

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 20, 2020

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

### Last Sunday, February 16

We finished our "Slavery and Freedom in the Bible" series by considering the "underground" slavery that exists in the modern world and how it is tied to our economic system. Isaiah 61:1-4 and 1 Corinthians 10:23-31 were the primary texts to give us both guidance and hope in our world of slavery for how we can continue to pursue Biblical freedom.

### This Sunday, February 23

Along with many other Mennonite churches in Indiana and Michigan, we will be participating in "Conference Sunday," where we take the time to think about our identity as a part of a larger network of churches and to pray for God's work throughout these two states. Several individuals who have been involved with conference in various capacities will share in lieu of a sermon.

### Next Sunday, March 1

On the first Sunday of Lent, we traditionally read the story about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness according to Matthew or Luke. This year, however, we look at Mark's short version of the story in Mark 1:9-20, which reminds us of how wild Jesus is, and how he comes to shatter our assumptions and challenge us to take new steps of faith. Let us brace ourselves as we invite this untamed lion of Judah into our lives!

### Nursery, usher, story schedules sent

If you share your gifts and time as a worship leader, worship planner, usher, sharing during children's time, and/or staffing the nursery (both during worship and/or Sunday school), you should have received the schedule for April-June. If you didn't receive that email, please let me know. A copy of the new schedule will be posted on the bulletin board outside of the nursery. Linda Showalter

### Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent on the church calendar. This year, we will be studying the gospel of Mark during Lent, and we will begin that study by engaging with a strange story from Mark 8:22-9:1 that challenges us to open our eyes more fully to what Jesus has to show us. Please consider joining us on Wednesday, February 26, as we enter into this season with confession, reflection, and the imposition of ashes.

### Other Lenten Services

The Worship Commission is considering having either a Maundy Thursday service or a Good Friday service at Shalom during Holy Week (April 9 or 10). If you would be interested in planning a service for either evening, please talk to Grace Rhine, John Amstutz, or Emily Ludden.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Linda Kandel

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00am Sunday School

Mon, Feb 24 - Southeast Starbucks again  
– 9605 E Washington St, 8a-2p

Wed, Feb 26 – Ash Wednesday service, 7pm

Sun, March 1 – Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Mon, March 2 - Greenwood Panera - 789 US  
31N; 8am-2pm

Thurs, March 5 – Meal, 6:30; Bible study, 7-8pm

Fri, March 6 - World Day of Prayer, 11 am

Wed, Mar. 11 – Morning Breakfast group, 7am

Sat, March 14 – Eastside Creation Care at  
Shalom; 8:30-11am

### Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Looking for something to do on

Sunday evening? How about something with a

little bit of mystery? If so, please sign up for our annual Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event. Dinner will be March 1, 2020 at 6:00pm. Sign-up sheets are in your mailbox, please complete and return to Angie Buller by Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships  
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

#### Adult classes for March-May

1. Wilma Bailey will lead a study of 1 & 2 Kings, in the back of the sanctuary.

2. Carol Bither will lead a study of *The DNA of Relationships* by Gary Smalley, in the library.

#### Sunday School Topics

Is there something you wish you could study or discuss during the Adult Ed hour? Have you read or learned something that you would like to share with the congregation? Discipling Commission is open to your suggestions year-round. Contact OlaJowon Turentine, Carol Bither, or Martha Yoder Maust, or put a note in our Discipling Commission mailbox.  
Thank you!

### **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom  
Chair: Brad Yoder

#### Belated letter from Peter and Delicia

The attached letter was overlooked in January. Better late than never!

#### Greetings!

As we begin our centennial year, on behalf of the 453 partners of Mennonite Central Committee in 53 countries around the world, we thank our friends and supporters at Shalom Mennonite for the many ways you assist in the relief, development and peace work of MCC. We recognize the value of your prayer support, your assistance with material resources and volunteering at thrift shops, meat canning, and relief sales – and are grateful for your financial contributions of \$6,000 in 2019.

Thank you for all your support as we look forward to the next 100 years of sharing God's love and compassion in the name of Christ. Please visit [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) for more inspirational

stories of hope provided with by your assistance in this work. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

Thank you and blessings,

Les Gustafson-Zook

Constituent Relations Coordinator, MCC Great Lakes

North American Relief Sales and My Coins Count Coordinator

Office: 574-534-4133      Cell: 574-238-3579

#### More MCC News

In 2020, MCC is celebrating 100 years of sharing God's love and compassion with people in the name of Christ. We invite you to use these worship resources as you reflect on God's work of reconciliation in your life, in the church and around the world. Whether your church is planning an MCC-based worship service, taking an offering for MCC or just looking for an MCC story to demonstrate reconciliation, you can get started here: [mcc.org/centennial/worship-resources](http://mcc.org/centennial/worship-resources)

Sign up for monthly highlights from MCC's 100 stories for 100 years. Explore images and stories from the breadth of MCC's work – from a graphic story on the 1920 trip that began MCC's ministry to accounts of women peacemakers now. Go to [mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/email](http://mcc.org/centennial/100-stories/email) to sign up for monthly emails highlighting stories from the project. Can you think of others who would be interested? Please share this announcement and encourage them to sign up for monthly email highlights too!

**Jennifer Steiner**

Communications Coordinator, MCC Great Lakes

#### The Dignity of Bodies

We strongly encourage each of you to read the February 2020 issue of **The Mennonite**. The emphasis of this issue is 'The dignity of bodies'. There are shared stories of navigating grief in our bodies, bodies of people of color, life as a fat Mennonite, to mention a few.

Not all sorrow and raw feelings come from being physically disabled. Reading these stories can't help but touch your heart and hopefully come away from them with a better understanding of persons in that place.

Thank you for reading these. From Mary and Joyce, your disabilities advocates

#### East Side Creation Care

Saturday, March 14, Shalom hosts the Eastside Creation Care Network meeting, 8:30am to 11:00 am. Come celebrate solar!

#### Sharing Space

We will continue to collect blankets through the month of February.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems  
Chair: Laura Harms

#### Bethany HS Choir

Shalom has the opportunity to host the Bethany Christian High School Choir as they travel through Indy to a festival. They would like to stay at the church, offer a concert, and would love it if we could provide dinner (but are willing to get their own food too). Are you willing to coordinate plans to host them? Please reach out to Laura ASAP if you can be available to let them in. The date is Thursday, April 2.

#### Elevator FIXED

The lift (elevator) is FIXED! Thank you, Sam Bixler, for making this one among many priorities.

#### Flowers and Trees

After completing the 2020 budget, it came to the attention of the AC that additional grounds expenses are going to be necessary. There are three large Oak trees that need pruning. We also became aware that Becky Wigginton is invested in carrying out weed control in the flower beds and that some 2019 funds were spent on materials for this purpose. AC would like to propose that the funds set aside for flower beds in the 2020 budget (\$2,680\*) be redirected to tree pruning. Please give feedback on the budget redirection to Sam, Tim, or Laura.

\*Bob has provided feedback that the total amount available in the budget may be less than the amount listed here since we have expenses other than mowing that will still need to be paid. Perhaps an estimate of \$2,000 is a good number to work with.

AC is also considering the removal of the large tree between the building and the playground under the recommendation of one of the tree companies that gave an estimate. We could trim it now for \$1,445.00 but we may need to remove it soon for an additional cost of \$5,399.00. To share your views on this decision, reach out to Becky, Mike, or Laura.

#### Pruning

\$1445  
\$1239  
\$1199  
**\$3833**

#### Removal of 1; trimming of 2

\$5399  
\$1239  
\$1199  
**\$7837**

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#### Pastor:

Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320;  
[brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com);

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

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to  
[office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)