

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 26, 2020

WORSHIP: Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday (8/23), we studied the formation of the United Monarchy of Israel, which began with the reign of King Saul. Although this is often seen as Israel's Golden Age, the book of 1 Samuel describes the monarchy as a kind of accommodation to the people of Israel. Because God is willing to work through imperfect political systems, so should we, but we should always strive for something better.

This Sunday (8/30), we will be taking a break from "The Story of the Bible" series. Frank will be preaching about how we need to yield ourselves to God's enabling Spirit in order to walk in God's ways.

Next Sunday (9/6), we will resume our Story of the Bible series, with Gemima preaching on the life and reign of David.

COMMUNITY LIFE: Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Herb Troyer

Calendar (All events are Zoom meetings)

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am – Extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: Did the human authors of the Bible have political biases and agendas?
If so, should that impact the way we read the text?

Sunday, September 6

No 9:30 session (a Labor Day break for our ushers)

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom: Gemima will preach on the life and reign of David

No Facing Hard Questions

Saturday September 12

9 am - Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) bi-monthly meeting (via Zoom)

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am – 1) Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

2) A breakout room will be available for extended fellowship time

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: How can feminist and egalitarian Christians read and revere Biblical texts that reflect gender stereotypes and relegate women to minor roles?

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am - Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

No Facing Hard Questions

Saturday September 26

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am - Brad Yoder and Kristen Metzler-Wilson will lead a study of the book *Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity* edited by Don Neufeld and Steve Thomas.

10:30 am – Worship Service on Zoom

2 pm – Facing Hard Questions: What do we do with the curses and calls for vengeance in our Bible? Is there an appropriate way for us to make use of these texts?

Saturday, October 10

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Saturday, October 24

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Saturday, November 7

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Saturday, November 21

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Saturday, December 5

10 – 11 am - Baptism exploration class, using *God's Story, Our Story* by Michele Hershberger. Led by Frank Kandel and Carol Bither.

Celebrations

To help alleviate the isolation felt during the pandemic, we have decided to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries in Journeying Together. If you do not want your birthday to be listed, email office@shalommennonite.com.

Fri, Aug 28 – Solomon Abebe

Fri, Aug 28 – Grace Rhine

Fri, Aug 28 – Jerry & Marilynn Teel, 1965

DISCIPLING: Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder

“Story of the Bible” Assigned Reading

Throughout our “Story of the Bible” sermon series, we will recommend daily readings at home. Next week’s readings are:

Monday: 2 Samuel 10-12, 1 Chronicles 19-20, Psalm 51

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 13:1-18:18, Psalm 43

Wednesday: 2 Samuel 18:19-24:25, Psalm 42

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 21-25, Psalm 32

Friday: Proverbs 18:7-8, 1 Chronicles 26-29, Psalm 127

Saturday: Psalm 72, 1 Kings 1-4, 2 Chronicles 1, Proverbs 1:1-7

OUTREACH: Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Shalom to help furnish housewares for Family Promise Apartment: Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis has received a grant allowing them to rent 10 more apartments! These apartments will bring their total to 20 and help so many more families than usual.

Zionsville UMC, Shalom Mennonite Church, and Major Tool have accepted the responsibility of getting household goods for one 2-bedroom apartment. Furniture is being provided by The Mustard Seed of Indianapolis and we are collecting new and gently used household items that are clean and in working order. We need these items **by September 10**. To help with this project, please click the following link to sign up: <https://bit.ly/familypromiseapt>.

Cool Congregations Challenge Update: The Outreach Commission plans to enter Shalom's solar energy saving system into Interfaith Power & Light's Cool Congregations Challenge. We would apply under the Renewable Roll Model category which includes these four systems: Solar, Wind, Geothermal and Solar Water Heating. On the application, they require solar data achieved over a full calendar year. We will work on the application form items that we have answers for now until January, 2021. When we can add the solar energy data of Shalom's array from mid-November, 2019 through December, 2020, we can send our complete entry application in early January, 2021. You can find more information about this challenge at <https://coolcongregations.org/the-challenge>.

Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) News: On September 1, 2020 at 7 pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church will host a World Day of Prayer service for the care of creation. All are invited. The church is located on east 10th Street between Franklin Road and Shadeland Avenue.



CROP Walk: If you can participate in the Virtual Crop Walk this year please register with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/>. To participate you only have to walk 3 miles on Sunday Oct. 4th anywhere and anytime! And of course, ask for donations! All donations go to help fight hunger around the world.

If you would like to donate, you can do a general donation to Shalom Mennonite Church with this link: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/Team/View/132565/Shalom-Mennonite-Church>. Any questions, email me at Juliekins7182@hotmail.com ~Julie Sanders

Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence August Newsletter is **attached**.

Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Announcements

- **Gathering safely:** Our local new Covid-19 case numbers have decreased slightly in the past two weeks but are still twice as high as they were two months ago when we started thinking about meeting in person. In Marion County, our daily rate of new cases per 100,000 people have gone from 6.9 in early July to 13.9 this week. Commission chairs will meet again next week, but at this point it is clear that meeting indoors in person will not be safe at least through September. Martha
- Last week I sent an email to Shalom Members about the passing of Venezuelan Mennonite Pastor Erwin Mirabal. Linda Shelley, Mennonite Mission Network Latin America Director writes: "On Aug. 13, we were among those who gathered on Zoom to record tributes for Erwin (Mirabal) for the Spanish podcast [Merienda Menonita](#)" (the Podcast that Peter Wigginton and Jonathan Minchala produce). "Sharing our reflections helped our healing process. I have translated some excerpts of the testimonies. <https://www.mennonitemission.net/blog/Reflections-on-a-life-of-ministry-in-Venezuela>. Mike Wigginton

- Pastor Brian will be on vacation with his family from Wednesday, September 2 to Tuesday, September 8 and will not be checking email during that time. If you have an urgent church matter, please email Jeanne Smucker, our congregational chair, at jmrsmucker@outlook.com
- **Join MCC and Great Lakes BIC for a free webinar: Police, Fairness & Security.** Framed with a time of biblical reflection, Bishop Lynn Thrush will facilitate a panel discussion with people who have interacted with the police at varying levels including Ohio State Senator Cecil Thomas who served as a police officer in Cincinnati, OH. The free webinar will take place on Thursday, September 10 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (EST). Participants will come away with a better understanding of the narrative of racial difference and how this is related to policing. Please register by August 31 at mcc.org/gl-webinar-police to receive the webinar link. **See the attached poster.**
- 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 [here!](#)
- **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 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 him at mlwiggint@sbcglobal.net.
- Send announcements for Journeying Together to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

Down the Peace Path

The tradition of Season of Creation began in 1989 when the Orthodox Church proclaimed September 1st as a day of prayer for creation. In fact, the Orthodox Church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. World Council of Churches worked to make this special time a "season", extending the celebration from September 1st until October 4th, which is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology for many Christian denominations. In 2015 Pope Francis made welcoming the season official for the Roman Catholic Church. In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have encouraged Christians to come together to care for our common home during the month-long celebration.

With the Season of Creation as our theme, the Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) will have a bi-monthly meeting (via Zoom) 9AM Saturday September 12, 2020. The ECCN congregations have a number of activities planned for the month of September.

Mike Wigginton

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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