

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 26, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, July 22:

Wilma Bailey preached on the practice of prayer of the Old Testament. She observed that the earliest prayers were simple cries to God for help, and that the prayers became more detailed and included additional elements of praise, lament, and thanksgiving as the Biblical tradition developed. This indicates that all prayers are acceptable to God, whether they involve the complexity and nuance of liturgical prayers or the simple prayer of, "God, save us."

This Sunday, July 29:

We are blessed to have Gemina Trochez Castellanos, the mother of Melanie, Jackie, and Lorraine, join us for worship. Gemina is going to use the sermon time to share her testimony and to witness to the importance of fixing our eyes on Jesus to get us through the trials and temptations of life. This service of praise and thanksgiving will conclude our series on prayer.

Next Sunday, August 5:

We begin a new month, and Pastor Brian will introduce the spiritual discipline of meditation.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

July 26: Thriving Thursday

July 29: 5th Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #378)

August 2: Meal, 6:30pm, Bible Study, 7-8pm

August 5: Potluck (nothing in the oven)

August 8: Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

August 16: Meal, 6:30pm, Bible Study, 7-8pm

August 22: Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

5th Sunday Hymn Sing:

We will have the 5th Sunday Hymn Sing at Shalom on Sunday, July 29. Come and continue our journey through our *Hymnal A Worship Book* beginning at 6:30 pm and ending at 8:00. This is very informal; no musical expertise necessary. We will begin on hymn #378.

Surprise Celebration:

To celebrate Gemina's release from detention and reunification with her daughters, the Support Team will be hosting an open house party at Becky and Mike Wigginton's house this Sunday, July 29, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. The Wigginton's live at 8425 W. 85th St., Indianapolis, IN 46278. You are invited to come and go at any point in that four-hour timeframe. There will be a pitch-in meal at the beginning of it, and we encourage you to bring a dish if you would like to participate in that. And remember, it's a surprise.

MMN and RAICES Connection:

Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) contributed funds so that Gemina could be released and reunited with her daughters. Did you know that Mennonite Voluntary Service participants regularly work with RAICES? Read the full story at this link:

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/news/RAICES-raises-awareness-and-millions-of-dollars>

Update from Natasha Diener:

Natasha Diener continues to serve as an elementary school teacher in Bolivia. Natasha's recent update is attached along with this newsletter. If you are interested in making a donation to support her, that information is attached as well.

Upcoming Nature Hikes:

On Friday, July 27, I will be leading a 2 or 5 mile (your choice) nature hike at Prophetstown State Park (fee) in West Lafayette, Indiana at 8:30 a.m. The large flat prairie in the park should be in bloom. Meet at the visitor center's parking lot. Bring a hat or umbrella, sunscreen, bug spray and water.

On Saturday, August 4, I will be leading a 3-4 mile hike at Sodalis Nature Park (7700 South CR 975 East) in Hendricks County starting at 9 a.m. Bring a hat, sunscreen, bug spray and water. You might want to stay for a lecture by a park naturalist on "Wicked and Ugly Plants."

On Saturday, Sept. 15 at 9 a.m., I will lead a 3-4 mile hike at Mounds State Park (fee) in Anderson, Indiana. Meet at the nature center. Bring a hat, sunscreen, bug spray and water.

-Wilma Bailey

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

July Sunday School Schedule:

For the month of July, Sunday School will continue to be one inter-generational class for everyone over the age of 2. The schedule for the month is below.

July		
7/29	Prayer walk	Marilynn Teel

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

A Bench for Caps:

Do you know a friend, family member or neighbor who is a pharmacist? They are a good source for plastic caps from discarded "Child Resistant Caps" from Rx medications. Many adults do not want their medications with these more difficult to open caps and request easy open caps. Ask your pharmacist contact if they would be willing to toss the unwanted child safety caps into a box or bag for Shalom's playground bench. You would be helping our A Bench for Caps project by making this contact and then bringing the collection of caps to Shalom.

-Marilynn Teel

Giving Corner:

We will extend the School Kit collection through August. Thanks to your generosity, we have already completed 40 kits, with another 25 almost complete.

No rulers are needed. Cute plastic pencil sharpeners are NOT what we need - someone will be buying the correct item, in bulk, online. Continue to bring notebooks, pencils, erasers, dark ink pens and colored pencils.

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)

- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- ~~1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)~~
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- ~~1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)~~

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Pastoral Search Update:

The Pastoral Team Search Committee is continuing the discernment process through discussions with candidates. Please continue to pray for all involved during this process.

- Carol Bixler, Linda Kandel, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Brad Sommer (chair), & Herb Troyer

Milepost #479 – Do Not Bring Us Into Temptation

This Sunday, we will have the special privilege to hear Gemina Trochez share her testimony during the sermon time. Gemina believes strongly in the power of prayer, and her life is a testament to its power. I can think of no better way to conclude our month-long focus on the spiritual discipline of prayer than to join her in this service of praise and thanksgiving. Because of this, I will be cutting my sermon series a little short, and so in this milepost, I wanted to offer a few words of on the final phrase of the Lord's Prayer: "And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Many Christians throughout the centuries have found it troubling that Jesus taught us to ask God *not* to bring us into temptation. This is troubling not because of what it asks, but because of what it implies. It seems to imply that – if we don't offer this prayer – God *might* bring us into temptation. But why would God do that? The Bible teaches us that God loves us and that God is always working for our good. Indeed, James

3:13 specifically says that God does not tempt anyone. So why would we need to pray for God not to bring us into temptation?

While it is true that God does not directly tempt or test us, this does not mean that God will never bring us into the face of temptation. On the contrary, in order to transform us into the image of God, in order to give us the "life to the full," in order to bring about the kingdom of God, God often has no choice but to march us right into the places where temptation reigns. The deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt is the classic example. God promised to rescue Israel from Egypt and to take them to the Promised Land. However, in order to get the people of Israel to this new home, they had to go *through* the wilderness, which was a place of testing and temptation. Some Israelites complained that God had brought them *into* the wilderness, but that was a misinterpretation of God's action. Yes, God led them to the wilderness, but never with the intention of leaving them there. It was simply a necessary part of their journey to get to the Promised Land.

John Piper argues that the key to understanding this prayer is in the preposition. Jesus recognizes that God brings us *through* temptation, but he prays that God not bring us *into* temptation. There is a difference between encountering temptation and going through it and getting stuck there. I like this interpretation, because it is reinforced by the final phrase of the prayer: "but deliver us from evil." Here, we see the other half of the implication. Yes, there is evil in the world. We will all encounter it. And God may bring us right up to its doorstep. But we can pray that God will not bring us *into* temptation, and when we do face it, that God will *deliver us* from its power.

-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.

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

Pastoral Team: Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320, brian@shalommennonite.com; Frank Kandel, (309) 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 Emily Fox: office@shalommennonite.com