

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 16, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, May 12

We jumped ahead to the last chapter in Micah, where we hear the prophet speak in his own voice and reflect on the deep corruption that Israel was experiencing at the time. We reflected on the interrelationship between corruption, distrust, and violence, and looked to Micah as an example as one who trusts in God for vindication, even when the system is broken.

This Sunday, May 19

We will read Micah 2:1-11, in which the prophet uses very strong language to condemn the corrupt behavior of some of the wealthy landowners in his society. This forces us to face the question of divine justice: Does God punish those who do wrong, or at least hold them accountable? If so, how can we talk about this “bad news” without engaging in fear mongering or watering it down?

Next Sunday, May 26

Sabrina Falls will bring the message as we continue our study of Micah together.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

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

Sat, May 18 – Spring Work Day, 9am
Mon, May 20 – Roving Office, Fishers
10:30-3:30; Della Leva Espresso Bar
8220 E 106th St. Suite 200
Wed, May 22 – Breakfast Group, 7am
Sun, June 2 – Carry-in meal after SS
Mon, June 3 – Roving Office, SE
Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St

Thu, June 6 – Meal 6:30; Bible study 7-8

Mon, June 10 – Roving Office NW
Panera, 6050 W 86th

Wed, June 12 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

June 13-15 – IN-MI Annual Sessions at Amigo

PASTORAL TEAM SEARCH COMMITTEE (PTSC)

Chair: Brad Sommer

There are individuals who have expressed interest in the 0.5 FTE pastoral team position and who are currently working with conference to complete the MLI (Ministerial Leadership Information) form, which formalizes an application. Once this step is completed, conversation specific to the position and discussion with the PTSC can continue. Please continue to pray for discernment for all involved.

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

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Shalom T-Shirts

These shirts are similar to the ones we've had in the past and are available as a welcoming gift to newcomers who have become regular attenders in the last 2 years. Others may purchase one for \$6.50. If you would like a shirt, please see Daniel Bowden in the Fellowship Hall between church and Sunday School. Frank Kandel for Outreach Commission

Sharing Space

We will continue to collect items for the hygiene kits through the end of May.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Spring Work Day

May 18, 9am

A warm, humid day awaits us. Please bring water and wear sunscreen/hats. Most volunteers will help with mulch or flower beds.

Bring along:

- rakes
- pitchforks
- shovels
- wheelbarrows
- buckets
- outdoor brooms
- gloves

If you would like to help with invasives removal, wear long pants and long sleeves. Becky will provide instruction on using the strong chemicals. Disposable gloves will be provided.

Coffee and donuts will be provided. No lunch is planned unless completion of a task requires more time than anticipated.

Library Computer

A new computer has been installed in the Shalom library. The display is also a TV and the remote control for it has buttons on it to switch from TV to PC (personal computer). This computer remains on all the time and automatically goes to sleep when idle, so it does not need to be shut down...and just move the mouse or touch the keyboard to wake it up. There is a brief guide posted to the left of the display.

This computer has a good connection to the internet and runs the full MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). It can be used to look up books by title, author, or class (category) from the PDF files on the desktop (control+f for searching inside PDF files). These book lists are also available on the Shalom webpage and they are searchable as well. The printer for this computer is the main copier/printer in the office upstairs. Jim Showalter

Minutes

Outreach Commission minutes from May 13 have been uploaded to the Member's page of the Shalom website.

MVS celebrates 75 years

Join Mennonite Mission Network's free webinar celebrating the 75th anniversary of Mennonite Voluntary Service. Learn how God inspired many to live out their faith through service and how the program continues to move young people to put their faith into action.

When: May 21, 2019, at 7 p.m. EDT

Where: ZOOM webinar

What: 75 years of Mennonite Voluntary Service

How: Visit www.mennonitemission.net/news/MVS-webinar for instructions to join!

MILEPOST #680

In his letter to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul identifies the gifts of prophecy, ministry, teaching, encouraging (or, exhortation), generosity, and cheerful compassion (Romans 12:8). It seems to me that "encouragement" --being an encourager-- doesn't get as much attention as some of the others. And yet it is crucial to the health, happiness, and well-being of individuals and congregations.

In Greek the words are "parakaleo" and "paraklesis." They go back to a word that means "to call someone to oneself" and were used in both secular and biblical Greek to refer to a sort of combination of exhorting (urging, advising, preaching, persuading) and comforting/consoling. You might even recognize in this word the term "Paraclete" --the one Jesus promises will come after his death: "...the Advocate/Comforter, the Holy Spirit...will teach you everything and remind you of everything I have said to you." (John 14:26; see also v.16)

The world is filled with naysayers and critics. Sometimes the din of their judgments and negativity threaten to drown out the voices of the coaches and cheerleaders all around us! Who among us hasn't made it through the trials and challenges of life without encouragement? Even having only one encourager in our lives can make the difference between success and failure, hope and despair! Who has been an encourager in your life?

Who among us at Shalom has this gift? Although some of us have this gift more innately, all of us can strive for it. There are many scriptures about building one another up-- a task not exclusively assigned to those with the spiritual gift (e.g., 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Also, among those uniquely positioned to do so are prophets. Paul writes, "Those who prophesy speak to other people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation...those who prophesy build up the church." (1 Cor 14:3-4) As we focus on the prophets in our current sermon series on Micah, we might reflect on how prophets offer this distinctive combination of exhortation and consolation.

In the book of Acts, we read about two leaders among the disciples who were also identified as prophets--Judas and Silas. The apostles and elders, concerned about the struggling church in Antioch, sent these two men to deliver a letter and speak words of encouragement to the believers there: "And having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers and sisters..." (Acts 15:30-32)

Our weekly Milepost is one way we have to offer encouragement to one another. Each week it serves as a "letter" delivered to the church for encouragement, guidance, and building up--especially for calling us all back to the One who calls us! It offers good news, hope, strength, and inspiration to be faithful and to carry on. It coaches us to "keep running the race marked out for us..." with "our eyes fixed on Jesus..." (Heb 12:1-2)

During Pastor Brian's upcoming sabbatical, the pastor team has decided to temporarily lay down our responsibility to write a weekly Milepost for the newsletter. However, we hope it might continue as often as possible as some of you take this opportunity to write some words of encouragement, hope, inspiration, or even questions/thoughts/reflections you are willing to share with the congregation. There is no required length, no lofty expectations! Any of you so moved to share this gift can get more information about when and how to submit it from our administrator, Laura, at office@shalommennonite.com or any of the pastors (Brian, Frank, me). And we are grateful!

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