

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Shalom Mennonite Church

June 23, 2021

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God

Chair: Grace Rhine

Last Sunday (6/20), fell on the weekend of both Father's Day and Juneteenth, and Brad Yoder touched on both themes by telling several important stories of families in the United States who have been harmed in various ways by white supremacy over the centuries. Though hard to hear, these stories reveal important truths about the depth of racism in our country and our continuous responsibility to resist it.

This Sunday (6/27), Brian will be preaching on the parable of the Lost Sheep and the challenging implications that this has for us as a church community.

Next Sunday (7/4), falls on Independence Day, and Brian will take the opportunity to reflect on the fine line Christians must learn to walk between honoring the nation in which we live without idolizing it.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Herb Troyer

CALENDAR

Sunday, Sunday, June 27

10:30 am - Hybrid Worship service.

Monday, June 28

9 am – 3 pm - Roving Office at Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96th St, Fishers, IN

Monday, July 5

10:30 am - 3:30 pm - Roving Office at Midtown Panera, 6055 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN

Monday, July 26

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

Celebrations

Thu, Jun 24 – Leo Maust

Fri, Jun 25 – Arlene Miller

Sat, Jun 26 – Cheryl Martin

Sat, Jun 26 – Katy Maust

Sat, Jun 26 – Mil & Ruth Penner, 1971

Tue, Jun 29 – Brian & Brittany Bither, 2012

For the next two weeks the **phone tree** post will be delayed. The CLC will be asking those using the phone tree if there is still a need for it since we are starting to meet others face to face and some of us are meeting for church services. If you have questions please contact Herb Troyer, Linda Kandel or Rose Love

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Children's Church: Are you willing to provide care to Shalom children during in-person services this summer? For Children's Church, we have developed the following guidelines:

- * Children ages 2-8 will be dismissed after Children's Story

- * One adult volunteer and one youth volunteer will provide a short program and/or supervise play time

- * Children's Church will be an outdoor activity when possible. Fellowship Hall will be used when being outdoors is not possible.

* Children and adults should be prepared to wear masks. Indoors this will be required. Outdoors everyone will either need to keep a mask on or stay 6 feet from others.

Please contact Laura if you'd like to volunteer for a date in July or August. harms.laura@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Chair: Joyce Troyer

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to announce that Zenebe Abebe has agreed to serve as Chair of the Outreach Commission. He has been a member for four years along with Marilyn Teel and the current Chair Brad Yoder. Brad is leaving the Chair position but will continue to serve as a member. Please communicate your affirmations or other thoughts to Joyce Troyer at troyers_hj@hotmail.com or 317-446-4353 by today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safely Gathering Team Update: Since the local numbers of Covid cases continue to decrease, we are making the following changes:

1. Singing will now be permitted in the sanctuary, wearing a mask. The songleader may remove their mask if they lead from the stage.
2. No numerical limits on attendance. We do advise unvaccinated people to maintain a 6 foot distance between themselves and other households.

Martha for the Safely Gathering Team

Our new co—pastor Craig Oury will be moving to the home that he is renting in Fishers on the weekend of July 4. When we were last in contact, he was not sure exactly when he would arrive, possibly as early as Friday evening. He has many family members in Indiana who are happy for him to moving “home” and eager to help him move. However, he said that he would not turn down additional help. Or he might like just having some folks stop by to meet him. His new address will be 13185 Cyntheanne Rd. Fishers, IN, 46037. His phone number is 301-302-3181.

This year, Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) - of which our congregation is a member - had a “hybrid” annual gathering, in which some people traveled to Camp Amigo to participate and others joined via Zoom. We worshiped together, fellowshiped, and made important decisions together as a conference of congregations, which you can learn more about [here](#). Those of us who served as your delegates want to highlight two important developments that occurred during the Annual Sessions. First, the Conference leadership presented a document entitled, “[Growing in our Intercultural Witness](#),” which commits IMMC as an institution to growing in our intercultural competency and embodying racial justice for all people. The document sets several concrete goals related to listening and learning about racism that occurs in IMMC, educating our people about racism through the Widerstand curriculum (which we already offered as a Sunday school class), and restructuring to remove barriers from greater intercultural participation. These seem to align with several of the goals that our congregation has for ourselves independently, and it is encouraging to see that our Conference is likewise committed to these values.

Second, Dan Miller, who has served as Conference pastor for IMMC for the past 12 years, retired from that post over the weekend. We celebrated his years of service while looking forward to the next stages. Rather than a single pastor, the Conference has hired two part-time pastors to be the Conference pastors: Sharon Yoder, who had already been affirmed in the role, and Joanne Gallardo, who was affirmed with 97% of the delegate vote. You can learn more about Joanne through the bio that is attached to this newsletter. Brian

Dear people of Shalom,

I am pleased to invite you to attend a “Salon of Music and Theatre,” an event hosted by my sister, Sharon Sigal, a professional performing artist who lives in Philadelphia, PA. In past years, she has held intimate salons of music and theatre in private homes. This year, because of the pandemic, she has planned a virtual salon to take place on Saturday, June 26th, 7:30 pm, and has graciously invited me to play the harp as part of the program. Below you will find the details about the event as well as how to attend, if you are interested. I would love for you to come and enjoy the harp as well as all the other music and humor as well! Hope to see you there! (Additional information is attached.)

Sabrina

Mennonite Church USA is proposing changes to their bylaws, for which there will be a vote at the biannual convention that meets July 6-10. As a member of MCUSA, our church is impacted to some degree by these changes, and so you all are welcome to review them [here](#) and offer any feedback you have either directly to MCUSA leaders or through our delegate.

- 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.
- 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

Virtual Disciplines?

This year, Annual Sessions was a hybrid event, with the Friday program being completely virtual and the Saturday program being offered in-person for those who wanted to be there. I was very happy to have an opportunity to visit with friends and fellow pastors on Saturday, but the Friday service didn't do much for me. I didn't feel like I was contributing much from my computer screen at home, and it was tempting to check out. But then I remembered how important my participation was for the health of the Conference, and so I chose to stay, engage, and devote my attention to this online event.

A few years ago, we studied the 12 classic spiritual disciplines at Shalom, which included practices that are important for our spiritual health, such as prayer, fasting, silence, celebration, etc. These are small practices which may not make a big impact on our lives if we only do them once in a while, but if we practice them regularly over a period of time, they have a profound impact on us. Because they seem so simple, it's easy to neglect them and miss out on the spiritual treasures they carry, and so we have to discipline ourselves to prioritize them. Similarly, I have come to believe that in our church community - which is an increasingly virtual community - there are certain practices that seem small and insignificant but are really important for the health of a church. These include...

- Reading the newsletter and other key announcements from the church
- Offering feedback to surveys and questionnaires, even if it's just a quick "yes" or "no"
- Allowing ourselves to be seen at Zoom meetings (rather than turning off our screens) as often as possible
- Restraining ourselves from overusing shared mediums, such as the email list, to amplify our voice above others

This is not meant to be a list of rules that we must all follow rigidly. Of course, there are occasions when you may need to have your screen turned off or you may not have time to read the newsletter, just like there are legitimate occasions in life when we may have to miss out on a spiritual discipline from time to time. Furthermore, just as there are some people who cannot participate in some spiritual disciplines at all (such as fasting for health reasons), there may be people for whom these suggestions don't apply. Nevertheless, I do think that it is important for us to be intentional about participating in church life as fully as possible, even when it doesn't seem to do much for us, because it is important for the health of our congregation. Every time you read or listen, every time you show your face, and every time you offer feedback it contributes to our unity with each other, so let us make every effort to keep this connection strong. ~ 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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