

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 11, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, October 7:

Gemima Trochez preached from John 3:16, reminding us that God sending Jesus into the world was the ultimate expression of Love-in-Action, and that the best way for us to respond to this gift is to act in love ourselves.

This Sunday, October 14:

Wilma Cender, the candidate for the second paid pastoral position, will be preaching from Matthew 5:13-16. These are four verses of scripture indicating words that Jesus spoke to his disciples on the mountainside, often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. They follow the Beatitudes and come prior to some other directives that Jesus taught the disciples. What might these four verses about being salt and light in the world mean for us today in the 21st century?

Next Sunday, October 21:

Pastor Frank Kandel will bring the message.

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 13 – Memorial Service for Florence Bucher, 3:30pm

Oct 14 – Wilma Cender visits; Potluck after church

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 Clean-Up, 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.

Church Retreat:

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

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

Starting Sept 9, 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

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:

Continue to consider participating in Crop Walk, Oct. 21, either as a donor or a walker. This is the LAST WEEK to get Crop Walk Walker envelopes!! They are available this Sunday from Grace Rhine since Mary Albrecht is in Phoenix. Please have all your completed envelopes turned in to Mary Albrecht (not the Registration Folks) on or before Sunday, November 4. Thanks for all you do!!!

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:

Wilma Cender will be visiting Shalom THIS SUNDAY so that the congregation can consider her for the 0.5 FTE pastoral position. Wilma will be bringing the Sunday morning sermon; during the SS hour she will share her faith journey with us. We will then have a noon potluck meal followed by a time of conversation with Wilma where we will encourage questions and discussions with Wilma on a more informal basis.

Then on Oct 21st we will ask for a congregational vote whether to extend an offer to Wilma for the position.

Please remember to continue to lift up this process in prayer as we collectively discern God's continued Vision & Mission here at Shalom.

Milepost #556 – The Spiritual Discipline of Submission

During the year 2018, we have been studying the twelve spiritual disciplines by focusing on one discipline per month. Many of the disciplines have been challenging for us. For example, the disciplines of fasting, confession, and simplicity can be physically, emotionally, and financially stretching practices. However, in addition to these challenges, the spiritual discipline for October – submission – is challenging for some of us for a different reason: because this principle is commonly twisted and misused. Unfortunately, many Christian churches, organizations, and individuals have appealed to the principle of submission in order to defend unjust systems and justify abusive behavior. Because of this, there are some of us who have a negative reaction even upon hearing the word “submission.” At the same time, it is still in our Bibles, and the original teaching on submission carries an important message. So we are going to study it, treading carefully, but to keep us from falling into the trap of abusing this principle ourselves, I want to lay out three principles of true Biblical submission from the outset.

1) Within the Christian community, we are called to mutual submission. (Eph 5:21) All distinctions based on race, class, and gender are removed in Christ (Gal 3:27-28), and every Christian is asked to submit to every other Christian, holding their interests and perspectives as highly as our own. (Phil 2:3-4) When submission ceases to be mutual, it ceases to be Biblical.

2) Submission must also be a *voluntary choice* in order to be Biblical. (Deut 30:19-20) God invites us to use the freedom we have as human beings to choose humility and obedience (Gal 5:13); God does not force us to submit, (Rev 3:20) nor does anyone else have the right to impose submission upon us. Whenever submission is imposed upon an unwilling participant or impressed upon a minor, it ceases to be Biblical.

3) The Bible does not give anyone permission to demand submission from anyone else. This

follows from Point #2: Because submission must be voluntary to be Christian, no Christian has a right to demand it from someone else (Philemon 8-16). Even Jesus did not come demanding to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45), and he offered a different model of authority (Matt 7:28-29) that flipped the concept of power on its head.

As we talk about submission over the course of the next month, remember that it is not a claim that we can demand from others but a practice that we are invited to embrace ourselves. Why would anyone want to do that? Because with the practice of true, Biblical submission comes peace and freedom.

-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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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Emily Fox: office@shalommennonite.com