

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 23, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, May 19

We read Micah 2:1-11, in which the prophet uses very strong language to condemn the corrupt behavior of some of the wealthy landowners in his society. This forces us to face the question of divine justice. Does God punish those who do wrong, or at least hold them accountable? If so, how can we talk about this “bad news” without engaging in fear mongering or watering it down?

This Sunday, May 26

In chapter 3, Micah focuses on the corrupt and greedy leadership – rulers, priests, false prophets – of Israel and Judah. He warns that, as a consequence, they will lose their ability to access God’s Presence. Authentic leaders serve the people entrusted to their care, and true prophets call out injustice and speak God’s truth. Today we see a similar failure of moral and spiritual leadership. What can we learn from the true prophets of the past and present? And does God ever leave us?

No Sunday School this Sunday.

Next Sunday, June 2

Our focus will move from the kingdom of Judah in the 8th century BCE to the experience of Jewish people in the 6th century BCE. Brian will preach from Micah 4:9-5:15 as we grapple with the question of what redemption for a defeated nation looks like.

Pentecost Chorale

Do you have an interest in choral music? Rod is trying to gather a group to sing a short Pentecost motet, “I will not leave you comfortless,” for June 9. Practice will start this Sunday morning at 8:50am. Join us if you can.

CHURCH STRUCTURE EVALUATION

Cheryl Martin and Sam Bixler

On Sunday, May 26, you will receive a copy of the survey regarding the new church structure. The surveys will be placed in your mailbox. There are instructions on the first page of the survey. Please complete the survey and return it as indicated in the instructions. If we do not receive a response from you, we will be contacting you. If you have any questions, please contact either Sam Bixler or Cheryl Martin.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
No Sunday School on May 26

Sun, June 2 – Carry-in meal after SS
Mon, June 3 – Roving Office, SE
Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St
Thu, June 6 – Meal 6:30; Bible study 7-8
Mon, June 10 – Roving Office NW
Panera, 6050 W 86th
Wed, June 12 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
June 13-15 – IN-MI Annual Sessions at Amigo
Mon, June 17 – Roving Office, Greenwood
Panera, 789 U.S. 31N
Thu, June 20 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm
Mon, June 24 – Roving Office, Fishers
Della Leva, 8220 E. 106th St.
Wed, June 26 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Thu, June 27 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

In 2020, MCC will be celebrating 100 years of relief, development, and peace around the globe. Please read the attached summary for

an update on the work of MCC or visit the website at www.mcc.org.

Sharing Space

Thank you for the donations of 50 hygiene kits for Mennonite Central Committee.

The Julian Center is the focus for our Sharing Space in June.

- Office equipment/supplies
- School supplies
- Books
- Artwork
- Services (building repairs, landscaping, etc)
- Cell phones
- Clothing, toys, household goods, and furniture

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Content for future Mileposts

If you are interested in writing an occasional article for the Milespost section OR if you have a blog/website you regularly read for spiritual guidance that you think could provide good content for our Milepost section, please contact Laura at office@shalommennonite.com so she can coordinate the content while Brian is on sabbatical.

Spring Work Day

Thank you to the 15 Shalom volunteers and 10 Mara church volunteers that moved mounds of mulch, weeded flower beds, removed a pear tree, treated invasives, and began to fix up the trench.

Indiana-Michigan Annual Sessions

2019 Annual Sessions are just around the corner! The members of the Missional Leadership Team extend an invitation to you and your families to join us for a time of worship and fellowship at the Amigo Centre. Worship services are free to attend will be held on Thursday, June 13 at 2:30 and 7pm; Friday, June 14 at 8:20am and 7pm; and Saturday, June 15 at 10:30am. We are excited to announce that there will be English to Spanish simultaneous translation available. For more information visit <https://im.mennonite.net>

MILEPOST #681

“Don’t neglect your gift . . .” (I Timothy 4:14)

Why should you know your spiritual gifts? On a whim, a quick internet search provided surprising answers: “Spiritual gifts are on sale. Limited time offer. Hurry!” “Hate boring gifts? Us, too.” One item promises the “Social Results” for spiritual gifts. Fortunately, a few other search results, Biblically-based, were more relevant. Here are the combined and paraphrased reasons given:

- Spiritual gifts are given to believers from God.

Remember the proverbial saying about not looking a gift horse in the mouth? We definitely don’t want to ignore gifts from God!

- Spiritual gifts put love in action to fulfill both the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

A conscious awareness of God’s nudges via our spiritual gifts helps us stay in touch with how God wants to use us in the world around us.

- Our spiritual gifts help us know what God has called us to and what God has not called us to.

In his blog, Larry Gilbert states, “After selling my business of fourteen years, selling my home, moving my wife and three children 300 miles away to prepare for the ministry, probably the greatest discovery I ever made was that God had not called me to become a pastor.” (1) Discovering the spiritual gifts God has given you helps discern God’s will for you, because God gifts you to do what God calls you to do. If God gives you a hammer, start driving nails.

- Spiritual gifts are given to glorify God and build the kingdom of God.

Knowing that God gifts each of us differently helps us understand how God creates unity out of diversity. When we use our spiritual gifts, we become co-creators of God’s community on earth.

In my experience, Mennonites don’t talk much about spiritual gifts. Are we guilty of the ignorance about spiritual gifts Paul warns to avoid in I Corinthians 12:1? How are we doing with discovering and utilizing our spiritual gifts? If we aren’t actively developing our gifts, what is keeping us from doing so? And what blessings

might we be missing?

References in addition to the NIV Bible

- (1) quote used with permission from
<https://churchgrowth.org/blog/2016/08/11/eight-reasons-why-all-christians-should-know-their-spiritual-gifts-full-article/> (accessed 5/21/19)
- (2) <https://www.jeffcarver.com/know-your-spiritual-gifts/> (accessed 5/21/19)

contributed by Joyce Troyer

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