

## **JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 13, 2021

### **WORSHIP: Our relationship with God**

Chair: Brittany Bither

**Last Sunday (10/10)**, Continuing our series on Numbers, Brian will preach about the "pillar of cloud" that led the Israelites through the wilderness and which represented God's continual presence among them, noting that we too have access to God in our lives.

**This Sunday (10/17)**, Wilma Bailey will continue our sermon series by preaching from Numbers 11-12. After worship business meeting to vote on Widerstand

**Next Sunday (10/17)**, Craig will be preaching from Numbers 13-14 looking at the Israelite's exploration of Canaan.

### **COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom**

Chair: Herb Troyer

### **CALENDAR**

**From Sept. 19 to Nov. 21**, at 9:30, Wilma Bailey is leading us in a study of the book of Numbers. **Texts to read for the Adult Sunday School Class this week: Numbers 12-13**

**Sunday, October 17**, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Zoom worship, following worship will be a business meeting to vote on Widerstand Consulting do a Dismantling Racism audit of Shalom's policies and practices

### **Celebrations**

Fri, Oct. 15 – Josh Martin

Sun, Oct 17 – Justin Hochstetler

Tue, Oct 19 – Mary Albrecht

### **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](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Rose Love ([rhlove@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhlove@sbcglobal.net)), or Linda Kandel ([linidakandel@gmail.com](mailto:linidakandel@gmail.com)).

### **DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships**

Chair: Martha Yoder

#### **Business Meeting October 17**

Our September 12 meeting to vote on a proposal to have Widerstand Consulting do a Dismantling Racism audit of Shalom's policies and practices was cancelled due to Dagne's passing. After consultation with the Commission Chairs' Team, it has been rescheduled for October 17 after worship. We will have some time for updates since the last meeting and for conversation, then we will vote on the proposal.

If you would like to refresh your memory of the earlier conversation, a summary of the September 5 meeting is included in the September 8 Journeying Together and also attached below.

Once again, there will be three ways you may vote. 1) By putting your name and your vote in the chat at the meeting, 2) By raising your hand at the meeting, or 3) by emailing me [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) before 9:00 AM on October 17. (For the 2 persons who had emailed me before September 12, I will keep your votes unless you tell me otherwise.)

Martha Yoder Maust

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

Chair: Zenebe Abebe

### **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](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com)), Frank Kandel ([kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com)), or Raphael Edou ([raphaedou@gmail.com](mailto:raphaedou@gmail.com)).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Vacation**

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Sunday, October 17 through Saturday, October 23. Please contact Pastor Craig with any questions or concerns you have during that time at [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

#### **Support for Gemima and daughters**

Gemima has shared the great news that she received her work authorization and has a job interview lined up. The "support group" that meets to evaluate continuing with financial support for the family recommends we continue providing the monthly support during this transition time.

Donations are needed to cover October's support of \$600 and for future months as well. Please send checks made out to Shalom Mennonite Church with "Hernandez/Trochez fund" on the memo line. Send checks to the church address or to Bob Love. These donations are not tax deductible.

Questions? Contact Laura Harms. [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

### **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](mailto:Juliekins7182@hotmail.com) if you have any questions! – Julie Sanders

### **MCC**

Dear friends at Shalom: As we enter the fall of a second COVID year, we at Mennonite Central Committee are so grateful for your ongoing generous support of our work in 47 countries with 385 partners and over 500 projects. Your recent donations have allowed MCC to support our partners in adapting to the threats of COVID, assisting victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti and hurricanes in Honduras, helping school children in Nicaragua and Ethiopia, improving health through providing clean water in Kenya and Chad, building peace between prison inmates and guards in Zambia, providing safe and warm homes in Appalachia and many others. Your support allows our partners to offer the hope and healing of God's love and care in culturally effective ways in their communities. Thank you for your partnership in MCC's ministry of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. – Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

### **Gospel Evangel**

The quarterly newsletter from Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference is attached.

**Let your voice be heard by taking part in our denomination-wide survey.** Your responses will help Mennonite Church USA better serve the needs of its members. Take the survey here. [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey) En español: [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol](https://MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol)

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!](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEn30AED17Q_ReooskuxUXA!)

**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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto:bixlersc@gmail.com).

Craig Oury is now compiling *Journeying Together* each week. You can continue to send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).

## REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY

### The Art of Encouragement

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Every Christian has a biblical mandate to encourage the people in their lives. For some people, this is a spiritual gift - these are the ones who know seem to know just the right thing to say to lift someone's spirits - but for all of us, it should be a spiritual discipline. God does not want us to *assume* that the people in our lives know that we think about them, love them, and appreciate them, but we should make an effort to say it and to show it.

For many of us, it is uncomfortable to make these kinds of affirmations to other people. It may feel awkward or cheesy or inauthentic even to tell a close friend how much we value them. While there is no "correct formula" for how we should encourage others, there are guidelines that can help us as we are learning how to do it ourselves. For example...

- *It's better to thank someone for something they have done than praise them for a quality they have.* For example, it's more constructive to tell someone, "I was really moved by the song that you sang at church" than "You have the most beautiful voice of anyone I know." This gets us out of the habit of comparing ourselves to others and acknowledges intrinsic work.

- *It's good to be as specific as possible in your encouragements.* For many people, it is extremely meaningful to be seen or heard, and you don't really need to add much commentary beyond that. For example, if someone shared a struggle during prayer & sharing time, you can write to them about a part of it that jumped out to you and let them know you are thinking of them. Or if you appreciated someone's leadership in a meeting, be specific about what it was you appreciated.

- *It's often helpful to reference your relationship.* Rather than making generic comments or observations, you can tell people how you have appreciated them in the context of your relationship, perhaps by telling a close friend, "I love you like a sister/brother" or a person who has offered good advice "I really appreciate the way that you have mentored me."

Just as difficult as offering encouragement is receiving it, and there is an art to doing this well too. In an effort to be humble, we may be inclined to downplay any compliment we receive or simply let it go unacknowledged, but we forget that it requires courage and vulnerability for another person to offer encouragement to us, and the best way that we can honor that is by thanking them. This can be a simple "Thank you" or, if appropriate, a longer explanation about why their words are meaningful. In doing so, we encourage the encourager!

Often times, a quick word of encouragement here or there can make a profound impact on a person's day, week, or even life, and the practice of encouragement is good for an entire community. In fact, many of you are *already doing* this well, so I hope this simply encourages you to continue and build upon that important work. ~ Brian

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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