

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

March 15, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday March 11:

Brian preached on the spiritual discipline of fasting. Arguing that modern, urban people tend to be more naive about our safety and self-sufficiency than those who live closer to the earth, he suggested that fasting can be an important tool for helping us connect and depend more deeply on God.

This Sunday March 18:

Frank Kandel will bring the message.

Announcement Update:

In response to requests to have announcement time reinstated into our Sunday morning services, the Worship Commission is suggesting something a little different than our past announcement formats. Time will be allotted after the sending words/song for anyone to go forward to the microphones and share any announcements they have. We feel this will protect the flow of our worship, and still provide an opportunity for further announcements. Please continue to use the newsletter and bulletin as a forum for announcements – both to submit announcements and to read them. Forward any comments or questions to the Worship Commission (Linda Showalter, Grace Rhine, Brittany Bither, Sabrina Falls).

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Robert Coleman's Move:

Robert Coleman will be moving end of this month and could use some help cleaning his old apartment and moving his furniture. If you are available to help for 3 or 4 hours any day from March 27th (Tuesday) through March 31st (Saturday) let me know.

Frank Kandel, [kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com)  
[309-532-2859](tel:309-532-2859)

Pastor Brian on Vacation:

Brian will be on vacation through Sunday, March 18 and will not be regularly checking his email or phone during that time. Pastoral concerns can be directed to Sabrina Falls or Frank Kandel during that time.

## Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Mar. 16: 7pm Eastside Creation Care

Network's film night at Shalom

Mar. 18: 5pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Mar. 21: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Apr. 1: 8:30am Easter breakfast

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

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Check out the Easter Tree!

Children contribute a lot to our worship life at Shalom. The Easter tree in the downstairs hallway is a prayer tree and will give you a glimpse of their concerns. What prayers can you contribute?

Catholic Economics Class Update:

The Catholic Economics class will continue the discussion of free trade and fair trade before reflecting on chapter 13 "The Role of Politics." - Wilma Bailey

Zenebe Abebe Article:

A piece written by Zenebe was recently published in Mennonite World Review addressing guns. Take a moment to read it, "Going nuts with guns":

<http://mennoworld.org/2018/03/12/letters/going-nuts-with-guns/>

## OUTREACH

### Relationships beyond Shalom

#### March for Our Lives, March 24:

Interested in showing support for local teens working to end gun violence? The Rosales Harms family and others plan to attend the Indianapolis rally linked with the national March for Our Lives on Saturday, March 24.

The event will be held from 11am-2pm at the Statehouse. Shalom folks can meet at the SW corner of N. Capitol and W. Ohio at 10:50am. Or text Laura to find us in the crowd if you can't make it until later. [317-572-0017](tel:317-572-0017).

You can learn more about the local organization, founded and led by Warren Central students at this link. <https://chalkbeat.org/posts/in/2018/03/13/indy-teens-fighting-gun-violence-are-suddenly-part-of-a-national-movement/>

#### Habitat Repair Project:

There are open volunteer spots on a home repair project near Shalom Mennonite Church on Priscilla Ave. March 27 or 28 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sign up here (<https://indyhabitat.volunteerhub.com>) or contact Abri ([abri.houser@gmail.com](mailto:abri.houser@gmail.com)) with questions. Thanks!

#### Outreach Commission Update:

Shalom members have been involved in many peace and justice outreach activities recently, and we want to share a few.

- Faith in Indiana (formerly IndyCAN) held a protest for justice for immigrants to the United States on March 6th, at the offices of our US Senators Todd Young and Joe Donnelly at Pennsylvania and Ohio Streets. The ecumenical protest began by summarizing the spiritual basis for helping immigrants in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Several DACA persons described the pain US immigration policies have caused for their families. The 15 people who decided in advance to do civil disobedience then blocked the streets for ten minutes, and were arrested by the Metro Police. The entire event was well-planned, and communicated effectively our

concerns about the injustice of US immigration policies.

- As a board member of Hoosiers Concerned About Gun Violence, Brad Yoder has participated in presenting testimony against expanding gun rights before legislative committees at the Indiana General Assembly. No gun rights were expanded during this session (success!), but we can be certain that there will be more efforts again next year.
- The Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) welcomes interaction from people of all faiths to learn about each others' beliefs and practices. Within CIC, the Interfaith Coalition for Mental Health holds monthly meetings to discuss mental health issues from different faith perspectives. Round tables of seven people representing diverse faiths had stimulating and helpful dialogue.  
Wednesday, March 21, 12-1:30PM, at the Interchurch Center, 1100 w. 42nd Street, the topic is "Gender-based Sexual Harassment and Assault". (Lunch is included for a \$5.00 contribution.) CIC is also sponsoring "50 Years Later: Bobby Kennedy's Announcement of the Assassination of MLK", April 2, 12-1:00PM, at the Interchurch Center. (Brad Yoder was there that night, and will participate.)  
- Brad Yoder

## ADMINISTRATION

### Congregational support systems

#### Administrative Assistant Job Opening:

After discussion with various groups at Shalom, the administration commission is sharing the attached job description for a quarter-time administrative assistant. Please contact Abri ([abri.houser@gmail.com](mailto:abri.houser@gmail.com), 316.680.0892) if you are interested or have questions. Thanks!

## VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

#### Search Committee Update:

PTSC (Pastoral Team Search Committee) has submitted all the required documents to IN-MI Mennonite Conference. Conference will now use those profile documents to match potential pastoral candidates to Shalom for our review. Conference will assist us in filling both the paid and unpaid positions.

Any person that might be interested in serving in a pastoral team role here at Shalom should contact IN-MI conference. Contact any member of the PTSC for additional information. PTSC members are: Carol Bixler, Herb Troyer, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Linda Kandel and Brad Sommer.

#### **Milepost #362: Five Attend Conference Regional Meeting**

Romans 12:10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. (NLT)

On Saturday, February 24th, about thirty persons gathered for the Southern Regional Delegate Meeting of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. The meeting, held at the Mara Christian Church of America located in Greenwood, included 5 persons from Shalom. Mike Wigginton helped lead the worship music, Wilma Bailey was there as part of her role on the Conference Credentialing Commission, Jeanne Smucker came as a Shalom delegate, and Brian Bither and Frank Kandel participated as part of their pastoral roles.

**The all-day meeting included both times of worship and business.** The main purpose of the Regional Meetings is to give delegates a “heads up” on items that will be considered at the Conference Annual Meeting, which this year will be held June 14-16 in Indianapolis. Similar regional meetings are being held in Michigan and in the Goshen-Elkhart area.

To open the meeting, **Conference Pastor Dan Miller** shared a meditation from Romans 12 which will be our foundational Scripture for Annual Meeting in June: In view of the mercy God has shown, offer yourselves as living sacrifices, not following the patterns of this world, but being transformed by the renewing

of your minds...don't copy the world but let God transform you to a new way of thinking. We are members one of another...Love one another with mutual affection. While we live in a broken world, and are broken ourselves, we carry the pain of that brokenness alongside the joy of knowing that God will carry the coming kingdom to fruition. So while we carry the pain of this world, let us also, with hearts wide open, celebrate God-With- Us.

**Chhaki, Pastor at Mara**, welcomed the group to his church and told us about his Congregation. Started in 2013 with about 50 people, the church has now grown to almost 270 with about 100 adults. He asked us to pray for the Mara Congregation, that they may be able to impart faith in God from generation to generation. He thanked Conference for the \$50,000 grant that aided them in the purchase of their church building.

Dan Miller reported on a special emerging relationship with Bishop Amos Muhagachi and Esther Muhagachi of the **Church of the Brethren of Tanzania** and Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. Pastor John H Mosemann, who for a time pastored in Indiana-Michigan Conference, was instrumental in establishing the church in Tanzania. In 1934 he and Ruth arrived in Tanganyika Territory (later Tanzania) as the first missionaries sent to Africa by the Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities. Bishop Amos has been here expressing thanks for Pastor Mosemann's ground breaking work in Tanzania. Conference Pastor Dan Miller, and Conference Moderator Paula Killough plan to reciprocate with a visit to Tanzania in April to continue growing the relationship between the two groups. Dan ask for our prayerful and financial support for this effort.

**Matt Ropp, Executive Director of Camp Amigo** was present to report that Amigo has had a very robust year. He also gave his affirmation and blessing to a change of relationship between the Camp and Conference. While Conference initially established and owned the Camp, the time seems right for the Camp to become a group “associated” with Conference rather than “owned” by Conference. This change has been in the works by both groups for some

time and will be voted on at Annual Meeting this year.

Likewise, **Bethany Christian Schools**, started and “owned” by the Conference, will be moving from “owned” to “associated” status this year. While the reach of both of these organizations has grown far beyond Indiana-Michigan Conference, it is the intention of all parties concerned to continue to foster close relations.

**Cindy Steiner from the Conference Finance Commission** reported that after several years of rapid change in Conference staffing and income, they are pleased that things have begun to stabilize. Thanks was expressed for the strong financial support of many congregations and individuals. Shalom Congregation contributed \$7020 to the Conference budget in 2017. Additional gifts are received and always welcome from individuals through the “Missional Seeds Giving Club.” Conference budget for this year is \$262,883 and the proposed budget for next year that will be voted on at Annual Meeting is \$268,662.

Pastor Shannon Dycus, who is an Indiana-Michigan Conference representative to MC USA’s “Constituency Leaders Council,” reported on “Journey Forward,” a two-year process of **church-wide discernment** growing out of the Future Church Summit held in Orlando in 2017. **A study guide is being crafted** to engage congregations in “how we as a denomination are hearing God’s call.” This study guide can be used as a 4-week study or a 12 week study and will become available in June of this year. It is hoped that congregations will utilize this study in the Fall of 2018 or in the Spring of 2019 so their feedback will be available for the Biennial meeting of MC USA in 2019 in Kansas City.

Indiana Michigan Conference has been encouraging congregations to live into its “Renewing a Vision” which includes six shared spiritual practices that are intended to bring us together as a “community of congregations.” To receive feedback on progress, we were asked to share in table groups on the following questions:

- What spiritual practices are renewing your congregation?

- What new relationships have emerged for your congregation this year?
- How is your congregation studying the Bible this year?
- What kind of conference do you want our children and youth to inherit?
- What is the purpose of conference?

In conclusion, even though Conference has experienced a tumultuous time of change, things seem to be settling as we renew our focus on Jesus and seek His transformation in our lives and in our relationships.

If you would like more details about any of these items, talk to Jeanne, Brian, or Frank.

— 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.*

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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)

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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 Abri Hochstetler: [abri.houser@gmail.com](mailto:abri.houser@gmail.com)