

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 2, 2020

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

### Last Sunday, Dec 29

We celebrated the good news: Christ has come! Christ is with us! Although we struggle to see God in the midst of this broken world, this may be because God came in a form we did not expect. Join us as we reflect on 1 Kings 19 and John 1 this Sunday.

### This Sunday, Jan 5

We will celebrate Epiphany and reflect on what it means to say that Christ is our light, drawing from Isaiah 60:1-6 and other texts.

### Next Sunday, Jan 12

Sabrina will share a sermon.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Linda Kandel

### Calendar

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

Sun, Jan 5 – Special Ecuador Funding  
Proposal Meeting, noon  
Mon, Jan 6 – Roving Office, Northwest  
Panera, 6050 W 86th St, 8a to 2p  
Wed, Jan 8 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am  
Thurs, Jan 9 – Planning mtg, World Day of  
Prayer, 10-11am  
Mon, Jan 13 – Roving Office, Southeast  
Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, 8a-2p  
Thurs, Jan 16 – Meal, 6:30; Bible Study, 7-8pm  
Mon, Jan 20 – Roving Office, Fishers  
Della Leva 8220 E 106<sup>th</sup>, 8a-2pm  
Wed, Jan 22 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am  
Mon, Jan 27 – Roving Office, Greenwood  
Panera, 789 US 31N; 8am-2pm

### Roving Office

Would you like to meet with Pastor Brian on a Monday at a location near you? Feel free to

email him at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com) with location and date suggestions for the Roving Office for February and March.

### Greetings to our friends from Mil & Ruth

We are grateful that our house has closed and that we were able to move all of the remaining household items on a warm and dry December day. We are adjusting to Denver and enjoying our time with our family. We have been visiting churches but still miss the fellowship and worship we so loved with you at Shalom. Although we downsized to a much smaller home, we have a guest room and welcome visitors. We are twenty minutes for airport so if you need an overnight stay or want to catch a quick cup of coffee we would love to hear from you!

Our new address is 9317 E. 57th Place,  
Denver, CO 80238.  
Mil: 317-605-5491; Ruth: 317-490-6467

Blessings and thanks for all your thoughts and prayers during our transition.  
Mil and Ruth

## VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Two years ago, Shalom initiated a new structure. That new structure envisioned a pastoral team made up of both paid staff and volunteer pastors. Over the last two years, Sabrina Falls and Frank Kandel have shared generously of their time and abilities in the volunteer roles. Now that they have finished their terms of service, the VAT is seeking others who might be willing to assist Pastor Brian in ministering to the congregation as we continue our search for another paid pastoral team member. If you have the background or skills that would allow you to serve, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether God may be

calling you at this time. If you feel called to join the pastoral team, please contact one of the members of the VAT and make your interests known.

### **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships  
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

#### January 5

The Annual Child Safety Training will be held during the Sunday School hour. Learn about the guidelines Shalom uses to ensure our spaces, relationships, and activities are safe for children. This fulfills the training requirement for any Shalom adult that works with children. All adults are invited. Whether you intend to work with children or not, you are part of the community that cares for them

#### Upcoming classes for Jan - Feb 2020

1. "Beyond the Grave" Sunday School Class, January 12 to February 23 - In Philippians 1:21, Paul famously stated: "For me, to live in Christ and to die is gain." This statement captures a universal Christian belief: that Christ offers us life after death. However, beyond this basic affirmation, there is widespread disagreement among Christians about what the afterlife will be like, who will get in, what will happen when Christ returns, and how much we can really know about these matters. If you have questions about these subjects and/or you are prepared to have an honest discussion with others at Shalom about what we believe and why, please consider taking this Scripture-focused class that will be led by Pastor Brian.
2. "Discovering your Spiritual Gifts." Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer for the common good of the church. Don't know what your spiritual gifts are? Please join us to find out! Meeting January 12 through February 23, in this class we'll share our stories and use tools to help discern our God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, passions, and callings. Teacher: Joyce Troyer
3. The Sunday school class facilitated by OlaJowon Turentine will be about Jesus. Was he all that human really? How important is the answer to that question? We will explore the words and actions of the God who became human too, for our sake.

#### Shalom Orientation Class for March and April

Are you new to Shalom (or newish), do you have an interest in joining our church, or do you just want to more about Mennonites or how our church works? If there is enough interest, Pastor Brian will offer a "Shalom Orientation" class during Lent, from Sunday, March 1 to Sunday, April 12. If you are interested in this, either talk to Brian in person or email him at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com) so that he can make preparations to teach the class.

### **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom  
Chair: Brad Yoder

#### Quito Mennonite Church Refugee Project needs more resources:

Mennonites in Quito, Ecuador, have been helping refugees coming to Ecuador for over 15 years, primarily people fleeing from the long civil war in Columbia, which ended with Peace Accords in 2017. Refugees from Columbia have leveled off, but now many people are coming from Venezuela because of the economic crisis there. Refugees coming to Ecuador tend to come to Quito, so Mennonites there are in a crucial position to help them make a transition to a new life in their new community.

Peter Wigginton has made the Outreach Commission aware that more resources are needed to meet the population Quito Mennonite Church seeks to serve. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC, whom Shalom also supports) provides many of the physical supplies needed for this ministry (hygiene kits, school kits, blankets, canned meat, etc.). Quito Mennonite needs an additional \$5,000.00 to rent space to expand the program, to build shelves for storage, and to hire an additional part-time person to help manage the distribution of the items, and help refugees to settle in their community.

Outreach Commission and Treasurer Bob Love unanimously support providing beyond Shalom's approved 2020 budget, an additional \$5,000.00 from Shalom's reserves to help Quito Mennonite Church carry out their ministry. We think that the need is urgent, that the ministry has been very effective and efficient in using

their resources, and that our congregation can help to meet this additional need.

The Shalom Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) think that before moving forward, we should have a brief congregational meeting to discuss this proposal. The meeting will be on Sunday, January 5, after Sunday school. If you have questions or want further information before the meeting, contact Brad Yoder, Marilyn Teel, Zenebe Abebe, or Frank Kandel, members of the Outreach Commission. Thank you.

-Brad Yoder

#### Eastside Creation Care

January 11, 2020 Eastside Creation Care Network bi-monthly meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Irvington, 9:00 - 11:00 am. A light breakfast is available from 8:30 am.

#### Benches for Caps

First Mennonite has received their bench! They thank Shalom for giving them many plastic caps and lids. They had about 70 pounds extra and recently took those to Irvington United Methodist Church. We are now collecting caps and lids for that church, which is a member of ECCN. Their Green Tree Plastics project includes a bench for their church yard and a toddler picnic table for their preschool playground.

#### Sharing Space

The emphasis in January is on blankets - both new and gently used are acceptable.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems  
Chair: Laura Harms

#### Minutes

[Minutes from the October SGGT](#) (Spiritual Gifts Development Team) have been uploaded to the Shalom website.

[Outreach Commission](#) meeting minutes are also available

### **Reflections On Pilgrimage**

*We are pilgrims, traveling together to the Holy. This space is a way to be companions to*

*one another on this pilgrimage. This space is here for anyone among us to share a reflection, a prayer, a question, a challenge, a poem, even a graphic or artwork. It's an opportunity to communicate something we might not feel comfortable speaking aloud but would like to express with the community of faith. In this space we can reach out with messages from the Holy Spirit or offer a gift of holy creativity. If you want to contribute but are still feeling shy about it, it's OK to remain anonymous. Another option is to send in a quote or poem or short devotional or graphic that you read or saw-- sharing with the rest of us the blessing that special tidbit of insight or wisdom. Thank you!*

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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)

#### Pastoral Team:

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Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker,  
Cheryl Martin, Wilma Bailey, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson, Brian Bither

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