

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 24, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (2/21), we considered Jesus' radical call to "take up the cross in light" of the recent memories of crucified messiahs, which revealed that Jesus saw the path to salvation as one that goes through the pain we may be inclined to avoid

This Sunday (2/28), we will have an opportunity to hear from Craig Oury, the candidate for the open pastoral position at Shalom.

Next Sunday (3/7), Brian will preach about the first missionary work of Jesus' disciples, which occurred while he was still alive, and encourage us to think about what kind of work Jesus commissions us to do today.

Lenten 2021 Resources

For the season of Lent 2021, we are offering two Lenten resources for you to use at home:

1. A Lenten Guided Prayer resource, offered each week during the 6 weeks of Lent (see attachment)
2. A "Lent at Home" guide from MCUSA that includes ideas for at-home rituals during Lent and Holy Week, including ideas for activities to do as a family unit. The link here will take you to a website where you can download the guide. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/lent-at-home/>

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (*All events are Zoom meetings*)

Sunday, February 28

- 9:30 am – Craig Oury, pastoral candidate will share his faith story. There will be a time for questions.
- 10:30 am - Craig Oury, will bring the message.

Wednesday, March 3

- 5 pm EST - Free Webinar: MCC Immigration Policy (see announcement for registration information)



Friday, March 5

- 2 pm - World Day of Prayer; join Zoom meeting (see announcement for Zoom link)

Sunday, March 7

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

Emily and Tim Ludden. READ: Chapters 23-26, Storytime (Genesis) TOPIC: How to read the Bible through the lens of Jesus and suspending judgment

- 10:30 am – Worship service via Zoom

Sunday, March 14

- 9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden. READ: Chapters 27-29 TOPIC: How do we read the Bible today?
- 10:30 am –Worship service via Zoom

Sunday, March 21

- 9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden. READ: Chapters 30-33, Storytime (Acts) TOPIC: How to read the Bible with discernment
- 10:30 am – Worship service via Zoom

Sunday, March 28

- 9:30 am – Adult Sunday School: *The Bible Unwrapped: Making Sense of Scripture Today*, led by Emily and Tim Ludden. READ: Chapters 34-36, Storytime (Job), Conclusion TOPIC: Convictions, disagreement, and uncertainty
- 10:30 am - Worship service via Zoom



Friday, April 2

7 pm – Good Friday service

Sunday, April 11

2 pm - FHQ: Does Jesus' great commission ask Christians to convince the peoples of the world to leave their own beliefs, practices, and cultural traditions?

Sunday, April 25

2 pm - FHQ: What do we make of the discrepancy between the New Testament description of healing miracles - which the apostles performed frequently - and the relative absence of healing miracles today?

Sunday, May 2

2 pm - FHQ: How should we respond to Biblical passages that seem to tolerate - if not defend - the institution of slavery?

Sunday, May 16

2 pm - FHQ: In light of all of the false prophecies regarding the end of the world, how are we supposed to read and interpret the book of Revelation?

Sunday, May 30

2 pm - FHQ: Can we still believe in the imminent return of Christ and the final judgment when two thousand years have passed and it has not happened yet?

Celebrations

Today – Chris Deiter

Thu, Feb 26 – Jeanne Smucker

Tue, Mar 2 – Noe Martinez

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 - Matthew 13, Proverbs 15:19, 26:5-10, Matthew 18

Tuesday - Matthew 19-20, Proverbs 15:16-17, 23:4-5, 25:27-28

Wednesday - Luke 11-12, Psalm 49

Thursday - Luke 13-14, Proverbs 14:15-18, 19:2-3

Friday - Luke 15-16, Proverbs, 19:17, 28-29, 27:8-10

Saturday - Luke 17-18, Proverbs 14:26-27, 16:20, 18:10-12

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Thank you to all who were able to join us for the “luncheon” with Peter and Delicia on Wednesday. Attached are notes from what they shared with us.

See the attached information from the Outreach Commission.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

ADMINISTRATION

Chair: Mike Wigginton

Needed: A volunteer to organize and publish the weekly *Journeying Together* for March and April. Talk to Mike Wigginton, or contact Linda Showalter if you would like more information on what is entailed.

Please note that it’s preferable to have items for *Journeying Together* sent to office@shalommennonite.com rather than anyone’s individual email address so that all information is in one place.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Menan Assefa and Isaac Lederach delivered a daughter on Feb 4 and everyone is doing well. Her name is Yeshe Millie. Their address is 1738 McKinney Ave. Nashville, TN. 37208 if anyone is interested.
- **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, CoraLyn Turentine, Carol Bixler, Herb Troyer and Linda Kandel.
- **CWU (Church Women United) World Day of Prayer:** Last year, a World Day of Prayer

celebration was held at Shalom. This year, all celebrations are being held virtually. Everyone is welcome to join. Time: Mar 5, 2021 01:45 PM Indiana (East). The meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864707538?pwd=MERKMlhIRzBkdFloaTlVOWluQThpQT09>

- **Free Webinar: MCC Immigration Policy Update on March 3 at 5 p.m. EST:** Immigration policy changes in the U.S. are one of the central pieces that the new administration is addressing during the first one hundred days. Join MCC and National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) staff for an immigration policy update in which we will discuss the policies and what the possibilities are for a larger reform to the U.S. immigration system. For more information and to register for the Zoom link: mcc.org/gl-immigration-webinar.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes is seeking applicants for two open positions:

- **MCC Great Lakes Donor Relations Associate:** Based in the Great Lakes region, the donor relations associate is responsible for helping implement the donor relations strategy for MCC Great Lakes by stewarding major donors involving face-to face contact. This position also includes publicly representing and speaking on behalf of MCC in various settings and finding ways to engage MCC constituents in strengthening support for MCC. This position can be located anywhere within the Great Lakes region. Apply online at mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/donor-relations-associate-0. Application deadline is March 22.

- **MCC Great Lakes Material Resource Warehouse Manager:** Based in Goshen, Indiana, the Warehouse Manager oversees warehouse maintenance and safety, coordinates workroom and administrative tasks to allow for efficient processing and shipment of material resource donations and assists with volunteer management. Apply online at mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/material-resource-warehouse-manager. Application deadline is March 15.

For more information about either position, please contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

- **Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC)** is seeking a part-time pastor for the Conference Pastor team. If you are energized by working with pastors and leaders, visioning a new future for the Conference, dismantling racism, supporting diversity, and listening for God's call for the church, we would love to hear from you. The job description is posted on the IMMC [website](#). Applications will be accepted through March 26th. Please submit applications and/or questions to the search committee at immsearchcommittee@gmail.com

- 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 mlwigg@sbccglobal.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.

RELECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Please Leave

In one of our Scripture passages for the week, Jesus arrives at a place called “the region of the Gadarenes” and there meets two demon-possessed individuals, whom he heals. However, after healing them, Matthew reports a strange response: “Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood.” (Matthew 8:34) If one were only to hear about the healing itself, one would wonder: why would the town ask Jesus to leave? Didn’t they benefit from his visit? Not only was this miracle good for the individuals who were healed, but it was good for whole community because the demon-possessed men had been preventing people from traveling on the road that led to their town. So why wouldn’t they want Jesus to heal those men?

Apparently because the cost was too high. The way that Jesus healed the men was by casting their evil spirits into a nearby herd of pigs, who subsequently ran off a cliff and drowned. Undoubtedly, this would have been a costly loss for some of the people in the community. It also would have been scary to see such a dramatic scene unfold. Still, wasn’t it worth it if it led to two of their residents might experiencing freedom? No, apparently not. The town preferred to continue operating in dysfunction over going through the pain of transforming into a better community.

Often times, our biggest obstacle to healing is that we don’t really want it. We think we want to be healed, but when we look at what it costs, we have second thoughts. Consider this: if Jesus could enter your homes, go through your possessions, and get rid of the things you don’t really need, would you invite him to do that? Or if he could review all of the entertainment and relationships in your life and cut out everything that doesn’t really have a beneficial effect on you, would you want him to? Or if he could talk with you about the political controversies in our country and then he told you either to act or refrain from acting in a way that made you uncomfortable – would we welcome that? Or in these situations, would you politely ask Jesus to leave as well?

We can’t know exactly how we would behave if we were in the shoes of the town of the Gadarenes. But perhaps the best way to find out is to invite Jesus into these spaces in our lives and to monitor our own response.

~ 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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