

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 1, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday Feb. 25:

Brian concluded our study of confession by looking at the "Day of Atonement" ritual described in Leviticus and studying the ancient ritual that shaped the New Testament understanding of Jesus' death as a sacrifice for sins. Read Leviticus 16 and 1 John 1:9-2:2 to prepare for the message, "Confession: A Path to Atonement."

This Sunday Mar. 4:

On Sunday, Wilma Bailey will bring the message.

Lent Resource from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):

Looking for Lent activities for the whole family? Try our Lent activity calendar! Lent is a time of remembering Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness that prepared him for ministry. Starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, join others across the United States in activities that encourage and prepare us to work for peace in our communities and world. You can find the calendar here:

www.mennonitemission.net/lent.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Dinner Plans March 18?:

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" is scheduled for Sunday, March 18. You should have received a self-explanatory sign-up sheet in your mailbox but, if not, there are extras beside the boxes. If you wish to participate, please complete a form and return to Krystal Johnson's or Angie Buller's mailbox as soon as possible, but by Sunday, March 11 at the very latest. Email replies can be sent to Angie Buller at buller2@comcast.net. You

will be notified of your assignments by email on or around Monday, March 12.

Thanks, Krystal

Hochstetlers Moving:

Justin, Abri, and Calvin are moving just a few miles northeast of our current place this Saturday. If you can help with moving, we would greatly appreciate it! Fun starts about 8:30 a.m. at 6106 Primrose Ave. Let us know if you can make it so we have enough donuts/snacks. Thank you in advance!

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Mar. 4: **Fellowship Meal**

Mar. 16: 7pm Eastside Creation Care

Network's film night at Shalom

Mar. 18: 5pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Apr. 1: 8:30am Easter breakfast

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Catholic Economics Class Update:

The Catholic Economics class will discuss chapters 10 (Freedom of Contract) and 11 (Justice, Charity and Distribution). - Wilma Bailey

Thank You and Spots Still Open:

Thanks to all who filled in many slots on the Sunday school signup sheet. We are still in need of teachers for the elementary and middle classes for the month of March. You can see the schedule and sign up at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15B4wMX7dnau_xuWvmidku2otuJwpMuJStPXmWvu7X0g/edit?usp=sharing

- Martha Yoder Maust

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

World Day of Prayer:

World Day of Prayer is sponsored by Church Women United, generally on the first Friday in March. This year there are celebrations throughout Indianapolis on March 2 and 3. Shalom is part of the northeast district that will be meeting at St. Alban's Episcopal Church at 2 pm on Friday. There is a listing of other times and locations in the church foyer. Direct questions to Carol Bixler.

Creation Care Workshop:

This Saturday, March 3, 8:30 – 11:30, a workshop, "Green Team Basics: Creation Care 101", is being hosted at St. Mathews Episcopal Church, 8320 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. It's facilitated by Amy Barnes, H-IPL Program Manager.

You will learn: how to start and maintain an effective congregational green team; how to choose activities and initiatives for your green team that will yield meaningful change within your congregation. The workshop is free and open to the public. Please RSVP at www.hoosieripl.org/green_team_basics_creation_care

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Thank you from MCC:

We at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support for the work of MCC. We thank you, friends and supporters at Shalom Mennonite, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the donations, energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and with material resources, your congregation contributed **\$6,700** in 2017.

We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work. Whether in Lebanon, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Ukraine or Appalachia, your support is sharing God's love and compassion through relief, development and

peace in the name of Christ. Find more stories at mcc.org. Thank you!

- Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes

Bulletin Boards:

Administration Commission is reviewing our use of the bulletin board spaces. If you'd like to offer input, please contact Abri at abri.houser@gmail.com by March 15. Thanks!

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

THIS SUNDAY Pastor's Review Due:

The pastor's review survey is due on Sunday, March 4. Please check your email for a form or pick up a print copy at the mailboxes. The review serves both as a part of the three year review and review for ordination for Indiana=Michigan Conference. Thank you. Wilma Bailey for VAT

Milepost #348: **Take a Load Off**

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Mt 11:28-30)

The Lord was speaking to people who were beset with many burdens. They were oppressed by their rulers, they were required to observe many religious rules, and they labored and toiled every day to provide for their families. When Jesus saw the crowds, "he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Mt 9:36)

We at Shalom have been wandering through the transition wilderness for quite some time now. Meetings, documents, surveys, e-mails. Some of us feel weary and need rest. The Promised Land is out there and we can sort of see it but it still seems a long way off. Meanwhile, it has taken some struggle and hard work. There have been good times and even fun along the way. We continue to enjoy fellowship meals, meaningful worship, stimulating discussions in classes, rich sharing in small groups. We feel joy and

gratitude when we sense the Holy Spirit moving among us.

Does the transition process sometimes feel like a burden that's hard to bear, or like the easy and light yoke of Jesus Christ? Earnestly seeking the will of God, we, as a congregation, discerned what ultimately we recorded in our mission and vision statements. Together, with hope and faith to follow where God would lead us, we made a commitment to come under this "yoke" for a period of time and then to prayerfully evaluate it.

Whenever the yoke starts feeling too heavy, something has gone awry and it's time for us to stop, take a break-- and a breath, and refocus our eyes and our hearts on the One who offers relief and tenderly invites us to come close and rest. Like a child, each of us is welcome to crawl into the Divine lap!

When we meet to conduct the affairs of Shalom church, let's consider it less a time of business and more a time of worship-- a time to gather prayerfully, lovingly, and hopefully, with the Presence of our Christ in our midst to guide and direct our discussion and decisions while filling our minds, hearts, and souls with refreshment and peace. Yes, we have serious matters to deal with, but we can hold them "lightly" and with good humor, because the burden is not ours to bear when we share it with Jesus who came, in part, to carry it Himself!

The work is still there to do, but as Jesus' disciples we're invited to take up a different kind of yoke-- one that fits well, feels light, and gives life and joy!.

– Sabrina Falls

Do you have some thoughts to share about this month's spiritual discipline? The Pastoral Team invites you to share your thoughts as one of the weekly milepost entries. Please email Sabrina, Frank, or Brian to explore this further.

532-2859, kandel93@gmail.com; Sabrina Falls, (317) 902-9495, sabrinafalls@outlook.com
Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Abri Hochstetler: abri.houser@gmail.com

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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