

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 7, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, Nov 3

Brad Yoder spoke on the topic of "What is your Truth?" Scriptures for the sermon were Psalm 139: 1-12; and Luke 4:16-22, 19:41, 22:39-44.

This Sunday, Nov 10

Cyneatha Millsaps, Executive Director of Mennonite Women USA, will preach a sermon titled "The Power of Two" reflecting on Mark 6: 6b-13. Choosing sisterhood is a calling to women throughout the church to build bridges between societal divides. Women throughout the church are being asked to find a sister very different from themselves and begin walking with this woman as a way of building relationships and fulfilling the call of God. Mark describes such a calling and the tools needed to accomplish the goal.

Next Sunday, Nov 17

"Who is Wisdom?" a sermon based on Proverbs 8. At the recent IN-MI Mennonite Women's Retreat at Amigo Centre, Sabrina offered four presentations on the theme, "She is a Tree of Life." "She" is Wisdom, and Her presence in both the First (Old) and Second (New) Testaments is more prominent than many of us have been taught. Several people who were unable to attend the retreat expressed an interest in hearing what Sabrina shared, so she will try to bring some of it together with this introduction to Wisdom, as well as to consider the significance of a balanced spirituality in which we experience and speak of God with both feminine and masculine images and terms.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
11:00am Sunday School

Sun, Nov 10 –Budget Committee Meeting, noon
Wed, Nov 13 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Fri, Nov 15 – Eastside Creation Care Film
Night at Cumberland Baptist, 6pm
Sat, Nov 16 – Ecuador Fundraiser Dinner, 4pm
Thurs, Nov 21 – Meal, 6:30; Bible study, 7-8
Sat, Nov 23 – Fall Work Day, 9am
Wed, Nov 27 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Thurs, Nov 28 – Thanksgiving Meal, 1pm
Thurs, Dec 5 – Meal, 6:30; Bible Study, 7-8
Sun, Dec 8 – Congregational Budget Approval
Meeting, 12noon
Wed, Dec 11 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Sat, Dec 14 – Christmas Banquet



Raphael and Debora

Please read about Raphael and Debora in the attached interview.

November 28 is Thanksgiving Day

There will be a Thanksgiving Day meal in the church's fellowship hall for anyone who is in town without plans. A sign-up sheet is on the back sanctuary window for you to indicate the number of people coming, as well as what food you would like to bring to share. Turkey will be provided. We'll plan to eat at 1 pm. If you have questions, see Linda Showalter.

Ecuador Fundraiser Dinner

Join us for an Ecuador Fundraiser Dinner, November 16, 4:00pm at Shalom. Live Music and authentic Ecuadorian food!

Thanks from Martha

Many thanks for all your cards, emails, and kind words of support in the death of my mother.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Commission Chairs met on October 16, 2019. They have been meeting regularly while Brian has been on sabbatical to facilitate communications and will plan to continue with these meetings. Each commission shared what their commission is doing and challenges that they face. This allows for coordination of plans as well as advice regarding questions that the commissions may be dealing with. Read more details in the [minutes](#).

PASTORAL TEAM SEARCH COMMITTEE (PTSC)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Pastoral Search Update

Since the start of our pastoral search, we have posted advertisements in The Mennonite and Mennonite World Review and posted notices at CTS as well as relying on the Indiana-Michigan Conference to help us find persons interested in our half-time position. Once someone decides to move forward with applying for the position, they must follow an application process. The extensive process begins with the Ministerial Leadership Information form (MLI). The MLI involves items such as multiple essays regarding the individual's faith and journey, references, and a background check. People who fill out the MLI work hard on this time-

consuming and difficult task. After an individual completes the MLI, the application is reviewed by both Mennonite Church USA and Indiana-Michigan Conference, and they interview the individual. At this point, Shalom's packet is sent to the individual, and only if they indicate that they may be interested in our position do we receive their packet. We cannot consider individuals for the half-time position until the MLI/application process is complete. So where are we in the process? At this point, we are aware of at least one person working on the application process, and we never know when Indiana-Michigan Conference will forward additional names to us for consideration.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust



What an opportunity!

It takes a village. Watch a concise 10 minutes on ["Putting on the Mind of Christ"](#) on YouTube by Emmanuel Charles McCarthy, a priest in Eastern Catholic church and a 1962 graduate of Notre Dame and the founder of the Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolent Conflict Resolution at the University.

Submitted by Pastor Frank Kandel

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Shalom's Solar Installation begins on Monday, November 11!!! The expert team from Jefferson Electric will arrive at 9:00 am to start creating this exciting project for us! **Let the sun shine in!**

Eastside Creation Care

Eastside Creation Care Network meets Saturday morning, November 9, at Cumberland Baptist Church. A light breakfast is available at 8:30 followed by the meeting at 9:00 to 11:00. Join members of other churches in a quest to honor God's creation.

Cumberland Baptist will host the ECCN Film Night on Friday, November 15 at 7:00 pm. "Human Element" will be shown. James Balog, photographer and explorer, has focused his lens on the complex relationship between humans and the four elements of nature. He vividly reveals his experiences among everyday Americans who are already being affected by climate change. He argues that humans, the fifth element, are part of the whole system of nature and not apart from it. He does find hope. Flyer attached for more information.

Caps and Lids Update

First Mennonite Church has reached their goal of collecting plastic caps and lids for a colorful rainbow bench! They thank Shalom for all the caps and lids we collected and gave them for their playground project!

We are now helping an ECCN member church, Irvington Methodist, collect plastic caps and lids for a bench and a toddler table for their preschool's playground. We at Shalom are experts at this plastics project and Outreach is happy to help and support another church reach their goal.

Northview Church of the Brethren Fair

"Another Way of Giving" Christmas Fair will be held on Sat., Nov. 16 from 10:30-2:00 pm at 5555 E. 46th St. The purpose is to offer ways to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by giving our guests the opportunity to purchase from or make donations to organizations which are dedicated to helping others. Live music. Lunch and baked goods available for a donation.

Tips on Caregiving

Caregiving takes many forms and can be both extremely rewarding and completely exhausting. All of us are caregivers in ways that wax and wane. As a congregation, we pray for the person needing care, but do we know how to provide concrete support to the person(s) providing the care? Please [open this link](#) from Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet) for a

quick review of the many ways we can all assist when help is needed.

Sharing Space

The collections for November are caps and mittens, as well as donations for the Morning Star food pantry.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Fall Work Day – Nov 23

Let's take care of our building and grounds and help our regular volunteers with some important tasks. Saturday, Nov 23 from 9-11 we'll be raking leaves and attending to other building and grounds needs.

Budget Committee Meeting

Commission Chairs (or appointees), Pastors, and the VAT Chair will gather to review the proposed budget on Sunday, Nov 9 at noon. A Congregational Budget Approval meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8 at noon.

Shalom Directories

Please let Laura know if you would like a printed copy of one of our three directories (or all three!): Email list; Phone list; Names and Addresses.

Minutes

The Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) has posted minutes of the recent All Commissions [meeting held Oct 16](#).

Executive Director Search, MMN

The Mennonite Mission Network is seeking an Executive Director. MMN, an agency of Mennonite Church USA, is commissioned to lead, mobilize, and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. The agency envisions all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission – across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world. Visit www.mennonitemission.net/about/employment for details. Resumes and applications can be sent to EDsearch4MMN@gmail.com with "Executive Director Inquiry" in the subject line.

Reflections On Pilgrimage

THANKSGIVING

November is the month of Thanksgiving. The national holiday, that is. November is not the month of thanksgiving any more--or less--than all other months, weeks, and days. Christians don't set aside just one day to be thankful because we are thankful every day.

Or are we? Do we wake up in the morning (or evening if we work the night shift!) thankful for life and God's gift of another day? For the delight of that first sip of coffee? For a sweater to keep us warm? For a sight of especially beautiful clouds in the sky as the sun is just rising? Are we mindful throughout the day of the many tiny details that call for our gratitude? And, if/when we feel thankful, do we say "thank you"?

In Greek the word for thanksgiving is "eucharistia," which comes from the word for "grace" or "favor." When we "say grace" before or after meals we are giving thanks to God for providing our nourishment and strength. What if we were to "say grace" all through the day? This would accord with Paul's teaching to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Thanks-giving is a spiritual practice. As much as we might wish it were so, feeling gratitude doesn't always happen automatically. I'm not even sure if we're born with it or if we learn it. If we desire thankfulness in our--and in our children's--hearts, the best and probably only way to do that is by practicing it.

We might begin by giving thanks to God, and one way to thank God is simply to say "thank you" to those through whom God has come close to us--to say "thank you" to the bird singing a particularly lovely tune, to the spider who chose to weave her magnificent web outside where you could admire her artistry rather than inside where you'd have to wipe it away, to the person who bagged your groceries just the way you like, to your dog whose wet kisses awakened you when your alarm clock failed to do so and you really needed to get up on time!

Thanksgiving is a spiritual practice because it requires our intention and attention, and because it brings us and others closer to God.

As I write this reflection I am mindful that today (November 7) is my niece's birthday. So today I give thanks for the life of my beautiful niece, Mira, and for her mom (my sister) who graciously invited me to be present at Mira's birth. This is a gift I will always treasure.

Let's remember that the very first eucharistic meal was when Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, shared it, and ate it with his friends and family, and said "whenever you eat and drink, remember me." This is the greatest gift for which we can be thankful--so let's truly give thanks, today, on Thanksgiving Day, and every day, without ceasing.

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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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to office@shalommennonite.com