

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church     June 3, 2020

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

**Last week (5/31),** we began Act II of our story of the Bible series, which is "The Calling of the Chosen People." Abram and Sarai were called by God to become a new nation, and although their travels in Genesis may seem random and aimless to many readers, a closer look at the characters involved demonstrate that God was already at work in making them a witness to God and model nation to the world.

**This week (6/7),** we will look more closely at the covenant God established with Israel, and how it set the parameters for a special relationship between God and the people of Israel, which sometimes involved God's comforting presence, sometimes involved God's silence, and sometimes involved wrestling with God.

**Next week (6/14),** we will finish the book of Genesis and consider how the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was much bigger than any of them could imagine, and that God uses dreams, pagan kings, and even evil plans to bring forth good purposes.

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

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

## **Sunday, June 7**

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom – Brian will preach on “Wandering and Wrestling in Canaan”  
*No Facing the Hard Questions*  
2 - 3:30 pm - "Why do kids do that?" led by CoraLyn Turentine and Indiana Mental Health Matters.  
See details below in the Discipling section

## **Sunday, June 14**

9:30 am -- update from Peter and Delicia Wigginton in Ecuador  
10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom – Brian will preach on “The Scope of God's Sovereignty”  
(the story of Joseph)  
2 pm - Facing the Hard Questions - Does the Bible have a response to the problem of evil?

## **Sunday, June 21**

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom – Brian will preach “Enslaved in Egypt”  
*No Facing Hard Questions session*

## **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, June 4 – Delicia Bravo & Peter Wigginton, 2011

Tue, June 9 – Carol & Mark Stocksdales, 2019

Next Wed, Jun 10 – Erik Rosales

**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: Job 24, Genesis 39, Psalm 140-142

Tuesday: Job 25, Proverbs 14:32-35, 22:29, Genesis 40-41

Wednesday: Job 26, Proverbs 11:24-26; Genesis 42-43

Thursday: : Job 27, Proverbs 17:9-10, 13-14, 28:13; Genesis 44-45

Friday: Job 28, Proverbs 10:1-5, Genesis 46-47

Saturday: Job 29-30, Proverbs 23:22-25, Genesis 48-50

**June 7, 2:00-3:30 PM**, you are invited to attend a special training event, "Why Do Kids Do That? Mental Health and Behavior."

Do you wonder why many children struggle with challenging behaviors? Perhaps you feel burned out and are unsure of how to respond effectively. Discover the root causes of many of the challenging behaviors facing today's communities. This training will help you to understand why toxic stress and trauma affect youth development, academic learning, and behaviors, and is the first step in learning how to respond to children and youth experiencing social-emotional distress. Rediscover your empathy and expand your capacity for helping children and youth to grow, heal, and learn.

Training will take place via Zoom. An access link and password will be mailed to you shortly after registering.

PLEASE REGISTER EACH PARTICIPANT as we will need an accurate head count to properly pay the training agency, Indiana Mental Health Matters. [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shalom-mennonite-training-why-do-kids-do-that-mental-health-and-behaviors-registration-106438915662?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTk2MjMyNDAvdGhldHVyZW50aW5lc0BnbWFpbC5jb20vMA%3D%3D%0A&utm\\_source=eb\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm\\_term=attend](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shalom-mennonite-training-why-do-kids-do-that-mental-health-and-behaviors-registration-106438915662?ref=enivtefor001&invite=MTk2MjMyNDAvdGhldHVyZW50aW5lc0BnbWFpbC5jb20vMA%3D%3D%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=inviteformalv2&utm_term=attend)

### **OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom**

Chair: Brad Yoder

Mennonite Church USA released a **statement on racial injustice**, calling for all congregations to "continue to pray for, seek out and lend our voices and bodies to God's healing, justice and peace."

Read the full statement here: [http://mennoniteusa.org/news/mc\\_usa-statement-on-racial-injustice/](http://mennoniteusa.org/news/mc_usa-statement-on-racial-injustice/) Executive Director Glen Guyton also wrote an open letter to the denomination: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/more-costly-peacemaking/>

**Morning Star Church** in South Muncie continues their ministry of outreach with the Good News of Jesus Christ. One of their community ministries is a weekly food pantry with food for those in need. Shalom supports this ministry by contributing food. **Please donate food stuffs toward this ministry.** Items may be left on the south stairway at church or dropped by Frank Kandel's house. Or, if need be, Frank will pick it up at your house.

Pastor Melissa Florer-Bixler shares what it means to honor all members of the body of Christ in the church's responses to the pandemic and reopening in her blog, **“The most precious of all.”** Read more at <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/most-precious/>

We want to remind everyone to continue saving your **bottle caps** to bring to Shalom to recycle when you can do that again. We are saving toward a new outdoor picnic table for our preschoolers.

Brad Yoder

### **ADMINISTRATION: Congregational support systems**

Chair: Laura Harms

An ad hoc **“Safely Gathering Committee”** including VAT, commission chairs, and a few others met on Monday night to talk about when we might start to meet in person again for worship,

and how to do that safely. Shalom will continue to have virtual worship and adult ed classes through the end of June, then the committee will re-assess the situation later in June and make a decision about July. At some point we may poll the congregation to see how many are ready to attend in person. We talked about having a hybrid service, with some in the church building and some on Zoom, and we will explore the technology needed to make that possible. We will work on measures to keep in-person meetings safer, such as using hand sanitizer, wearing masks, keeping our distance from each other, and changing how we use music (since singing can send the virus as far as 16 feet).

These are complex issues and we ask for your patience as we try to sort them out.

Martha Yoder Maust, for the Safely Gathering Committee

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. – Jim Showalter

Mike Wigginton is now managing our Zoom calendar and uploading 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 him at [mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlwigginton@sbcglobal.net).

Send announcements for Journeying Together to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

## Reflections On Pilgrimage

I took care of three mamas last night.  
They were in rooms  
all lined up in the same hallway  
of the same hospital  
with the same anticipation of meeting their new babies.  
First came the Black baby boy.  
In the midst of prejudiced killings,  
She delivered her beautiful, perfect, baby boy.  
And I cried with his mama  
Tears of joy  
For his sweet disposition and eyes like his daddy  
And tears of pain  
For all he will see and endure in his life.  
And I said a prayer  
God protect him, put your loving arms around this little life  
May you be present when evil hurts him, for it surely will  
And may you continually remind him that the God of justice sees him.  
Amen  
Next came the Latino baby boy.  
In the midst of border walls and anti-immigration laws,  
She delivered her beautiful, perfect, baby boy.  
And I cried with his mama  
Tears of happiness  
For his loud resilient cry and a head full of hair  
And tears of fear  
That their family could be separated at any moment.  
And I said a prayer  
God protect him, put your loving arms around this little life  
May you be present when evil hurts him, for it surely will

And may you continually remind him that the God of justice sees him.  
Amen  
Last came the White baby boy.  
In the midst of racist remarks throughout her hospital stay  
She delivered her beautiful, perfect, baby boy.  
And I did not cry.  
I felt anger.  
Anger that he would learn to treat people like his parents do.  
And then I realized  
He was just a baby, a beautiful, perfect baby boy  
And I cried  
Tears of my own judgement  
That I cast on this innocent life  
And tears of hope  
That he can be different  
And I said a prayer  
God protect him, put your loving arms around this little life  
May you be present when he begins to learn evil ways  
May you put people that do not look like him or think like him in his life  
May he be a force for good and change, even in his own home  
And may you continually remind him that the God of justice sees him.  
Amen  
Finally, I came home to my white baby boy.  
In the midst of a pandemic and chaos  
My beautiful, perfect baby boy  
I ran to shower first before nursing him  
And I cried  
Tears of laughter  
At his sweet giggles and toothy smile  
And tears of burden  
That maybe change can come.  
And I said a prayer  
God protect him, put your loving arms around this little life  
May you show me how to teach him about systems of injustice  
Help him to find peaceful resolutions to the wars in the world  
And may you continually remind him that the God of justice sees him.  
Amen

by Brittany Bither

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

Please submit information by Wednesday, 5 pm, to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)