

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 11, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, January 6:

We celebrated Epiphany, the day when the Magi finally arrived at Jesus' home, and it will bring our sermon series on guidance to a conclusion. An epiphany - or more precisely, a revelation from God - compels movement, and it is up to us to decide how we will react or respond when God gives us a challenging/empowering insight.

This Sunday, January 13:

This Sunday, Emily will preach from Psalm 119, a love letter to God's law. We will be reminded that rules and restrictions can bring us freedom instead of dragging us down. God does not expect us to follow all of the rules on our own but will help us follow God's way.

Next Sunday, January 20:

Sabrina Falls will begin our sermon series on the gospel of Luke by preaching from Luke 4.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

Jan 6 – Fellowship potluck after SS
Jan 17 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8
Jan 23 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am
Feb 3 – Pizzas for Peace lunch after SS
Feb 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8
Feb 13 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

Two classes for Jan-March:

1. Brad Yoder and Jay Brubaker will lead a discussion of J. Denny Weaver's book *God Without Violence*. If you would like to participate and did not pick up a book, please contact Brad Yoder directly. Meets in classroom 1 downstairs.
2. Bible Study/sermon discussion led by Cheryl Martin. Brian and others will be preaching through the book of Luke, and each class session will focus on the text for that week. Meets in the back of the sanctuary.

*Jan. 20, regular adult classes will be cancelled so that as many as possible can attend a training on sexual assault awareness.

Shalom Orientation Class:

Brian will be offering a "Shalom Orientation class" (formerly called the "Membership Exploration class") from January 20 to February 24 for anyone who is new to Shalom, newish, or just wants to learn more about Shalom, Mennonites, and the faith we share.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Thanks to Shalom's Support of MKC:

I'm thankful for Shalom's longtime financial support of Meserete Kristos College (in the beautiful town Debrezeit) that's now growing well in providing the college education most young Ethiopians are not able to have. It was a big blessing for the students of the small college (234 students) to be generously supported by many Mennonites and our congregation for over 2 decades; and I'm also glad that we stayed connected to it through the visits of Carl Hansen and Tilahun Beyene who have visited Shalom recently to express the college's appreciation of our church's

financial support. Thanks also to the many Mennonite missionaries who lived in Ethiopia for decades to do their wonderful mission work as good teachers, doctors and nurses helping Meserete Kristos Church now become the biggest and fast-growing Mennonite church of our time. – Dagne Assefa
Photos attached!

Giving Corner:

In January and February we are collecting new and gently used blankets. If you are interested in knotting a comforter (Super Bowl party activity?), contact Carol Bixler. If you are able to bind the knotted comforters, contact Carol for that as well.

Eastside Creation Care Network:

Eastside Creation Care Network (ECCN) will meet Saturday, January 12 at Our Lady of Lourdes in Irvington. Breakfast begins at 8:30 with the meeting following from 9:00 to 11:00. The spring film series will be announced, sharing of congregation's activities and opportunities for advocacy will be on the agenda. All are welcome! Come learn how you can be a positive influence for Creation Care.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Office Hours for Brian:

On Mondays, Brian usually puts in office hours at the church while doing administrative work. For this month, he is experimenting with a "roving office hour" model, where he will be traveling to different parts of the city in Indianapolis in case those of us who live far away from the church would be interested in coming by to chat. This Monday (1/14), Brian will be at the Panera Bread on the south side of town (by U.S. 31 S and Fry Road) from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Feel free to come by if you'd like to talk.

Minutes available:

The website has been updated and minutes have been posted from the most recent [VAT](#), [SGDT](#), [CLC](#), and [DC](#) meetings, as well

as [the Budget meeting](#). Click on the links to review them.

Weather Policy for Church Cancellation:

Admin commission members put together guidelines for helping to make the decision of when to cancel church for weather. Please see the attached document for the full policy, but here's a brief overview of the procedure:

1. Tune in to local TV and radio to be informed of forecasts.
2. If it is clear on Saturday night that weather will be dangerous on Sunday morning, church may be cancelled on Saturday night.
3. Cancellation will be announced via email, text, church website, TV stations, a phone tree, or a sign posted on the church entrances. – Laura Harms, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, and Abri Hochstetler

Milepost #646

Website Tutorial

"But all things should be done decently and in order." – 1 Corinthians 14:40

Shalom is a small church, but we do a lot of ministry. From fellowship opportunities such as after-church pitch-ins and Thursday Night Bible Study committee meetings, to committee meetings that develop inclusive policies and creative programs, to outreach initiatives such as the Eastside Creation Care network and the Family Promise homeless initiative – it's hard to keep up with everything that goes on here!

That's why we have been working hard for the past few years to collect and centralize all of the information that we can and put it on the website. Few people know just how many resources are available for any church member on our website, so I wanted to take a moment to review some of the main stuff:

The home page of our website – www.shalommennonite.com – is designed primarily for visitors, and it includes photos from recent Shalom events, a map to the church, and a little description of what we are studying on Sundays. However, this page also contains [a link to the church calendar](#), which gives the times and locations for fellowship meals, Bible Study gatherings, special events,

and more.

Almost everything else that you might need can be found on the password-protected [Members page](#). (If you forgot the password, ask someone at church on Sunday!) For example, you will immediately find links to **an email list** and a **household directory** that includes home addresses and phone numbers for church members, as well as **audio recordings** and **bulletins** from past worship services.

Moreover, if you ever have a question about church policy, if you are wondering how to find a document that people from our church have been using, or if you want to see what was discussed in a past meeting, this can usually be found on the website too. Within the Members link, **the Church Policy** page includes documents such as the 2018 Interim Bylaws, that defines our current structure, and the Child Supervisor Eligibility Records that determine who is qualified to work with children. Also, the Commission Minutes and Resources page (again under the Member page) includes **minutes from past meetings** as well as really **useful documents** such as the Spiritual Gifts Discernment survey. Next time you are looking for a document, try going into the Members section of the website to see if we have it, and if not, let us know so that we can put it in there!

Pray for us as we seek to keep things in order... or at least to do them decently!

- Brian Bither, Pastor

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, Rod Maust, Brian Bither

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