

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 15, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, November 11:

We reflected on the Biblical teaching about our speech. One of the most recurrent instructions throughout Scripture is to "guard our tongues." We are warned not to engage in gossip, grumbling, cursing, being argumentative, and even "idle talk." But most of us find it extremely difficult to control our words, especially in stressful scenarios. What can we do? As it turns out, the spiritual discipline of solitude can help build up our character so that we can exhibit more self-control.

This Sunday, November 18:

Sabrina will be working more with the spiritual discipline of solitude, and the scripture texts are Exodus 33:7-23 and Luke 5:12-16. When we practice solitude as a spiritual practice we find that we are the least alone because it is where we come into communion with God, and in that we come closest to one another as well.

Next Sunday, November 25:

Bob Brown, Pastor at First Mennonite, will bring the message. His texts will be Psalm 46 and Matthew 14:13-14. As we seek solitude, our worries will follow us. Solitude isn't a simple escape from our struggles, fears and anxieties - it is actually an opportunity to engage with them more directly. Solitude allows us to experience the reality that wherever we go, there we are. A quiet place may force us to wrestle with our own demons, instead of worrying about everyone else's.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Nov 16 – Eastside Creation Care Film Night @ Shalom, 7pm

Nov 17 – Fall Work Day, 8-12

Nov 18 – Sunday Prayer & Sharing Small Group, 12:15pm

Nov 22 – Thanksgiving Pitch-in

Nov 28 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

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

Prayer Request:

Tanya, Ernie Hodel's wife, requests prayer for Juliet Boyd, her Godmother, who is traveling to Florida for the funeral of her sister.

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 on the back sanctuary window with a dish you'd like to share or email Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com if you miss the sign-up.

Christmas Eve Service:

We are planning a joint Christmas Eve service with First Mennonite this year. If you would be interested in helping plan for this service, please let one of the Worship Commission members know, and we'll include you on the planning meeting. We would also like to provide refreshments after the service to allow time for additional conversation and fellowship with our sister church members. If you have an interest in helping with that, also let one of us know. Linda Showalter, Grace Rhine, Brittany Bither

Fall Work Day:

Fall Work Day will be November 17 from 8am to noon. Lunch provided. Tasks have been prioritized and task leaders have been assigned. Your help will be welcomed! In addition to your spirit of caregiving we'll need:

- * rakes
- * work gloves
- * tarps for moving leaves into the woods
- * leaf blowers

Questions? Reach out to Laura Harms harms.laura@gmail.com

Mel Swartzentruber:

For those of you who know and love Mel Swartzentruber, his colon surgery went very well and his daughter is taking him to Illinois to join his wife, Mary, as of today, 11-15. Their home on 62nd Street is officially listed for sale so they are winding down that aspect of their lives. If you need/want their IL address, please contact Mary Albrecht

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

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:

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

Eastside Creation Care Events:

Friday, November 16 is our next film event at Shalom Mennonite Church, 6100 E. 32nd 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.

Crop Walk:

Crop Walk is finished for another year and everything turned in. Thank you for walking and for donations garnered. We had 8 walkers (plus those accompanying them) and they raised \$3,450.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Announcements:

Emily Fox will no longer be putting the newsletter (Journeying Together) or bulletin together. ALL announcements for either publication should be sent to office@shalommennonite.com.

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.

We plan to review the process and then have conversations regarding our path forward as it relates to future pastoral candidates.

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

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 #591

At my synagogue, I'll take 20 Mennonites over one armed guard

BY [RABBI MYCHAL](#)

[COPELAND](#) | NOVEMBER 9, 2018

Last Friday night, Nov. 2, was our first Shabbat service since the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. In response to the attack, the president commented, "if they had an armed guard inside, they might have been able to stop him immediately. They had a maniac walk in, and they didn't have any protection."

At Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco where I serve as rabbi, some of our congregants have been worried about our security, even before the attack in Pittsburgh. Our building is visibly Jewish, displaying Hebrew letters on the outside institution, and our synagogue was founded by and for the LGBTQI community. So there has long been understandable concern about our institution being a target of hate. But what transpired this past Shabbat changed the way I think about what makes a community feel secure.

We share our sacred space with the First Mennonite Church of San Francisco. The Jewish community holds Shabbat services on Friday and Saturdays, and the Christian community gathers on Sundays in the same sanctuary. After the shooting, the pastors of the church reached out to me in horror. Associate Pastor Joanna Lawrence Shenk suggested that a group of Mennonites would

pray and sing outside our doors on Friday night, holding a vigil of protection for us as we gathered for Shabbat.

Friday came, and hundreds descended upon our building for services. Some were members, others were Jews new to our synagogue seeking comfort in community, and many were neighbors and members of other faith groups who had come to show their support. We began in the early evening with a song session with the Jewish and Mennonite communities, raising ourselves up with songs of peace and hope from both traditions.

By the time our Jewish services were to begin, a group of about 20 Mennonites stood outside our front doors in an arc, singing hymns and holding candles. During the silent prayers of our Shabbat service upstairs in our sanctuary, I asked the crowd to listen to the soft voices outside our open windows and feel how we were held in embrace by our Mennonite neighbors who surrounded the outside of the building.

My chief hope since the shooting has been that we will refuse to live in fear. There is a famous passage by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav that reads, "The whole world is a very narrow bridge, but the most important part is not to be afraid." Sometimes we do have legitimate reasons to be scared. The key is that even when there is cause to be afraid, we refuse to be overcome by it. We will continue our community's work fighting systemic anti-Semitism, white supremacy and racism. We will continue fighting for the rights of immigrants and asylum seekers. In our commitment to create a world where no community needs an armed guard to gather for worship in safety, we will continue to address the deadly combination of hate and easy access to weapons.

The Mennonites are returning tonight to sing outside our doors once more as we observe the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Broken Glass," when attacks on Jews and synagogues were carried out by the Nazis. Of course, we don't expect our friends' presence

at our door to be a permanent solution to a complex, ongoing problem. Perhaps our community will decide that we do need to step up security measures in some way down the line.

But in the short term, I'll take 20 Mennonites over one armed security guard any day.

https://www.jweekly.com/2018/11/09/at-my-synagogue-ill-take-20-mennonites-over-one-armed-guard/?fbclid=IwAR02PsgelMa3f3y-SAMrLnX7t_hcS3IH_cINJpYugkqOAeYE5m0bhWanii0

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

Pastoral Team: Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320, brian@shalommennonite.com; Frank Kandel, (309) 532-2859, kandel93@gmail.com; Sabrina Falls, (317) 902-9495, sabrinafalls@outlook.com

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