

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 21, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, December 16:

Frank preach about the joyful experience that Mary and Elizabeth had when they sought the Lord together in a sermon entitled, "Where two or three are gathered..." with Isaiah 12:2-6 and Luke 1:39-45 as the main texts.

This Sunday, December 23:

Brian will look at a new scholarly interpretation of the Christmas story and reflect on how God tends to show up the most powerfully not in our moments of strength and purity but in our moments of struggle and imperfection.

Next Sunday, December 30:

We will return to the theme of seeking guidance during Advent by looking at the story of Simeon and Anna. Just as many of us have been "surprised" when we discovered that a job, a ministry, or a relationship turned out to have aspects to it that we didn't expect, Mary and Joseph were surprised to hear how these two saints understood God's calling on their lives.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Jan 3 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Jan 6 – Fellowship potluck after SS

Jan 9 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Jan 17 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Jan 23 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Feb 3 – Pizzas for Peace lunch after SS

Save the Date:

The Penner family invites everyone to an open house on Saturday, December 29, to greet and congratulate Sara and her husband, Ignacio Ramos. They were legally married in November and plan a formal wedding in June in Guatemala.

Christmas Eve Service:

All are invited to a Christmas Eve service Dec., 24th from 6-7pm here at Shalom. Gather with us as we journey through the birth of Jesus through scripture and song. First Mennonite will be joining us. There will be a time of fellowship after the service with refreshments served.

Membership Exploration Class:

Are you new or newish to Shalom? Would you like to learn more about who the Mennonites are, what the different Mennonite acronyms mean (MCC, MDS, MMN, etc.), and how Shalom works? Pastor Brian is preparing to hold a "Membership Exploration" class in January and February of 2019 for anyone who would like to learn more about these subjects or consider getting more involved at Shalom. If you have interest, please email him at brian@shalommennonite.com.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

- Dec 23 and Dec 30--no SS

Jan-March, there will be 2 classes:

1. Brad Yoder and Jay Brubaker will lead a discussion of J. Denny Weaver's book *God Without Violence*. If you are interested in the class starting in January, but didn't get a copy of the book last Sunday, more books are on their way! We're excited about the

amount of interest in this class. Meets in classroom 1 downstairs.

2. Bible Study/sermon discussion. Brian and others will be preaching through the book of Luke, and each class session will focus on the text for that week. Meets in the back of the sanctuary.

Jan. 20, regular adult classes will be cancelled so that as many as possible can attend a training on sexual assault awareness.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

What is Mennonite Disaster Service?

Mennonite Disaster Service is a volunteer network of Anabaptist churches that responds in Christianlove to those affected by disasters in Canada and the United States. While the main focus is on clean up, repair and rebuilding homes, MDS touches the lives of people that have been very significantly affected by a disaster and have little or no means of recovery.

Currently there are a variety of projects in many locations that are available for you to volunteer for one week or more and the housing and meals are provided. There is work for any skill level for youth and adults. <https://mds.mennonite.net/current-projects> This is an opportunity for travel, friendships, fellowship, and restoring hope and housing for persons that have may have lost nearly all their possessions. A house provides the basic setting for stable family living and a place to gather together.

For the past few years Linda and I have been involved primarily with the RV projects of MDS in which we live in our travel trailer and provide our own meals. These projects are active during the winter months in the southern states and require participation for a month or more. We have served on projects in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. This January we will be in Rockport, TX near Corpus Christi working on the Hurricane Harvey disaster of 2017. Rebuilding after major disasters takes a lot of coordination and years of effort! – Jim Showalter

Giving Corner:

We are continuing with Refugee Kits this month. Check the Giving Corner for items most needed.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Administrative Assistant OPEN:

Attached to the previous week's newsletter is the job description for our administrative assistant for Shalom. It is ¼ time with the same position responsibilities. Please contact office@shalommennonite.com if you or someone you know might be interested in the position. Thanks for considering and sharing with your contacts!

Milepost #625

They Come and They Go

Shalom Mennonite Church, being an urban congregation, always has people coming and going. One of the things that we strive to do well is making newcomers feel welcome and helping them find a sense of belonging.

Solomon Abebe is the exemplar face of welcome at Shalom's front door. Sam and Carol Bixler along with a cadre of others are waiting in the wings to add breadth & depth to Solomon's welcome. As newcomers show continuing interest, they are invited to have, if they wish, a mailbox, name tag, and the weekly Newsletter which includes entry into our database. Additionally, they are welcomed by a member of the pastoral team, and a visit is arranged if desired.

Beyond these early overtures of welcome, we hope to make space for a growing sense of belonging. This can include an introductory interview in the Newsletter along with an invitation to participate in Sunday School and/or Small Groups. Special opportunities are offered for those interested in learning more about Mennonites and the Christian faith. Additionally, Gifts Discernment assists new congregants in discovering and finding places to exercise their God given gifts within the kingdom.

While this is our plan, the coffee time between church and Sunday School, the

monthly potluck, and the way we interact individually with newcomers is probably more important. While we don't want to overwhelm newcomers, we surely want to let them know that they have been noticed and that they do matter. I am always reminded of the song about the 99 who were left safely in the fold while Jesus went to reach out to the one who was stranded on the hillside.

https://library.timelesstruths.org/music/The_Ninety_and_Nine

Nine years ago, when Linda and I were newcomers to Indianapolis, Dagne Assefa and Jesse Smith helped us unload our belongings in a driving rain. And besides that, within ten days of our arrival we were sitting at Rod and Martha's table sharing a home-cooked meal with their family. God welcomes the stranger...

- Frank Kandel, Pastor for Outreach

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