

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

June 7, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, June 3:

Brian introduced the spiritual discipline of service by reminding us that the concept of service was originally drawn from a particular type of person in the ancient world: the indentured servant. Although Jesus did not endorse forced labor as an institution, he found something admirable in the way that servants helped people, in contrast to the way that benefactors helped people, which gave them valuable aid but kept benefactors in a position of power. Practicing the discipline of service not only entails doing good things for others, but doing them eagerly, readily, and without needing to control people or outcomes.

### This Sunday, June 10

Frank Kandel will continue to preach on the discipline of service. Richard Foster says *the ministry of the risen Christ beckons us to the ministry of the towel* (p.140). Frank's sermon intends to help us more fully grasp the "indentured servant" model that Brian introduced us to last Sunday.

### Next Sunday, June 17

Karla Minter, the Church Relations Representative for Mennonite Missions Network, will bring the message.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Calendar

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

June 13: 7:00 am Morning Breakfast Group  
June 14-16 Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Meetings

June 21: Thriving Thursday

June 27: 7:00 am Morning Breakfast Group

June 28: Thriving Thursday

July 1: No Sunday School

July 3: Family Promise at First Mennonite Church

July 5: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

July 12: Thriving Thursday

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

### Summer Sunday School Schedule:

This summer we will have one intergenerational Sunday school class, so everyone except the children in the nursery will be with the adults. June schedule below:

Date	Topic	Leader
June: Service		
6/17	Mennonite Mission Network	Karla Minter
6/24	Prayer labyrinth/ meditation	Jeanne Smucker

### Sunday School, June 10

In Sunday School this week we will be looking at the theme, "Praying through songs". There will be an opportunity to select a song which has been meaningful to you. Perhaps you can say a few words about how it has moved you.  
-Rod Maust

## OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Indiana-Michigan Annual Sessions:

Next week, from noon on Thursday, June 14 to noon on Saturday, June 16, the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference will be meeting for its Annual Sessions in Indianapolis. If you have never been to a conference event before, this is a great opportunity to experience it. There will be four worship services throughout that time that are open to the public and free of charge. For those who register for the entire event, there will be also Bible-based seminars, a service opportunity, an interfaith dialogue discussion, and a celebration meal featuring Burmese food at Emmanuel Living Christian Church. The cost of on-site registration is \$100, but if you would like to attend and the cost is an obstacle, contact a member of the pastoral team as sponsorships may be available. For more information, please follow [this link](#) where you can see the online schedule and learn about the agenda that will be discussed during that time. A schedule is also attached with this newsletter.

### Thriving Thursday:

Thriving Thursday welcomes the Neighborhood into the Shalom Church Family from 5 to 7 p.m. on June 21 & 28 and July 12, 19 & 26. Let Frank know on which of these dates you can be present to help share the love of Jesus.

And guess what? The Neighborhood is joining us for: **A Bench for Caps**

**ABC** is our summer program to get a new bench for the playground that we share with our neighborhood. Marilyn Teel has the details!

### Giving Corner:

We are doing School Kits for June and July. Florence is sewing the bags and we will fill the bags together on July 22. Feel free to contribute quantities of individual items or whole kits. Please note the content additions from previous years, underlined below.

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)

- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

### Save the date for Family Promise:

The next Family Promise --IHN is scheduled for the week of July 1 - 7. Shalom will participate by hosting on Tuesday, July 3rd. Please sign up to help if you are able to do so. Thank you for helping the homeless!!  
-Solomon Abebe

## ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

### New Church Email Address:

Please send all updates for the bulletin, Journeying Together newsletter, and administrative church business to: [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com).

### Milepost #432 – You Are What You Hide

This month, we are studying the spiritual discipline of service, and there are many different ways for followers of Jesus to practice this discipline. We can serve others by volunteering at churches or charitable organizations, by taking on extra chores or tasks to alleviate the burden of friends and family members, by raising money or doing behind-the-scenes work to make a project possible, or by simply spending time with people and waiting on them, to name a few examples. As we perform these acts of service, we should keep Jesus' instructions about service in Matthew 6:1-4 in our minds:

*"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let*

*your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

Some acts of service are unavoidably public because we have to consult with the people with whom we are serving or perhaps we need support from larger networks of people. If other people find out about our service through these means, we shouldn't feel guilty or ashamed about it. On the contrary, Jesus had just said in the previous chapter, "*In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*" (Matthew 5:16) Jesus' warning in this passage is not that we must avoid being seen when we do good deeds for others but that we must not do deeds *in order to be seen*. That motive – of seeking praise, affirmation, or gratitude from others – always seeps through the work we do and can often lead to "good deeds" doing more harm than good.

However, in addition to this warning, Jesus goes on to say that there is something intrinsically rewarding about giving or serving *in secret*. Each of us ought to perform *some* acts of service or generosity that no one knows about except for the giver and God. These acts of service have a profound effect not only on the people who receive them, but on those of us who do them because they reveal to us who we really are. Our character is shaped first and foremost by what we do when no one is watching. Perhaps a more dramatic way of putting this is to say, "You are what you hide." For those of us who struggle with secret sins and insecurities, our sense of identity and self-esteem tends to be closely associated with that which we are hiding, which is one of the reasons why the discipline of confession is so important – it loosens the grip that those secrets have over us. But by the same token, if we choose to hide our acts of service and kindness and generosity from others, this too shapes our self-understanding. And to know oneself as a servant who even in hidden moments works for the good of others – that is an incredibly rewarding blessing that can only come from God.

-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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Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

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