

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 1, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Last Sunday, October 28:

Brian preached from James 4:1-10 on the spiritual discipline of submission, noting that this discipline often seems to be in tension with the concept of political resistance. Looking to the Anabaptist concept of *Gelassenheit* as a model, he found that a spirit of submission, when adopted voluntarily, does not make a person less inclined to speak out for justice, but instead helps them distinguish the justice issues that really matter from the issues of power, ego, and misunderstanding that often get entangled with them. Ultimately, this helps the cause of justice and shows that submission and resistance can indeed go hand-in-hand.

### This Sunday, November 4:

We will be studying the spiritual discipline for November: solitude. Solitude is not the most difficult discipline on the list, but many of us find that it is extremely uncomfortable to sit in solitude and silence for a significant period of time. This may be in part because sitting in God's presence calls attention to our own flaws and finitude in contrast to God's perfect and eternal Being. However, despite the initial discomfort of the experience, solitude has the potential to be a source of profound healing and transformation.

### Next Sunday, November 11:

Brian will preach on the public practices of solitude and silence, with 2 Timothy 2:1-26 as the main text.

### Calendar

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

Nov 1 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm  
Nov 3 – Church Retreat @ Jameson Camp  
Nov 9-10 – Comforter Bash @ Pleasant View Church (see Mil & Ruth Penner for info)  
Nov 10 – Eastside Creation Care meeting @ Northview Church of the Brethren, 8:30-11am  
Nov 11 – Game Small Group after church  
Nov 14 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am  
Nov 15 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm  
Nov 16 – Eastside Creation Care Film Night @ Shalom, 7pm  
Nov 17 – Fall Work Day, 8-12  
Nov 22 – Thanksgiving Pitch-in  
Nov 28 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

### Church Retreat:

The Annual Retreat will be taking place *this Saturday* (November 3) from 9am to 4pm at Jameson Camp, which is at 2001 Bridgeport Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46231. During our time together this year, Melanie & Jackie Hernandez will lead us in worship, Brian will offer an introduction to "narrative theology," and Dan will lead us in practices of sharing our stories, with lots of opportunities for games, hiking, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending but have not yet signed up, please email Herb Troyer at [troyers\\_hj@hotmail.com](mailto:troyers_hj@hotmail.com). Here is a loose schedule for the day:

8:30am – Building Opens  
9am – Welcome and Worship  
9:15am – First Session on "The Centrality of Story"

10:15am – Break  
10:30am – Worship 2  
10:45am – Second Session on  
"Sharing Our Stories"  
12pm – Lunch (Honduran food  
provided by Gemina Trochez)  
1pm – Third Session  
1:30pm – Free Time  
3:45pm - Clean up  
4pm - Time Ends

We look forward to seeing you then!

#### Guitar Needed:

Melanie Hernandez plays guitar and has been asked to share her gift with the congregation. Currently, her personal guitar is being repaired by someone at her other church. Does anyone have a guitar they would be willing to let her use for the next month? If so, please contact someone on the worship commission to coordinate. Thank you.

#### Thanksgiving Meal:

We may be planning a Thanksgiving Meal again this year if there is enough interest. If you would like to participate in our pitch-in meal, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall with a dish you'd like to share or email Brian at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com) if you miss the sign-up.

#### Spiritual Gifts:

Do you know your spiritual gifts (what you do best)? Your personal style (how you best serve)? Your passion(s) for ministry (where and with whom you best serve)? The SGDT is compiling these into a database that is available on SGDT page of the Shalom website (linked [here](#)). in the Commissions section of the Members Page. As our database becomes more complete, we'll be better able to make use of the abundant gifts that God has placed among us. If you have discerned any of the above, please email them to Justin Hochstetler ([jhochstetler@gmail.com](mailto:jhochstetler@gmail.com)).

#### Game Small Group:

We would like to set the next group meeting for Sunday, November 11th after church. All are welcome to stay and play. Bringing snacks and friends are also welcome.

#### Fall Work Day:

We hope to have at least 25 participants for Fall Work Day on Nov. 17; 8am-12pm. Working together is a great way to fellowship! If you have any tasks that you think should be added to our list, please let Laura Harms know: [Harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:Harms.laura@gmail.com)

#### Nursery Toys:

Worship Commission is looking for willing person(s) to sanitize the toys in the nursery, especially now with flu season fast approaching. Let Linda Showalter know if this is something you would be willing to tackle. Disinfectant wipes will be available in the nursery cupboards for nursery volunteers to wipe toys off whenever possible on a weekly basis.

## **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

#### Sunday School Schedule:

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](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

#### Giving Corner:

We will finish out a dozen Infant Care kits this week, as we get sleepers.

In November, our focus is on extra food for Morning Star, in Muncie. We will also collect caps and mittens for local groups.

#### Eastside Creation Care Events:

East side Creation Care next meeting will be Saturday, November 10. At 8:30 there will be a light breakfast, followed by the meeting from 9:00 to 11:00 at Northview Church of the Brethren, 5555 E. 46<sup>th</sup> St. There are several important items to discuss. This is our first meeting at this location. We are so grateful for the invitation!

Friday, November 16 is our next film event at Shalom Mennonite Church, 6100 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St. at 7:00 p.m. The film is "The Age of Consequences." It looks at climate change impacts such as resource scarcity, migration, and conflict – through the lens of US national security and global stability: a different angle than we have usually seen. It is very informative and can help shape our actions.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Congregational support systems

#### Pastor Brian on Vacation:

Brian Bither is going to be on vacation from Monday, November 12 through Sunday, November 18, and he won't be answering his phone or checking email during that time. If you need to reach a pastor during that time, please contact Frank Kandel.

### **Milepost #577 – Óscar Romero and Modern Saints**

Today is All Saints Day, a day that is widely celebrated within the Christian community in honor of the "saints" or spiritual

leaders who have followed Jesus in such courageous and profound ways that they serve as models to the rest of us. This year, the Catholic Church has a new person whom they can commemorate on this day: Óscar Romero. Romero was a Catholic priest who eventually became the archbishop of El Salvador, and he was officially made a saint within the past month, on October 14, 2018. Although he "belongs" to the Catholic Church, he is the kind of saint that all Christians would do well to study and imitate.

Romero was born in El Salvador and had a clear set of spiritual gifts that set him apart for the ministry. He pursued his theological education first in El Salvador and then in Rome, before returning to El Salvador to serve as a priest. During his first few years in the priesthood, he preached the gospel, served the poor, started an Alcoholics Anonymous group, and was involved in many other ministries and church functions. Today, however, he is remembered primarily for his courageous social activism, which he began to practice shortly after he became the Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. Just two years after he took that post, the Revolutionary Governmental Junta came to power and began a reign of extreme violence, corruption, and abuse. Although he was originally seen as a conservative priest, Romero used his position as archbishop to speak out against injustice, appeal for help from the Catholic Church and democratic nations, and to inform the persecuted population about the most recent disappearances, tortures, and murders that the Junta was committing. It was estimated that 73% of the rural population listened to his weekly sermons, as both their main source of information and inspiration. During one of his sermons, he went as far as encouraging soldiers to practice civil disobedience, noting that "no soldier is obliged to obey an order that is contrary to the will of God." Apparently, this was too much for the Junta, who assassinated him the next day while he was in the middle of officiating a church service. But his death only furthered his cause – it brought hundreds of thousands of people to El Salvador and called international attention to the atrocities that were occurring in the country.

When we hear about people like Romero, our tendency is to think of them as extraordinary individuals. But the reason we remember saints is precisely because they are ordinary people who chose to follow Christ in extraordinary circumstances, for this offers us a real-life model of what following Jesus can look like in the world today. I can think of many Christians – including several Mennonites – who inspire me by showing that the “reign of God” is not just an idealistic vision but a reality that ordinary people can experience if they fully devote themselves to Christ. May we all be inspired by saints like Romero and seek to follow their example.

-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](http://shalommennonite.com)

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)