

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 18, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, October 14:

Wilma Cender visited Shalom and preached on Matthew 5:13-16. Christians are called to be salt and light to the world, but the way that we live this out isn't always by doing something extraordinary, but by obeying God and looking for ways to be receptive to the Spirit in our ordinary, every day tasks.

### This Sunday, October 21:

Frank Kandel will preach on Psalm 46:1-11 and Romans 12:9-13. These passages remind us that God is our refuge and our strength, which means that the responsibility to "figure it out" isn't on our shoulders. Instead, we are called to "trust and obey".

### Next Sunday, October 28:

Brian will preach on the spiritual discipline of submission by considering the early Anabaptist concept of Gelassenheit and considering what it means to submit not only to sisters and brothers in Christ but also to outsiders and enemies. Romans 12:14-13:10 and Hebrews 5:7-10 are the main texts.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Transportation Needed:

We are looking for several volunteers who would transport the Hernandez family to and from church. They live near Ben Davis HS. (Shalom currently blesses 2 regular attendees with transportation!) Penners and Wiggintons will continue but are not available every Sunday. Thanks for your consideration of assistance!

-Linda Kandel

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Oct 18 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm

Oct 19 – Worship Commission meeting, 10am @ Showalter's

Oct 19 – Eastside Creation Care Movie: "The Age of Conscience" @ Downey Ave. Christian Church

Oct 20 – Sexual Assault Awareness Training @ Shalom, 9:30-11:30am

Oct 21 – CropWalk

Oct 24 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Oct 27 – Baby shower for Shenks in Muncie, 3pm

Oct 30 – Family Promise

Nov 3 – Church Retreat @ Jameson Camp

Nov 9-10 – Comforter Bash @ Pleasant View Church (see Mil & Ruth Penner for info)

Nov 17 – Fall Work Day, 8-12

### Shower for Baby Shenk:

Anne and Phil Shenk will have a baby shower on Saturday, October 27 at Morning Star Church, the Mennonite Church in Muncie, where they live. The shower will be at 3:00pm, and both women and men are invited. The Shenks are registered at Target. **Please let Emily Fox know if you are planning to come.**

### Church Retreat:

Retreat sign up began October 7 on the back window of the sanctuary. The Retreat is November 3 at Jameson Camp. Be thinking about joining us for fun, food, fellowship, and learning story telling!

### Mel Swartzentruber:

Mel Swartzentruber's colon surgery will be November 8 here in Indy at Methodist Hospital; stay anticipated 4-6 days; recuperate at home 4-6 weeks. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

-Mary Albrecht

### Fall Work Day:

We hope to have at least 25 participants for Fall Work Day on Nov. 17; 8am-12pm. Working together is a great way to fellowship! If you have any tasks that you think should be added to our list, please let Laura Harms know: [Harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:Harms.laura@gmail.com)

### Nursery Toys:

Worship Commission is looking for willing person(s) to sanitize the toys in the nursery, especially now with flu season fast approaching. Let Linda Showalter know if this is something you would be willing to tackle. Disinfectant wipes will be available in the nursery cupboards for nursery volunteers to wipe toys off whenever possible on a weekly basis.

## **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

### Sunday School Schedule:

This Sunday, October 21, will be an additional conversation concerning Wilma Cender as a pastoral candidate for the 0.5 FTE position

We will also plan to have conversations concerning the use of the church facilities by Iglesias Amigos as well during the Sunday School hour on the 21st.

## **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Hoosier-Interfaith Power and Light:

Hoosier-Interfaith Power and Light is an affiliate of the national Interfaith Power and Light. H-IPL is devoted to inspiring and equipping Hoosiers of faith and their

congregations to act as stewards of creation - God's magnificent gift to us all. Shalom is a member of the Eastside Creation Care Network, a group of 10 interfaith churches on the far eastside of Indianapolis which all have Green Teams and advocate for the environment. H-IPL is a nonprofit organization providing educational support to these groups in Indiana in their efforts to advocate for clean air, water, and energy. They keep us informed of current state legislation which would impact creation care.

-Marilynn Teel

### Family Promise:

Yes, Family Promise, a program for the homeless, is just around the corner. You will have an opportunity to serve in one of the tasks which are listed on the signup sheet on the landing. We don't know how many we are serving, however, Shalom has agreed Tuesday, October 30, 2018 to be our day to assist FMC. Please be prayerful and reflect on how you can help!

Thank you!

-Solomon Abebe

### Crop Walk:

This Sunday is the Crop Walk! May it be a wonderful Crop Walk day.....with all that seems wrong in the world, you are doing a really positive thing. I will be walking with you in spirit. Peace, Mary Albrecht

### Giving Corner:

In October our project is Infant Care Kits for Mennonite Central Committee.

**Contents (NEW items only, sizes 3-12 months)**

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins

- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

## ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

### Pastoral Candidate:

On October 28 we will have a congregational vote concerning Wilma Cender's candidacy for the open pastoral position. Please remember to continue to lift up this process in prayer as we collectively discern God's continued Vision & Mission here at Shalom.

### VAT Minutes:

The minutes from the last VAT minutes have been posted online. If you would like to review these minutes or minutes from the previous meetings, please follow [this link](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Dog Needs a New Home:

We are looking for a good home for Rudy, our little Yorkiepoo dog. If interested contact me at [jdanielhess@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jdanielhess@sbcglobal.net).

-Dan Hess

### **Milepost #563 – Forbearance as Submission**

*“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” – Colossians 3:12-13*

The spiritual discipline of submission is a difficult one for many of us. As I explained in the last milepost, practicing submission does *not* mean giving up one's opinions, identity, or boundaries because some authoritative figure asks us to give them up. But if that is not what submission is supposed to look like, then what is it? What does it mean to submit to another

person in a healthy way? Let's explore this question by looking at one specific way to practice submission – forbearance – and by considering what the Bible has to say about forbearance versus forgiveness.

In the years that I have served as a pastor, I have had several conversations with people who were having a hard time forgiving someone who had wronged them in a significant way. When they ask me what they should do, I always start by explaining that “forgiveness” does not mean “letting the other person win.” To offer forgiveness to someone is (1) to imply that they have wronged you, (2) to imply that it is up to you to release them from the debt they owe you, and then (3) to release them from that debt. Moreover, we are not expected to forgive people unconditionally. According to Jesus, the offender must be truly repentant for us to be able to forgive: “If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and *if there is repentance*, you must forgive.” (Luke 17:3, emphasis added) Thus, forgiveness – if done correctly – is really an empowering process for the victim.

However, there are times when the Holy Spirit does call us to “let the other person win.” If someone bumps into us in a hallway or forgets to follow through on a small agreement, Christians do not need to demand repentance from the offender for such minor infractions. In these cases, it is better to practice forbearance by simply letting it go. This is what it means to “bear with one another” – to tolerate our imperfections in order to preserve a healthy relationship.

But at what point is an offense significant enough that we should demand repentance from the offender rather than letting them off the hook? There's not an easy answer to that. However, if we find ourselves getting upset over every minor infraction that people commit against us, and/or we find ourselves harboring lots of resentment, that is probably a sign that we need more submission in our lives. Richard Foster describes submission as “the ability to lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.” When our egos are so sensitive that they can't ever let anything go, that is a problem. And one way that we can choose to address it is by making a conscious decision

to “let the other person win” from time to time, at least on minor issues. When we do this, it isn't because we are too weak or afraid to stand up for ourselves, but because we are choosing to submit to our sisters and brothers in Christ for the greater good in the reign of God.

-Pastor Brian Bither

*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](http://shalommennonite.com)

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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

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