

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 30, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, November 25:

Pastor Bob Brown from First Mennonite preached the final sermon in our series on solitude. Drawing from Psalm 46 and Matthew 14:13-14, he explained that solitude isn't a simple escape from our struggles, fears and anxieties - it is actually an opportunities to engage with them more directly. Solitude allows us to experience the reality that wherever we go, there we are. In fact, we may need a quiet place to force us to wrestle with our own demons, instead of worrying about everyone else's.

This Sunday, December 2:

Thad Wilson will bring the message on the first Sunday of Advent.

Next Sunday, December 9:

Pastor Brian will preach on the theme of "preparing for anything," with Mark 1:1-8 as a key text.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

Dec 6 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Dec 9 – Pastoral Search Discussion during Sunday School hour

Dec 9 – Congregational Budget Meeting after Sunday School

Dec 12 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Dec 20 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Dec 26 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Membership Exploration Class:

Are you new or newish to Shalom? Would you like to learn more about who the Mennonites are, what the different Mennonite acronyms mean (MCC, MDS, MMN, etc.), and how Shalom works? Pastor Brian is preparing to hold a "Membership Exploration" class in January and February of 2019 for anyone who would like to learn more about these subjects or consider getting more involved at Shalom. If you have interest, please email him at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Spanish Interpretation Interest:

Worship Commission is looking into offering Spanish interpretation of our services and an adult Sunday School class. We would welcome feedback of interest within our congregation, and/or suggestions of organizations that would be recommended to contact. This would be a paid position and could easily be shared with multiple persons. Please let one of the Worship Commission members know if this is something you would be interested in. Linda Showalter, Brittany, Bither, Grace Rhine

Christmas Banquet:

The Christmas Banquet will be held at Shalom this year on Saturday, December 15. Before it begins, you are invited for Christmas caroling in the neighborhood at 5:15pm, and then to come back for appetizers (open to everyone) at 6:15pm. The meal begins at 6:30pm. Invite your friends and family to this rich Shalom tradition!

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

- Dec. 2 -- Abd-AlRahman Kharousha will share about life in Palestine (youth will join the adults)

- Dec. 9--Pastoral Search Committee will have a time of debriefing with the congregation
- Dec. 16--Christmas hymnsing
- Dec 23 and Dec 30--no SS

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Giving Corner:

This month, in addition to food pantry items, we are collecting mittens and caps.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Did You Order These?

Spanish translations of *The Naked Anabaptist* and *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective* were received, but we don't know who ordered them. If these are yours, please let Martha Maust know, yodermaust@sbcglobal.net.

Pastoral Search Process:

On December 9th during the Sunday school hour the Pastoral Team Search Committee would like to have further discussion regarding our pastoral search process. We want to hear further what you believe God desires in the pastoral team for Shalom.

During the time the Search Committee will review with the congregation the search process, seek additional clarification to refine our desired candidate profile and discuss the next steps.

Please join us on the 9th as we collectively experience God's love and guidance.

VAT Update for Pastoral Team:

The VAT will be seeking affirmation of Sabrina Falls and Frank Kandel to continue to serve as temporary pastors, on our pastoral team for a period of 6 months- January to June of 2019. Sabrina will be working the equivalent of 0.25 FTE and will be compensated for the 6 months she is serving on the temporary pastoral team. Frank will continue to fill the role he is

currently filling as a non compensated temporary pastoral team member.

We will seek your affirmation during the Sunday school hour meeting on December 9th for both Sabrina and Frank.

Please also feel free to provide your words of affirmation or concerns to Jeanne Smucker or Brad Sommer if you are unable to attend the December 9th meeting.

Milepost #604

Advent 2018: Waiting for Guidance

This Sunday will be the first day of Advent, which is a period of waiting, watching, and anticipating that God will act to save us. During the last part of the Old Testament, the Jews were waiting for God to send a Messiah to redeem and restore their nation. Christians believe that Jesus was that Messiah, and yet we too find ourselves waiting for the Messiah to intervene in our world and to set things right.

During Advent, we turn our attention to God and re-commit to this practice of waiting for the Messiah. However, the kind of waiting we do is not a period of passive waiting, as though we are hoping that the Messiah will come and fix all of our problems while we sit back and relax. Instead, it is a period of active waiting, for the Scriptures both Old and New proclaim that the Messiah will lead us to salvation: the Messiah will take the first steps, and then we will be able to follow. For example, consider this famous Messianic prophecy from Micah 5:2-3.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel."

Notice, in this passage, the prophet is waiting for the Messiah to "come forth" to rule in Israel, but after the Messiah acts, this is immediately followed by an action of God's people ("to return"). This means that God has an active role for us to play in the story of redemption. God wants us to be the hands

and feet of Jesus. We are the ones who are to heal the sick, care for the poor, advocate for the oppressed, and preach the good news to those who do not know it. But, we should not just go out and try to save the world as though we are the Messiah. We wait for Jesus to act first, to “come forth.” Then, we follow after him.

With this in mind, the Discipling Commission felt that it was fitting to combine Advent with our final spiritual discipline for the year: guidance. Christians should regularly seek God’s will for our lives, and the practices of individual and corporate guidance can help us do this. During Advent especially, we acknowledge that the world is in need of salvation and we don’t know how to fix it, but we tune our eyes toward Bethlehem, preparing to respond when our Savior shows us the way.

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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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

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