

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 2, 2019

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, January 27:

Sabrina preached the first sermon in a series on "Proclaiming Jubilee" by introducing the meaning of the Jubilee Year ("the year of the Lord's favor"). In the gospel of Luke, Jesus began his public ministry by teaching that what he had just read from the prophet Isaiah to the congregation at the Nazareth synagogue has been fulfilled in their hearing. We explored the meaning of his "gracious words" – how they were received by those who heard them and what they mean for God's people today.

### This Sunday, February 3:

As Jesus prophetically declares Jubilee for the world, he performs miraculous signs of the coming freedom of his Kingdom. The sick are healed. Demons are cast out. Captives are free. When Jesus finds himself preaching at the Sea of Galilee, he demonstrates his glory again through a miraculous catch of fish and follows it up with a call for disciples to be fishers of men. This same call is extended to us. On Sunday, our guest preacher - John Miller, who is planting a church in Speedway (within Indianapolis), will help us explore how to be fishers of Jubilee.

### Next Sunday, February 10:

Although we already have gotten glimpses of Jesus' teaching through his miraculous signs and brief comments, Luke 6:17-49 is the first that Jesus lays it out in extensive teaching and instruction in the third gospel. This material is often called "The Sermon on the Plain," but calling it a "sermon" may undermine its social and political significance. Pastor Brian will encourage us to think of this material as a kind of constitution for the people who want to join the Jubilee movement.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

TODAY Feb 3 – Pizzas for Peace lunch after SS

Feb 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Feb 13 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Feb 21 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Feb 27 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

### Pizza's for Peacethis Sunday!!:

Everyone is invited to stay for a pizza and salad luncheon. Donations will be given to the Peace and Justice Support Network of the MCUSA.

**The vision of the Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) is to keep peace and justice central to the mission of the church in the world.**

PJSN was created during the spring of 2002. This inclusive group is open to anyone who wants to support in a special way Mennonite Church USA's work of peace and justice.

Tasks of the support network include:

1. Creating and keeping clear the vision of peace and justice in Mennonite Church USA.
2. Promoting the expansion of peace and justice through gatherings for inspiration
3. Providing counsel to Mennonite Church USA agencies and Executive Board
4. Sharing and publicizing resources for congregations
5. Communicating peace and justice work to the wider constituency.

### Sharing a Praise:

We just got news that baby Charolte received her Visa, today, to return to Papua New

Guinea with a week to spare! Their arrival in IL, hopefully, next Wednesday. Praise God! THANKS all, for your prayers. It has been a tough 2 months for our family. Traveling mercies needed! - Linda K.

### **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

### **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

#### Giving Corner:

Some blankets have already been taken to Wheeler Mission. We will continue to collect comforters and blankets through February.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems

#### Pastoral Team Search Committee:

The PTSC is sending the following **job posting** to Earlham/Bethany, Christian Theological Seminary, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, The Mennonite, and Mennonite World Review. We are also sending an abbreviated version to First Mennonite (Indianapolis). **Do you feel called to the position or have someone to suggest?** Contact Brad Sommer if so.

Shalom Mennonite Church, which is a part of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference, is seeking a person to join our team in a 1/2 to 3/4 time pastoring position. This is an urban Anabaptist congregation located in Indianapolis, Indiana, with an average attendance of 65 participants. The focus of this team pastoring position will be determined by the gifts present in all the team members with the possible focus on spiritual development, counseling/pastoral care, and peace and justice issues.

#### Survey Update:

As the Pastoral Team Search Committee continues, we are aware of some issues with the 20 pastoral tasks survey that we did one year ago. This tool is important for us as well

as pastoral candidates to know where the congregation's priorities are. There are two major concerns which we wish to address:

- 1) With less than 40% of the congregation returning the surveys, we may not have had true representation of the whole congregation.
- 2) The tasks are meant to apply to the whole pastoral team, not just the current candidate.

The new survey will be available this Sunday, February 3. It will need to be returned by February 17, 2019.

#### Minutes available:

The website has been updated and minutes have been posted from the most recent [Vision & Accountability Team meeting](#). Click on the link to review the minutes.

### **Milepost #667 Peacemakers**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

(Matthew 5:9) Peacemaking is an action-- something one does. Job describes God as the One who "makes peace" in the heights. (Job 25:2) The Hebrew might also be translated as the One who "does" peace. Indeed, peace is a state of harmonious well-being and wholeness and, at the same time, something we do.

The apostle James writes: "What good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it?...Faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity." (James 2:14-17, CEB)

Article 22 of Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective says:

We believe that peace is the will of God. God created the world in peace, and God's peace is most fully revealed in Jesus Christ... Led by the Holy Spirit, we follow Christ in the way of peace, doing justice, bringing reconciliation, and practicing nonresistance even in the face of violence and warfare.... The peace God intends for humanity and creation was revealed most fully in Jesus Christ...[who] has reconciled us to God and has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation. As followers of Jesus, we participate in his ministry of peace and justice. He has called us to find our blessing in making

peace and seeking justice. We do so in a spirit of gentleness, willing to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.... [We] witness to all people that violence is not the will of God. We witness against all forms of violence, including war among nations, hostility among races and classes, abuse of children and women, violence between men and women, abortion, and capital punishment....

This past Sunday we began our series on the Jubilee -- the "year of the Lord's favor"-- the time of peace, justice, and freedom. In response, Mil Penner challenged us to hold each other accountable for our peace witness. Contacting our government officials, as he is doing, is one very important way to witness, as are many other avenues for participation and engagement with setting societal policies. For some of us this may involve overcoming fear. Holding each other accountable--in addition to "spurring one another towards love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)-- includes providing one another with discernment, support, and encouragement. We have each other's backs! And God is the "pillar of cloud and fire" behind and before us! (Exodus 13:21)

Our congregation is a member of Faith in Indiana, a very visible and powerful voice for peace and justice in our community, state, and nation. There's also a strong national movement called Faith in Public Life that we might consider joining. Meanwhile, this Sunday, please join us in our annual "Pizzas for Peace" meal and fundraiser. This year, our donations will go to support the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church-USA. As people of faith let us, as children of God, live into the Jubilee by making a visible and active witness for peace and justice.

- Sabrina Falls, Pastoral Team

*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.*

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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)