

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 14, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (7/11), Jeanne Smucker will deliver the message.

This Sunday (7/18), Brian will preach about spiritual fatigue and how we may find refreshment and renewal in Christ.

Next Sunday (7/25), Craig Oury will be joining us and will preach his first sermon as a co-pastor at Shalom!

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Monday, July 26

9 am to 3 pm - Roving Office at Panera Bread, 789 U.S. Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Sunday, Sunday, July 18

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

Sunday, Sunday, July 25

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

Next Sunday (8/1)

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

Sack Lunch outdoor fellowship meal after the Worship Service

Monday, August 9

10 am to 3 pm - Brian's Roving Office at Coat Check Coffee (downtown; in the Athenaeum), 401 E Michigan St, Indianapolis, IN

Monday, August 16

9 am to 3 pm - Brian's Roving Office at Northwest Panera Bread, 2902 W 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN

Monday, August 23

9 am to 3 pm - Brian's Roving Office at Fishers Panera Bread, 8510 E 96th St, Fishers, IN

Monday, August 30

9 am to 2 pm - Brian's Roving Office at Greenwood Panera Bread, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Celebrations

No birthdays or anniversaries this week

CLC would like to have a social time of fellowship to welcome Pastor Craig Oury. The date is August 1, after the worship service. Because of Covid restrictions, we are asking everyone to bring their own sack lunches and lawn chairs to eat outdoors. More details to come later

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Church: Six weeks, six volunteers. Thank you to those that have invested time in the children of Shalom. We have adult volunteers scheduled through July 18 but empty slots after that. Please reach out to Laura if you can cover any of these dates: July 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Sunday School: No word yet one when Sunday School might start but I'd like to know if you are interested in teaching when that becomes a possibility again. We may have up to 4 classes: 2's and 3's; PreK/K; Early Elementary; Youth. To show your interest for Children's Church or Sunday School email Laura at harms.laura@gmail.com

Help needed with children's toy bags: Something that helped my kids (Laura) get through worship when they were little were personalized toy bags that they could use at their seats in the pews during the service. Carol Stocksdale was one of the volunteers on the initial project years ago and has agreed to help again. Is there someone willing to work with Carol to dig through the existing stash of toys, make a few purchases, clean toys, and assemble bags? We'd like to have these bags ready for fall either when Sunday School starts up again or when weather stops us from going outside for Children's Church. Please reach out to Carol to coordinate a time - csstocksdale@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact Information for Craig Oury: Phone: 301-302-3181
Email: craigoury@yahoo.com
Address: 13185 Cyntheanne Rd., Fishers, IN 46037

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, July 19 through Sunday, July 25. If you need to reach someone during that time, please contact Cheryl Martin, the Vice-Chair of the VAT, at 1cmm@att.net.

Shalom Mennonite Church would like to recognize Dagne's many years of committed service to the church and the surrounding community by naming our playground in his honor. Ministry chairs have discussed the proposal and everyone is in favor of designating our woods and playground in Dagne's honor. If possible, we would like to make this official with the city of Indianapolis so others can come and enjoy the park when they are in the area. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Wigginton.

See the attached report from Wilma Bailey with information from Menno Con2021

Safely Gathering Committee met on 7/14 and reviewed the recent data on Covid cases. Cases have risen 3-fold in the last 3 weeks in Marion County, in Indiana as a whole, and in the USA as a whole, due mostly to the new Delta variant. Because of this we will not plan to remove any of the precautions we are now taking. We will continue to mask while in the building for worship, and all are encouraged to leave the building after worship and to chat outside rather than in the aisles.

Those leading worship, preaching, and leading singing from the stage may remove their masks while leading if they are vaccinated.

We have reviewed several articles about musical instruments, and it appears that most instruments do not spread virus any more than talking or singing. Because of this, vaccinated people may also play wind instruments from the stage.

It seems too soon at this point to commit to having indoor Sunday school classes in September, but we will continue to monitor the case levels and hope to resume more normal patterns of congregational life as soon as it becomes safe. Martha

<https://meriendamenonita.fireside.fm/83english>

Peter Wigginton and his colleague Jonathan Minchala recently interviewed Shane Claiborne. It's one of the few podcasts they have done in English. It's a worthwhile listen. Mike Wigginton

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) has an employment opportunity for an Administrative Coordinator at .80 FTE. Applicants must have a belief in Christ's transforming power for all people, an appreciation for the local church as an expression of God's reign, and an understanding of administration as pastoral care. The qualified candidate is proficient in using oral and written communication, writing and editing publications, and preferably bi-lingual. They are competent with planning and managing multiple projects and meeting deadlines, and using technology in its various and changing forms (MS Office, MS Access, WordPress and social media, etc.). They will relate with diverse cultures with strong intercultural competence, managing

and making decisions consistent with IMMC's stated mission and vision. Underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Contact imoffice@im.mennonite.net or call 574-534-4006 for a job description. To apply, send resume to sharon@im.mennonite.net.

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (September 24 and 25) is looking for individuals or a group of people to help manage the garage sale portion of the event. I plan to help and would welcome your participation! See me for further information. Linda Showalter

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_ReooskuxUXA!

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.

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 mlwiggin@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Send announcements for *Journeying Together* to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

Weeding Out Resentment

"Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled." – Hebrews 12:14-15

Hebrews is one of many books that teaches us to seek peace with the people whom we encounter in our daily lives. Although the question, "Can't we all just get along?" has become a cliché for shallow understandings of peace, getting along with others *is* an important aspect of peace. And generally speaking, Mennonites are pretty good at this. We tend to be nice people who are quiet and patient and don't insist on doing things our way. This is admirable! However, we often fall into a different trap, which Hebrews is equally concerned about: quietly developing resentment or bitterness toward others.

Many of us who are quiet and pleasant on the outside are bubbling over with irritation and rage on the inside. We feel unappreciated for the work we do, frustrated with people for the way they behave, or miffed by cultural expectations that we don't fully embrace, and that resentment can fester. Because we are nice people, we try to keep this all to ourselves, but it always comes out in one way or another. And when it does come out, it hurts others: "through it, many become defiled." So we need to be active about weeding out bitterness whenever we see it springing up inside of us. Here are a few strategies for how we might do that:

- *Praying for empathy and love.* In some cases, our negative responses to people are over-reactions, and when we take a step back to consider their perspective, understand what they might be going through, and see them through God's eyes, that may be enough to prevent the root of bitterness from going any further.

- *Gently confronting.* In other cases, when a person has really wronged us and we can't get past it, we need to tell them about it as gently as we can, so that they will not continue to harm us and we will not continue to develop negative feelings about them. As Jesus says in Luke 17:3, "If someone sins against you, rebuke that that person, but if the same person repents, forgive." Speaking up for ourselves when we are wronged *is* Biblical.

- *Reach out for outside help.* There are still other situations in which a person has really wronged us and yet a direct confrontation with them is not the best idea. This can happen when the offender has significantly more power than the victim and therefore it isn't safe to confront or when the root of bitterness has been growing so

long that you need expert intervention to safely untangle it. We should still work to uproot the bitterness in these cases, but it may take some time to get there, and that's ok.

- *Forgive*. Forgiveness is the ultimate tool for rooting out bitterness. In some cases, it may be the culminating moment of reconciliation between two or more estranged individuals. In other cases, we may have to forgive people with whom we don't have contact, which looks more like releasing our yearning for vengeance to God so that the person no longer has a hold over us. As powerful as this is, we can't always skip to this final step. If we told ourselves we forgave someone and yet our bitterness towards that person keeps popping up, we may have to go back to one of the steps mentioned above.

Resentment creates trouble in the heart and contributes to toxic communities, so we should all be proactive about uprooting it so that we can continue to bear good fruit from the Spirit. ~ 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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