

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 19, 2020

Cancellations through March

To decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the national Center for Disease Control has recommended that gatherings of more than 50 people be cancelled for the next eight weeks. As we have seen, the situation can change quickly and it is possible that recommendations will also change.

We are prepared to cancel in-person meetings at Shalom for as long as is necessary to promote safety for church members and for society. At this point, Shalom leadership has decided to cancel worship and other in-person, church-wide meetings for the remainder of March. The VAT and Commission Chairs will continue to monitor the status of local infections and CDC recommendations, and will communicate updates to the congregation. It is possible that meeting cancellations will continue for several additional weeks.

Several commissions are working to provide virtual ways to address the spiritual needs of the congregation during this time of physical distancing. Commissions can conduct online meetings to continue their work.

We are blessed with an adequate balance in our Shalom checking account to continue to meet our salary and other financial obligations, in spite of a pause of several weeks in our Sunday offerings. If any members would like to send offerings during the period of no worship meetings, rather than save their donations until meetings are resumed, they can mail their checks to the Shalom address (6100 E. 32nd St, Indianapolis, IN 46226) and a representative of the Administration Commission will deposit them into our Shalom account.

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Lenten Resources

During the 6 weeks of Lent, there will be a new, weekly Lenten meditation guide attached in each Journeying Together. These Lenten meditations will guide us to pray using scriptures and will focus on how Jesus brings light into the shadow places of our lives and our world. The meditations will challenge us to seek and to shine light, finding hope in desperate times. There will be many prayer options suggested and you will likely not use each one listed. The meditation guides encourage us to be open to different ways of praying and where it can lead us. (see attached for Week Three, to start on Sunday, March 15th)

Resources from IN-MI Conference

We wanted to create a place where you could have easy access to resources that others in IMMC have found helpful and where you can share resources with one another. There is a new page on the IMMC website. On it you will find articles, tips, and videos that we hope will aid you in the good work you are already doing. Additionally, we are listing the congregations who are offering services online. Here is the link: <https://im.mennonite.net/responding-to-covid-19/>

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

In-person activities are cancelled through the end of March.

PASTORAL TEAM SEARCH COMMITTEE
(PTSC)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Update March 2020

The Pastoral Team Search Committee is pleased to welcome CoraLyn Turentine onto our committee to replace Kristen Metzler Wilson, who is no longer able to serve due to other obligations. We thank Kristen for her service and her wisdom on this committee. In early January, we sent out ads for the second pastoral position at Shalom to two publications and eight colleges and seminaries. As of this date, we have not received any credible applications. So, this past week, we again sent out the slightly modified advertisement. We are also speaking with Sharon Yoder, our Indiana-Michigan Conference representative about widening our search to neighboring conferences. VAT continues to work with Brian on adjusting his workload so that he will not be overburdened. Please continue to pray that God will help to direct the appropriate candidate to Shalom.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Building Fund donations for tree pruning

Since our tree pruning was not planned in our 2020 budget, the cost will need to come from the Building Fund. We will need to raise about \$5,000 towards this cost. Mike and Becky are continuing to evaluate the most cost-effective way of taking care of this need. To donate, please write Building Fund on the memo line of your check.

Seeking Administration Asst.

Laura cannot continue to do administrative duties. If anyone is looking for some extra work-from-home income during this time, please reach out to Tim, Sam, or Laura. You could pick up some tasks like creating the newsletter, updating the website, and checking office email temporarily. Full job description attached.

Outreach Minutes

The Outreach Commission met on March 3 and their [minutes are here](#).

Pastor:

Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320;
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

