

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 2, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, April 28

We celebrated Earth Day, because as Christians, we believe that the earth is the Lord's and everything in it and that God loves all of creation. Frank Kandel preached from Ezekiel 34:17-20 and Matthew 13:3-8, and encouraged us to look at ways we can adjust our lifestyles to help care for God's creation.

This Sunday, May 5

We will begin a new sermon series on the book of Micah, which will continue throughout the months of May and June. Brian will preach the first sermon in the series on Micah 1:1-12 by introducing us to the genre of Biblical prophecy and encouraging us to make space for prophets to speak in our institutions and in our hearts.

Next Sunday, May 12

We will jump 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'll reflect on the interrelationship between corruption, distrust, and violence, and look to Micah as an example as one who trusts in God for vindication, even when the system is broken.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

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

Carry-in following Sunday School on May 5.

Sun, May 5 – Carry-in meal following SS
Mon, May 6 – Roving Office NW, 10:30-3:30
Panera, 6050 W. 86th St.
Wed, May 8 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Mon, May 13 – Roving Office, Greenwood
10:30-3:30; Panera 789 US 31 N

Thurs, May 16 – Meal 6:30; Bible Study 7-8

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

Trochez/Hernandez Fund

The Support Group conducted a 6-month review of the support provided to the Trochez/Hernandez family. It is recommended to continue support. Please consider continued or new and on-going or one-time donations.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

Children's Education

[This is the link](#) for Sunday School sign-up. If you are unsure about teaching alone, June and July would be a good time to team up with someone else to be a part of this important ministry. Contact Carol Bixler with questions.

We are grateful that Mil and Ruth have given so much of themselves to the young people in our congregation over many years. They will be sorely missed when they move to Colorado.

Adult Sunday School from May 5 – June 23

No Sunday School on May 26

1. Mike and Becky Wigginton will lead a class on Bystander Intervention Training from the Peace and Justice Support Network. What would you do if you witness harassment? This training gives you tools to respond in that situation. Read more at <https://www.pjsn.org/resources/bystander-intervention>. This class will meet in the back of the sanctuary.
2. Martha Yoder Maust will lead a study of the book of Micah. The pastors will be preaching a series of sermons on Micah

during the same time frame. Read more in any Bible. This class will meet in the Adult SS classroom downstairs.

Young Adult Peace Camp

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes is offering a week-long Peace Camp for young adults ages 18-22 who are interested in learning about a Biblical approach to peace and justice. During Peace Camp on July 21-26 at Amigo Centre, young adults will explore the theme of "Responding to Violence" as they are invited by the prophet Micah (Chapter 4) to go up to the mountaintop. The week includes a trip to Chicago with MCC partners working with gun violence prevention. Other hands-on learning will focus on conflict transformation, nonviolence training and community building as peacemaking. The base participant fee is \$300. Scholarships are also available on a case-by-case basis. For more information, see mcc.org/gl_peace_camp or contact either Jes Stoltzfus Buller (MCC Peace Education Coordinator) at jessicabuller@mcc.org or Brooke Strayer (MCC Great Lakes Young Adult Coordinator) at brookestrayer@mcc.org.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Sharing Space:

Thank you for your generosity in donating to the Day Center for Family Promise and I Support The Girls.

The Sharing Space will continue with hygiene kits for Mennonite Central Committee through May. Particularly needed are nail clippers.



Food Pantry Corner
Food Pantry Corner for Morning Muncie relocated to back entryway. Please help to stock it up before Frank's May 6 trip to Muncie.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Spring Work Day

May 18, 9am is the day when our community will work together on fixing up the grounds. Members of the Mara church will join us. Coffee and donuts/muffins will be provided. Some projects will finish up by 11am if we have enough hands (and wheelbarrows). Other projects may take a little longer.

Minutes

Community Life Commission minutes have been uploaded to the Member's page of the Shalom website.

MILEPOST #678

The Power of Encouragement

When Brittany and I took our dog to obedience school several years ago, the instructor said something that stood out to me: "I never need to hit or even scold my dogs, because I can train them to do anything exclusively through positive reinforcement." Now that seemed extreme to me. What if the dog pooped in the house? What if the dog barked viciously at house guests? Surely, you need to tell the dog, "No," to let them know that what they did was bad, to find some way to discourage them from repeating the behavior. But the instructor always had positive alternatives to offer: if one of her dogs was pooping inside, she would reward him whenever he pooped outside, and eventually, she claimed, he would learn to go outside just for the sake of the treats. Or if another of her dogs growled at guests, she would sideline and ignore the dog until she got tired or settled down, and then reward and reassure the dog when she was calm. Now, I'm not sure if I agree with the absolute stance the instructor took against punishing dogs, but I certainly learned a lesson from that class that has stuck with me: humans underestimate the importance and power of positive reinforcement, or to use a Biblical term, of encouragement.

For example, I once wrote a letter to one of my representatives simply thanking him for a

stance he had taken on a bill, despite it being controversial, and encouraging him to keep doing what he was doing. Now, I have written probably a dozen or so letters to representatives over the past year, and to be honest, they have usually been critical. However, this is the only time a letter I wrote produced a personal response, in which my representative told me how much it meant to him and how it reinforced his commitment to his values.

The same applies to church work. The various commissions and teams of the church do a LOT of work behind the scenes to enhance our relationships with God, each other, and the world, but often times, the only time they get feedback is when something goes wrong. And to a large extent, that's just human nature: we don't think about the work the sound guy is doing during the service until a microphone makes a feedback squeal, or about the people who leave the worship service early to get the meal started until we go downstairs and find that the food isn't ready yet. But it's something we should think about, because our sisters and brothers are pouring a lot of time and energy into the life of our church.

The Bible calls us to overcome the human tendency to take things for granted by making a habit out of encouragement. Hebrews 3:13 tells us to encourage one another *daily*. To some of us, this may feel uncomfortable because we are not exactly sure what to say to people when we appreciate them. But it doesn't have to be elaborate. Just saying or writing to someone, "I really appreciated that," can make a huge impact. Others of us are reluctant to offer lots of encouragement because it seems like it feeds human vanity. But encouraging, if done right, is not about complimenting a person as much as it is about affirming that something that have done. This gives them the feedback, the guidance, and the *courage* to make similar decisions in the future. Finally, to some of us, encouragement seems indulgent: it seems that we ought to be soliciting critical feedback from each other, not just patting each other on the back. However, I have found that it is in groups where I feel the most affirmed and encouraged that I am the most capable of receiving constructive criticism and in which I can be the most honest with myself.

So, just as the obedience school instructor argued with regard to dogs, I believe the best

way for Christians to help each other grow and make good decisions is through encouragement. Let's not neglect this important practice!

Do you have some thoughts to share? 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, Rod
Maust, Brian Bither

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