in a small group myself, I find it helps to have more contact with others during these times of Covid.

Another option is for a few people to start a new small group based around a common interest. The group can be time-limited and each group is asked to evaluate if the group is still working for them on a regular basis.

Let a Community Life Commission member know if you are interested in either joining an ongoing small group or in starting a new small group: Herb Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Rose Love ([rhlove@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhlove@sbcglobal.net)), or Linda Kandel ([linidakandel@gmail.com](mailto:linidakandel@gmail.com)).

**DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

**OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

## **MK Seminary Update**

As you may know, the MK Seminary (formerly called MK College) was established close some three decades ago to address the needs of the fast growing Meserete Kristos Church (the Mennonite Church in Ethiopia). Today it is continuously producing pastors, evangelists and other trained leaders to serve the ever-expanding Kingdom of God. In this effort, the Seminary is deeply grateful to you the supporters and partners because it could not have done it on its own.

Currently, the enrollment stands at 436 of which 351 are men and 85 women. The urgent need is for funds for scholarship as they continue to struggle with the effects of the Pandemic and a shortfall in inflow of support. They are also working on a kitchen and assembly hall project and are moving forward in spite of challenges faced by the sudden escalation of the cost of building materials. The building is about 73% complete.

They now look forward to the 2021/2022 fiscal year with great anticipation as the Lord enables them to continue to prepare more Kingdom workers for the harvest that is white and abundant. As always, your support and partnership in this, is crucial. Thank you!

Zenebe Abebe, for Outreach Commission

**From Anabaptist Disabilities Network:** Two free webinars on supporting individuals experiencing mental illness

Part 1 "Providing Mutual Support When People Are Experiencing Mental Illness," Janelle Bitikofer's June webinar, can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFuvMuJAt1U>). This stimulated enough discussion that they will have a follow-up in October to discuss practical ways for congregations to engage in mutual care.

Part 2 "Churchwide Change: Strategies to reduce stigma and increase mutual support for people experiencing mental illness in our congregations" will be October 7 at 2:00-3:00 pm ET (0.1 CEU is available if desired)

Register in advance for this webinar: <https://bit.ly/MISupportWebinarII>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Janelle Bitikofer is Executive Director of We Rise International, lead mental health trainer for Churches Care - a mental health and addictions training program for congregations, and author of [Streetlights: Empowering Christians to Respond to Mental Illness and Addictions – a mental health and addictions support manual for churches.](#)

**Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence**, September Newsletter is attached

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Chair: Joyce Troyer

SGDT is grateful for all who serve Shalom! At this time, the official positions for the church year are filled, but volunteers are always needed and appreciated. Although the pandemic limits what we can do in person, the work of the church continues. If you are interested in an area of service, please contact Joyce Troyer ([troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Frank Kandel ([kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com)), or Raphael Edou ([raphaedou@gmail.com](mailto:raphaedou@gmail.com)).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Interrupting Racism for Children (IRFC)**

"Racism is an grown-up disease and we must stop using our children to spread it." Ruby Bridges

Over the last few years, I (Jeanne Smucker) have had the privilege of becoming a facilitator for a program called Interrupting Racism for Children, offered by Child Advocates. They describe it this way:

Interrupting Racism for Children (IRFC) educates and moves individuals to action to stop racism in its tracks, creating a future where children thrive and race does not predict their life outcomes. IRFC is a two-day, interactive workshop where community members and leaders have the opportunity to feel, heal and grow with one another to confront racism.

Participants leave the workshop with a greater sense of their own power and tools on how to interrupt the key elements designed to keep racism in place.

Sometimes there are openings for community members to attend at no charge. If you are interested in attending, please let Jeanne know and she will contact you when there are openings that you might be interested in attending. Workshops may be one- or two-day and may be in person or virtual. — Jeanne Smucker

**Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light, an MCC Great Lakes partner, will hold its 2021 Faith Climate Summit on Sunday, Oct. 10, from 12-5 p.m. in Noblesville.** Faith leaders from across our state will discuss the [Faith Climate Declaration](#), a statement of action for Hoosiers who believe we must "join together with a conviction and responsibility to care for our neighbors and for creation, both of which hold inherent and undeniable dignity." The event will also feature food trucks, live music and family-friendly educational activities. More information and registration at: [hoosieripl.salsalabs.org/2021FaithClimateSummitOctober102021](https://hoosieripl.salsalabs.org/2021FaithClimateSummitOctober102021)

**Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for the third MCC U.S. Color of Compromise webinar featuring Sandra Maria Van Opstal on September 28th at 1:00 p.m. EDT.** From the depth of her experience ministering to the Hispanic and Latino community, writer, speaker and co-founder of Chasing Justice movement, Sandra Maria Van Opstal will speak about the impact of the church's complicity in racism on the Hispanic and Latino community here in the U.S. Register for the free webinar here: [mcc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mn84mcwBTHu\\_ggUajNFQKw](https://mcc.zoom.us/join/9tJNfQKw). For more information on past webinars in the series, visit [mcc.org/color-of-compromise](https://mcc.org/color-of-compromise).

### Crop Walk

It's that time of year again to think about participating with the Crop Hunger Walk!! Due to COVID the walk will be virtual again in October; the walk is 3 miles. As people sign up we will decide if we want to meet up to walk as a group or individually. You need to register online to walk with Shalom Mennonite church. Ask for your donations to help stop hunger as the donations go to people around the world to stop hunger.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/indianapolisin>

Please email me at [Juliekins7182@hotmail.com](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) if you have any questions! – Julie Sanders



This year I am again planning to participate in the annual MCC Bike Michiana tour at Amigo Centre on October 8-10. This year's project is directed to Climate Change Mitigation in Zimbabwe, and I am soliciting your sponsorship as I have in prior years. With last year's cancellation, the worldwide needs are still critical in the face of the pandemic, I invite you to share with those who are less fortunate than us. With the limits of in-person worship, I am asking you to make your contributions by mail. Checks should be made payable to **MCC or MCC Great Lakes (note correction from previous announcements)** and mailed to me, John Amstutz, 1185 N 10th St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

**Addendum 9/11/2021:** I had previously given consideration to designating your contributions as an honorarium for Dagne. Now, with his passing on Thursday, all SMC contributions will be designated as a memorial instead. Thank you for your contributions and sponsorship. With your past support, you have helped me to raise close to \$30,000 for mission services of MCC, and I am hoping that this year is the year to exceed that goal. John Amstutz

**Let your voice be heard by taking part in our denomination-wide survey.** Your responses will help Mennonite Church USA better serve the needs of its members. Take the survey here. [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey) En español: [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol)

**Indiana-Michigan Conference** Attached is the October prayer memo from our conference

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!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReoskuxUXA!)

**Video recordings** (MP4) of our Zoom worship services are available online. A link to the worship service recordings is on the Member's page of our website.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You can only watch the first 60 minutes of a recording while online at this site. However you can watch the **entire recording if you download it** onto your computer/tablet and then watch it from the downloaded MP4 file. Be aware that these files are 300MB - 1200MB in size. First click on the recording and

then the download (direct download) function is at the top right. When finished watching, delete that downloaded MP4 file from your computer/tablet so you gain back that space. -Jim

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).

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday. Craig is now managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Perhaps you are like me and have at one time or another found it difficult to pray. Perhaps you have heard other people say to you, as I have, that they do not know how to pray. Sometimes we overthink things. A foundation to prayer is that God wants us to begin exactly where we are and exactly the way we feel. We do not need to go through a prescribed ritual or a special set of words to approach God. God would rather hear us express our feelings and our problems through our own stumbling but honest thoughts than to use the words of the holiest saint on earth for God already knows what we are going to say before we do. We do not need to get up early to pray. Morning is no more sacred than afternoon or night. God is equally present in them all, and God wants us to enter into prayer with the same naturalness and spontaneity with which we would embrace and talk with our most beloved friend.

Likewise, we don't have to go to some special place to be with God. We don't have to go to the church building to spend time with God, although God is there and we should pray with God there. We don't have to go to some secluded place in nature to meet God, although God is there too and at times that is a great place to pray with God. We don't have to make prayer so complicated we only have to look within ourselves for God is there. We are not God, but God dwells with us.

From John 14

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

Jesus said, I am in you, we don't have to look far for God, we just have to look, for God is there, here, everywhere. ---- Craig

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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