

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 8, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, November 4:

We reflected on the spiritual discipline of solitude, noting that it is uncomfortable for us to engage in the similar way that it is uncomfortable to step on a bathroom scale. Sitting silently in God's presence calls attention to our own flaws and finitude in contrast to God's perfect and eternal Being. However, despite the initial discomfort of the experience, solitude has the potential to be a source of profound growth and healing.

This Sunday, November 11:

We will reflect on the Biblical teaching about our speech. One of the most recurrent instructions throughout Scripture is to "guard our tongues." We are warned not to engage in gossip, grumbling, cursing, being argumentative, and even "idle talk." But most of us find it extremely difficult to control our words, especially in stressful scenarios. What can we do? As it turns out, the spiritual discipline of solitude can help build up our character so that we can exhibit more self-control.

Next Sunday, November 18:

Sabrina will be working more with the spiritual discipline of solitude, and the scripture texts are Exodus 33:7-23 and Luke 5:12-16. When we practice solitude as a spiritual practice we find that we are the least alone because it is where we come into communion with God, and in that we come closest to one another as well.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

Nov 9-10 – Comforter Bash @ Pleasant View Church (see Mil & Ruth Penner for info)
Nov 10 – Eastside Creation Care meeting @ Northview Church of the Brethren, 8:30-11am
Nov 11 – Game Small Group, 12:15pm (after Sunday school)
Nov 14 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am
Nov 15 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm
Nov 16 – Eastside Creation Care Film Night @ Shalom, 7pm
Nov 17 – Fall Work Day, 8-12
Nov 18 – Sunday Prayer & Sharing Small Group, 12:15pm
Nov 22 – Thanksgiving Pitch-in
Nov 28 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Game Small Group:

We would like to set the next group meeting for THIS Sunday, November 11th after church. All are welcome to stay and play. Bringing snacks and friends are also welcome.

Thanksgiving Meal:

We may be planning a Thanksgiving Meal again this year if there is enough interest. If you would like to participate in our pitch-in meal, please sign-up on the back sanctuary window with a dish you'd like to share or email Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com if you miss the sign-up.

Christmas Eve Service:

We are planning a joint Christmas Eve service with First Mennonite this year. If you would be interested in helping plan for this service, please let one of the Worship Commission members know, and we'll include you on the planning meeting. We would also like to provide refreshments after the service to allow time for additional conversation and fellowship with our sister church members. If you have an interest in helping with that, also let one of us know. Linda Showalter, Grace Rhine, Brittany Bither

Small Groups:

In the past few months, the Community Life Commission has been encouraging people to join new small groups, and several of them have already formed and started meeting. There are currently 2 small groups that are open to anyone: **a prayer and sharing group** that meets after church some Sundays, and a **campfire** group that meets at the Troyers' house. Additionally, there are three more small groups that are still in the formative stages: **a theology discussion** group, **a community service** group, and **an exploring nature** group. Beyond this, there are four more opportunities to meet with other Shalom members in Christian fellowship, even though they are not set up as small groups: **the Breakfast Group, the Thursday Night Bible Study, the Game Group**, and the **Hymn Sing** – all of which are open to new members. Finally, remember that individuals are always free to start a new small group by inviting people to join one in the newsletter!

If you would like to learn more about these small groups, you can check the calendar section to see when their next meetings are set or see the attachment to the newsletter to learn who to contact for more information. Thanks for investing time in fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ!

Fall Work Day:

Fall Work Day will be November 17 from 8am to noon. Lunch provided. Tasks have been prioritized and task leaders have been assigned. Your help will be welcomed! In addition to your spirit of caregiving we'll need:

- * rakes
- * work gloves
- * tarps for moving leaves into the woods
- * leaf blowers

Questions? Reach out to Laura

Harms harms.laura@gmail.com

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

There will be two adult classes:

--Jeanne and Wilma will lead a discussion of the Pathways study guide, part of Mennonite Church USA's Journey Forward process. The study guide is available at:

http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pathways_Study_Guide_Final.pdf

This class will meet in the adult classroom downstairs.

--Kim will facilitate a sermon discussion class at the back of the sanctuary.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Giving Corner:

Thank you for all the donations for infant care kits.

This month, in addition to food pantry items, we are collecting mittens and caps.

Eastside Creation Care Events:

East side Creation Care next meeting will be Saturday, November 10. At 8:30 there will be a light breakfast, followed by the meeting from 9:00 to 11:00 at Northview Church of the Brethren, 5555 E. 46th St. There are several important items to discuss. This is our first meeting at this location. We are so grateful for the invitation!

Friday, November 16 is our next film event at Shalom Mennonite Church, 6100 E. 32nd St. at 7:00 p.m. The film is "The Age of Consequences." It looks at climate change impacts such as resource scarcity, migration, and conflict – through the lens of US national security and global stability: a different angle than we have usually seen. It is very informative and can help shape our actions.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Pastor Brian on Vacation:

Brian Bither is going to be on vacation from Monday, November 12 through Sunday, November 18, and he won't be answering his phone or checking email during that time. If you need to reach a pastor during that time, please contact Frank Kandel.

Milepost #584 – Solitude

This past Sunday we continued our theme of the spiritual discipline of "solitude." Herb Troyer, our worship leader that day, commented about his work with men in prison--a place that is constantly noisy. "Finding silence in the noise" is very hard for them to do, he said, but they often understand what he means when he talks with them about this.

I have visited in prison and it is a shocking experience--the unending din, the harsh bright light, the lack of privacy. If we find it hard to find solitude and silence in the city--or in our busy lives-- imagine attempting this in prison!

Many people, although not in prison, are trapped in noisy and busy environments because they lack the transportation, time, or other means to escape it. They may not even have a backyard or be able to see green or a piece of sky outside their windows. In our city, it's hard for many people simply to walk to a park--and the nearest park may only be a small "pocket" with a few trees.

For the last several years our congregation has been blessed to go on retreat at Jameson Camp. Not only is this a

beautiful haven far out in the woods, but it is a ministry of love, providing a place of peace for inner city youth, for many of whom such experiences are rare.

Here at Shalom, at the corner or 32nd and Catherwood, we have our own little woodland retreat! Although we usually use it for times of fellowship with one another and our neighbors, we might invite folks to come for a time of solitude and respite as well!

Pondering the plight of prisoners in my pew last Sunday, I wondered if solitude is a luxury! Must one have the wherewithal--the time, the money, the resources, the privilege--to go somewhere apart, to escape the din and the dust of daily life even if only for a few moments?

The spiritual practice of solitude is not a luxury. It is, however, a gift given to free people--whether or not they live behind bars. Even the caged bird sings! Seeking out a sanctuary of natural beauty, or somewhere apart, is extra special and helpful for solitude but certainly not necessary. We might even challenge ourselves to "find the silence" and solitude in the midst of our noisy, busy lives.

As we practice solitude, we will feel the "peace of God that passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) and find that we are not at all alone, for Christ has come to visit us there!
-Pastor Sabrina Falls

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

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