

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 22, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Brittany Bither

Last Sunday (9/19), On Peace Sunday Craig looked at Matthew 5:43-48 and how being children of God means living a life of peace.

This Sunday (9/26), This Sunday we will be having an installation service for Pastor Craig joined by Conference Pastor Sharon Yoder. Craig will talk about some of his journey while using Jeremiah 29:11-13 to look at seeking God.

Next Sunday (10/3), is World Communion Sunday. We will be having communion virtually. We will also be starting a sermon series on Numbers with Brian preaching from the early chapters.

Songs in worship

Due to our Zoom services and copyright restrictions (because we are recording our services), we have needed to use a lot of unfamiliar music recently. We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to plan worship services, with meaningful but unfamiliar music. – The Worship Commission

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey will lead us in a study of the book of Numbers.

Sunday, September 26 at 10:30a (during Zoom church) - Pastor Craig Oury's installation

Sunday, October 3, World Communion Sunday

Celebrations

Fri, Sept 24 – Ernie Hodel & Tania Goodloe

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), Rose Love (rhlove@sbcglobal.net), or Linda Kandel (linidakandel@gmail.com).

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Attached is the Wigginton-Bravo newsletter for September.

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.](#)

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), Frank Kandel (kandel93@gmail.com), or Raphael Edou (raphaedou@gmail.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renewing the Deacon Program. As we enter yet another round of quarantine and virtual church, the Pastoral Team and VAT have decided to temporarily renew the Deacon Program. The Deacon Program is a system of pastoral care that we adopted in April 2020 in which every regular attendee of the church was assigned to a deacon, who was responsible for keeping in touch with them and acting as a point of spiritual support from the church. Although we had talked about implementing something like this for years, we never formally discussed it

as a church, and so we decided to experiment with it at the beginning of the pandemic when the need for pastoral care increased beyond what Brian could handle by himself. Now we have experimented with it for over a year, and we have gotten a wide range of responses, from people who really appreciated it to others who did not find it to be helpful or effective. When the church starts meeting in person, we plan to have a congregational evaluation of the deacon program to decide whether to continue it or not, but until then, the church leadership has decided to renew the program, while making two key changes:

(1) New deacons - All of our deacons did a wonderful job serving in their roles, but some need to end their service, which means that **we need new members of the congregation to volunteer as deacons**. If you have any interest in serving as a deacon, please contact Brian to learn more.

(2) Congregational Participation - The make-up of our congregation has changed in the last year, with some folks ceasing to attend Shalom and others joining the church. The Community Life Commission is going to re-evaluate the list of regular attendees, which will be re-distributed among the deacons. However, if you do not want to be contacted by a deacon, please email Brian that you would like **to opt out of the deacon program**, and you will not be assigned one. Of course, you will still be valued as a member of our community.

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

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. For more information on past webinars in the series, visit 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 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

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 (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 or bixlersc@gmail.com.

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to 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 or craig@shalommennonite.com.

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

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317)-332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

Vision & Accountability Team: Cheryl Martin, Carol Bixler, CoraLyn Turentine, Frank Kandel, Mark Stocksdale
Brian Bither, Craig Oury
