

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 5, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, April 1:

Easter fell on April Fools' Day, which brought into focus the dilemma believers face between believing in a miracle that defies human experience and guarding ourselves against being "fooled." How do we address this dilemma? It can help to ask questions and do some research, but no amount of research can remove the risk of faith, the possibility that we could be wrong. Research and reason are healthy and appropriate, but sooner or later, a time will come when we must decide which is the greater risk: to have faith and be wrong, or to not have faith and to miss out on the possibility of new life.

This Sunday, April 8:

We will continue to celebrate Easter by seeking to establish the joy of the resurrection in our hearts. But how can joy be attained? We can't force it, but we can *cultivate* it through the discipline of celebration, along with other physical and spiritual efforts. Please read Psalm 16:5-11 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 as we continue to bask in the power of the resurrection.

Next week, April 15, Frank Kandel will deliver the message.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Celebrating Florence this Sunday:

Join with us during fellowship time on April 8 in celebrating Florence Bucher's 97th birthday! (There will be cake and ice cream.)

Rachel Love Wedding Invite:

Dear Shalom family,  
Thank you for all your love and support during my growing up years at Shalom! You nurtured my faith in so many ways and I have been blessed by your teaching and example. Mike Johnson and I plan to be married on June 16, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Common Ground Christian Church, [4550 N. Illinois St.](#), where we attend. Seating at our reception is limited, but we would love to have you celebrate with us at the wedding ceremony at Common Ground.

With much love, Rachel Love

## Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Apr. 11: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Apr. 19: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Apr. 25: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing

May 3: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday school schedule:

- April 8--Loves will share about their trip to Haiti with Mennonite Central Committee
- April 15--child safety training
- April 22-May 20 there will be two adult classes;
  1. Jay will lead an academic study of Psalms, complete with homework. This is your opportunity to put into practice the discipline of study.
  2. Joyce Troyer will lead a gifts discernment class. If you are not already in a small group that has been

focusing on gifts discernment, this is a good opportunity to learn more about your own gifts.

- May 27--Memorial Day weekend, no SS

## OUTREACH

### Relationships beyond Shalom

#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reflection:

"If you lose hope, somehow you lose that vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a dream." —Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

Martin Luther King, Jr., "A Christmas Sermon on Peace," given at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, December 24, 1967.

Walking for Dreams on Sunday, May 20 to support Family Promise's AfterCare program: Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis' (FPGI) second biggest friend-and-fundraiser returns as a great way for your family, friends, and pets to...experience the beautiful Central Canal in downtown Indy, support Family Promise's AfterCare program, take home a free Family Promise T-shirt (while supplies last).

You are invited to join the FPGI Board of Directors, staff, and more than 150 walkers on...Sunday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. (check-in begins at 1:00 p.m.) at the plaza on the south side of Buggs Temple at 337 W. 11th St. in downtown Indy. Free parking in the street and in marked lots along W. 11th Street. Family Promise will join more than 1,200 walkers from 20 other local nonprofits.

#### Gathering Place Event in KC:

Darren Bender from Paoli Mennonite Fellowship plans to attend the Gathering Place Live event in Kansas City in May, and he wondered if anyone from Shalom was going who would like to share and split the cost of a room. If interested, please email Brian at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com).

#### April is Earth Month:

April 21 is Earth Day. Earth Day Indiana will have their annual festival at Military Park

from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. The site is in White River State Park at [601 West New York Street](#). ECCN will have a booth there along with many others who share our concerns for the care of our environment. Food vendors and children's activities will also be there.

#### Environmental Council:

Help fund Hoosier Environmental Council by getting a Crew Carwash. Purchase a Crew Carwash E-Wash certificate using code 50070 in April and 50% will be donated to HEC (valid only for single washes, not wash books or gift cards).

#### Global Gifts Annual Meeting Invite:

Global Gifts is having its annual meeting and volunteer dinner celebration on April 24 starting at 6:15PM. Since this is the 30th anniversary of our stores and since Sam Carpenter is retiring from the executive director position, we want to make sure those of you who were involved in earlier days but no longer volunteer now you are invited. Please contact Mary Liechty at [mliechty@comcast.net](mailto:mliechty@comcast.net) if you would like to attend and are no longer volunteering. Present volunteers will receive an invitation by email and may respond to that invite.

#### Family First Convention:

Faith in Indiana (formerly IndyCAN) is having its Family First Convention on Saturday, April 21, 1-4:00PM, at North United Methodist Church. The goal is to launch a bold new vision for the State of Indiana by building an organization of 100,000 prophetic voters state-wide to hold elected officials and candidates accountable to meet the important needs of our state. Our Outreach Commission hopes that many of us from Shalom will plan to participate with other people of faith, to achieve maximal impact. - Brad Y

## VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

#### Pastoral Team Search Committee Update:

The Pastoral Team Search Committee has begun looking at applications for the second pastoral position. Please join us in praying for wisdom during the discernment process. Also,

if you are interested in the position or if you have names to suggest (from inside or outside the congregation), please contact Dan Miller at [dan@im.mennonite.net](mailto:dan@im.mennonite.net). The conference is willing to contact potential applicants to gauge their interest.

- Carol Bixler, Linda Kandel, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Brad Sommer (chair), & Herb Troyer

### Milepost #383: **On the Spiritual Discipline of Celebration!**

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus also said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6: 33-34). And then there is the Apostle Paul writing, "... for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11b-13).

In any case then, we want to count our blessings, and as the song says, "name them one by one, and it will surprised you what the Lord has done" (Count Your Many Blessings, Johnson Oatman, Jr., 1897). That's not to say that we don't face difficult times and discouragement in our lives. Bad things happen to good people and evil still runs rampant in our world. And yet, when we are mindful of God's redeeming love for us, for the gift of life and breath, and for the fact that God has given us a Christian community to be part of now, and the eternal gift of salvation, what can we say? As Jesus said, "If the people kept quiet, even the stones would cry out" (Luke 19:40). So then, let us worship the Lord, let us come before God's gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. Let us celebrate God's goodness! Or in the words of one of my favorite hymns by Amos Herr, 1890:

1. I owe the Lord a morning song  
Of gratitude and praise,  
For the kind mercy He has shown  
In length'ning out my days.

2. He kept me safe another night;  
I see another day;  
Now may His Spirit, as the light,  
Direct me in His way.

3. Keep me from danger and from sin;  
Help me Thy will to do,  
So that my heart be pure within,  
And I Thy goodness know.

4. Keep me till Thou wilt call me hence,  
Where never night can be;  
And save me, Lord, for Jesus' sake—  
He shed His blood for me.

- Frank Kandel

*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](http://shalommennonite.com)

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