

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 10, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, May 6:

As we began our focus on the spiritual discipline of study, Brian reminded us that the goal of study is not just to accumulate knowledge but to attain wisdom. Wisdom consists of several intellectual virtues that both inspire us to study and shape the way that we study. Brian introduced us to two of the intellectual virtues – curiosity and courage – which motivate us to seek out the truth and embolden us to embrace it, no matter the cost.

This Sunday, May 13:

This week we will discuss the intellectual virtues of impartiality, all of which are necessary to overcome the tendency to believe what is convenient rather than what is true. Besides impartiality itself, we need to cultivate the intellectual virtues of empathy, carefulness, and humility in order to effectively discern the claims that people make and to be genuinely open to changing our minds.

Next Sunday, May 20:

The next Sunday, we will celebrate Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit finally came and fulfilled the promise of Jesus. This year, we will think about the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth and as Wisdom from the book of Proverbs. Considered in this light, we remember that we often have to wait for Wisdom to answer our questions, and the waiting that is required is not a passive waiting but an active seeking of God's truth. To do this, we need the intellectual virtues of tenacity and diligence.

From the Worship Commission:

We solicit feedback on what helps or hinders your worship experience in our services. We also want to see that your gifts are being used, so if you didn't return a survey earlier

this year and wish to be involved in any way, please contact one of the commission members. The commission met recently to finalize and adopt the following as their statement of philosophy:

As God's unconditional love and sacrifice through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is poured out upon us, so we -- with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength -- desire to worship the One who has created us all in God's image.

Our gathered worship is communion with God to whom we raise our praise, thanksgiving and prayers. We humbly confess our sins and lift up our imperfect selves to God to receive grace, forgiveness, healing and transformation. We rejoice in the community of Christian sisters and brothers that grows with this shared worship of our Creator.

Through our common worship that is rooted in Scripture, we want to offer God our best. Because of this desire, we want to:

- *Open ourselves to the work and leading of the Holy Spirit that will bring fresh and new ways to worship God.*
- *Recognize and honor our Anabaptist-Christian traditions.*
- *Humbly seek and share our individual spiritual gifts to joyfully worship God.*
- *Celebrate creativity and our cultural, age and gender diversity within our worship services*
- *Receive strength, encouragement, and power from the Holy Spirit to go out and serve and share the good news of Jesus Christ*

Linda Showalter, Grace Rhine, Brittany Bither, Sabrina Falls

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

May 12: Women's Brunch at FMC (First Mennonite Church)

May 17: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

May 27: No Sunday School

May 23: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

June 3: Fellowship Meal

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Tell us what you're interested in:

Discipling Commission is working on planning the summer disciplines. We'd like to know what types of prayer and service the congregation is already familiar with, so please fill out the Google form that was emailed to you, or go to this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/Ds3yB2xpFH4u2RBk2> to fill out the form.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Car Knowledge?:

There is a person who lives near Shalom Mennonite Church who is going through a difficult time and recently called the church for help. One of the areas in which help was needed was in repairing a car or at least evaluating it to see what repairs are needed. If anyone from the congregation who has knowledge about car mechanics would be open to helping this person, please contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com.

Milepost #404: Ascension Day

Today, Thursday, May 10th marks Ascension Day, the 40th day since the resurrection and 10 days before Pentecost, the birthday of the church. Before departing from his disciples on Ascension Day, Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem "until you have been clothed with power from on high"—until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven (Luke 24:49b).

In last Sunday's lectionary passage that I preached from at Parkview in Kokomo, the

Apostle Peter, while praying on a roof top in Joppa, became hungry and fell into a trance. He saw heaven open and a great sheet descended bearing all kinds of food forbidden by Jewish law. A voice came to him saying, "Rise, Peter, kill and eat." When he objected, the voice spoke a second time saying, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." Shortly thereafter, he had an encounter with the household of Cornelius, a God-fearing Roman centurion from Caesarea. Normally a good Jew would not keep company with a gentile like Cornelius but as Peter entered Cornelius's household he said, "Even though it is unlawful for a Jew to keep company with one of another nation, God has shown me that I should not call anyone common or unclean" (Acts 10). Peter went on to minister to Cornelius and as a result, the Holy Spirit fell upon the entire household and they were baptized after which Peter declared, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."

The old slogan "birds of a feather flock together" indicates our preference to stick with our own kind. Yet, as Peter learned, we are called to enter into circles beyond our own comfort zones, but of course, this cannot be accomplished without power from on high.

— 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

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Abri Hochstetler: abri.houser@gmail.com