

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 7, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, March 3

We studied Luke 9, which most Biblical scholars consider to be the turning point in the gospel narrative. Although Jesus continues to “proclaim and bring the good news” wherever he goes, he also begins to talk about the cross as the gateway to Jubilee. Luke 9:18-27.

This Sunday, March 10

We are in the season of Lent, when Jesus has “set his face on Jerusalem,” and he seems to have two different missions: to proclaim Jubilee and to go to Jerusalem, where he will be killed and rise again. To understand what these two missions have to do with each other, we first must understand what Jesus believed his Jubilee movement was up against: a spiritual world that was hostile to it. Luke 10:1-12, 7-20, and 11:14-26.

Next Sunday, March 17

We will begin a new section of Luke that examines Jesus' Jubilee principles more carefully, starting with the teaching to “Love your neighbor as yourself” in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Luke 10:25-37

Iglesia Amigos, March 9 and 10

The events will be at 6:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. We will have music and some speaking as well as some finger foods along with fellowship. This is a celebration of gratitude to God and Shalom Mennonite for providing a beautiful space for Iglesia Amigos to meet at.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Daylight Savings

Spring forward on Saturday night to make sure you aren't running an hour behind on Sunday!

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

March 9 – Eastside Creation Care; 8:30am

March 11 – “Roving Office” 10:30am to 3:30pm - Panera on the northwest side of Indy (6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis)

March 13 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

March 18 – “Roving Office” 10:30am to 3:30pm - McDonald's on the southeast side of Indy (7822 Brookville Rd, Indianapolis)

March 24 – Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

March 25 - No Roving Office Hours

March 27 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

April 21 – Easter Breakfast 8am

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner:

Looking for something to do on a Sunday evening? How about something with a little bit of mystery? If so, please sign up for our annual Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event. Dinner will be March 24, 2019 at 6:00pm. Sign-up sheets are in your mailbox. Please complete and return to Angie Buller by Sunday, March 10.

Penner Sharing

Yes, we are moving to Denver and it comes with both enthusiasm and anxiety as we plan for this new venture. Change comes with challenges! Thank you to all who tell us how much we will be missed, but turn that thought around—we will miss all of you! However we trust we can stay connected through visits, etc. The main reason for our move is to be

near our grandchildren although that means a less easy visit to baby Margaret in Goshen. She is doing exceptionally well.

Our house will be listed in early April and hopefully we will move by the end of May. We will be living in a much smaller house, and down-sizing is our goal now. We have some furniture items that will be donated unless we can find them a home! The list includes: queen bed we used for guests, table lamp, couch, two small side chairs, one big side chair, 3 bar stools, small armoire, and an old sturdy side table.

Let us know if you are interested.
Mil and Ruth

VAT – VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Pastoral Sabbatical

As many in the congregation know, Shalom provides for a period of time every few years for our pastors to rest and rejuvenate their spirits as well as provide a time for independent study and reflection. This year, Pastor Brian is eligible to take a sabbatical and he has requested from July 8th until Nov 3, 2019. (This length is consistent with the congregational agreement in place with Pastor Brian).

The VAT has been in conversation with him and the pastoral team and is working on a plan that will allow for many of his duties to be covered during this sabbatical time. As we work to organize coverage of his responsibilities it will likely be necessary for others to assume some of his normal duties. The pastoral team is willing to support this sabbatical by fulfilling some areas while other responsibilities will likely fall to VAT, commission chairs, and some tasks may be most appropriately covered by others attending Shalom.

The VAT appreciates in advance your consideration and willingness to work in areas that may be new to you...or to use our collective gifts in new and exciting ways during

this sabbatical time. We will be communicating more information about the sabbatical plans as they develop.

During this time, let's continue to look for God's leading, love, and guidance for Shalom.
-VAT chair, Brad Sommer

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Visitation Team:

In connection with Brian's sabbatical from July 8 to November 3, there is a need for a visitation team to be in place to help the remaining pastoral team members. This visitation team would be for hospital or crisis events that the pastors are unable to attend or for those who need ongoing support for a time. CLC would like to compile a list of those interested in participating on this team. Please contact one of the members if interested Linda Kandel, Rose Love, or Herb Troyer.

Spiritual Gifts Database:

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) is excited to announce that Shalom's online database of participants' spiritual gifts has been updated! To date, gifts are listed for 36 individuals, or 42% of the congregation including high schoolers. Goal #2 of our 2017 [Vision Statement](#) called for 85% of the congregation to "have clarity about their passion, spiritual gift, and personal style . . . to serve Christ in or through the congregation by mid 2020."

If you have clarity about your passion, spiritual gifts, and personal style but you are not in the database, it's because the SGDT does not know these things about you. Please send this information to Joyce

Troyer troyers_hj@hotmail.com or put it in the SGDT mailbox at church. Small groups with members who have not yet completed gifts discernment are encouraged to make this a priority. [This link](#) takes you to the questionnaire which can be used for discussion and affirmation in small groups. For guidance on gifts discernment in small groups or if you want to participate in a small group,

please contact Herb
Troyer troyers_hj@hotmail.com.

Please go to [the SGGT page](#) and click on
"The Shalom Spiritual Gifts Database" to view
this snapshot of God's gifts to us.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Creation Care:

Shalom hosts the Eastside Creation Care Network meeting this Saturday, March 9 with a light breakfast at 8:30 am and the meeting at 9:00 to 11:00. Come join the friends from other churches in our area as we share information, projects and advocacy opportunities related to Creation Care. We meet in our Fellowship room. All are welcome!

Peter Wigginton and Delicia Bravo with MMN:

Peter and Delicia will be returning to the U.S. in July as planned. They feel called and have a deep desire to return to Ecuador. We have planned together for them to begin a new two-year term after their current term ends in August. They would be in the U.S. September – December and return to Ecuador in January 2020. Please see the attached letter for more details.

Giving Corner:

In March, the emphasis will be on pasta for Second Helpings. This is in addition to the regular food pantry items for Morning Star, Muncie.

Climate Camp:

Youth have the opportunity to attend Climate Camp on Sat., March 23, a program of Earth Charter Indiana and held at Downey Christian Church.

AMBS Learning Tour: Encountering Egypt

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is sponsoring a learning tour to Egypt titled "Encountering Egypt: Past and Present" which will leave on January 25, 2020 and return on February 8, 2020. The tour will be led by Old Testament Professor Safwat Marzoik (who is Egyptian) and New

Testament Professor Drew Strait. They are estimating the cost to be between \$3,700 and \$4,000. AMBS is asking you to contact Ron Ringenberg at reringenb@ambs.edu by April 5 if you are interested. Expressing interest does not obligate you to take the tour.

Disability Awareness Month

March is Disability Awareness Month in Indiana. Slightly over 19% of adults and children in Indiana have a disabling condition, so it is important to increase our awareness and inclusion of those of us who have disabilities.

In your mailbox this Sunday, you'll find the booklet "Disable Disrespect" with the subtitle "A thoughtful guide for your words and actions." Please take a few minutes to read through it. Use it to examine the usual thoughts and phrases you use when referring to people with conditions that are considered disabilities. As the booklet points out, it's not about following trends or being politically correct. Instead, "it's about giving every human being respect and value." The language we use shapes our attitudes as well as our speech.

This year's campaign theme is "Be cool. We are." The message encourages us to be comfortable being who we are and to interact naturally with others regardless of their abilities. It isn't cool to treat others differently than we want to be treated.

For more information and free downloads, please go to <https://www.indianadisabilityawareness.org/campaign/>

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Boiler Replacement

A letter was emailed to the congregation regarding unexpected expenses due to heating problems that first occurred on Sunday, March 3. Copies available near the mailboxes for anyone that does not receive all-church emails.

MILEPOST #671

It is written: "Always be ready to make a defense to anyone demanding an account from you concerning the hope in you..." (1 Peter 3:15)

That passage came to mind as I was reading about Jesus being tested by the devil for forty days in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13, Mt 4:1-11, Mk 1:12-13). Jesus always had an answer for his adversary, and in this particular story all of his answers come straight out of Deuteronomy.

When the devil tempts a fasting and famished Jesus to command a stone to turn into bread, Jesus says, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" (Deut 8:3) When the devil offers the world to Jesus in return for his worship, Jesus answers, "It is written, 'Worship and serve only the Lord your God.'" (Deut 6:13) When the devil places Jesus on the pinnacle of the temple and tempts him to throw himself down expecting God to command the angels to protect him, Jesus replies, "'It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Deut 6:16)

Jesus always has an answer, and it is always the word of God.

Every day, we, too, are faced with temptations and testings of all kinds. These may occur in the form of a question or comment from someone, or in a situation or opportunity that presents itself. Some may come from the one our Jewish ancestors called "Satan" (Hebrew: "adversary" or "accuser").

During Lent, which began Wednesday, we are invited to follow Jesus into the wilderness and spend these forty days there with him. Each of us will find our own way to do that, whether we choose to fast and pray, give up something to which we might cling too tightly, or take up a new spiritual practice that might lead us into deeper communion with the Holy One.

Equipping ourselves with God's word in scripture is one way to join Jesus in responding to tests, temptations, or even people's well-meaning questions or misguided comments. Some of us are more familiar with the Bible than others. Some have memorized

large swaths of it, while others may only be able to quote a verse here or there.

At especially trying times, I set myself to the discipline of memorizing specific scripture passages that speak to my condition and that I know will likely comfort or counsel me again at similar times in the future. Once when I was feeling especially beset by emotional and spiritual struggles, I searched for the scripture that speaks of putting on the "armor of God" (Eph 6:10-18) and learned it by heart. Now I can summon it when needed and it helps.

My challenge this Lent--to myself and to anyone who cares to join me--is to be better prepared, with the help of God's word, to give an answer to anyone who asks me to give a reason for my hope or faith or way of understanding what it means to follow Jesus and love God and neighbor in this world.

May God bless each of you in your wilderness-walk with Jesus!

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