

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 19, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, Dec 15

"I Stand at the Door" (Rev 3:20). This Advent, as we prepare to open the door of our lives to let Jesus in, may we take comfort in God's presence, as we journey toward the coming Reign. Scriptures: Isaiah 35 – a journey in the wilderness - and James 5: 7-11 – a treatise on patient endurance; Psalm 146 – a song of assurance.

This Sunday, Dec 22

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, our wait for Christ has almost reached its furthest point, which can be a strain on our faith. Not hearing from God for such a long time can push us toward darkness and despair, so how are we supposed to sustain our faith in these extended periods? Passages like Isaiah 7:10-16 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 suggest a radical answer: that God invites us to *question* Him during these times.

Next Sunday, Dec 29

Next Sunday (12/29), we will celebrate the good news: Christ has come! Christ is with us! Although we struggle to see God in the midst of this broken world, God *is* in it. As we are taught in passages like John 1:1-18 and Hebrews 2:5-18, the reason so many fail to see God is that God has come in a form that humanity did not expect: in the form of a servant, Jesus.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

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

Tues, Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 6pm
Wed, Dec 25 – Christmas Day Lunch at Showalters

Thurs, Jan 2 – Meal, 6:30; Bible Study, 7-8pm
Mon, Jan 6 – Roving Office, Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, 8a to 2p
Wed, Jan 8 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Thurs, Jan 9 – Planning mtg, World Day of Prayer, 10-11am
Mon, Jan 13 – Roving Office, Southeast Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, 8a-2p
Thurs, Jan 16 – Meal, 6:30; Bible Study, 7-8pm

Roving Office

Would you like to meet with Pastor Brian on a Monday at a location near you? Feel free to email him at brian@shalommennonite.com with location and date suggestions for the Roving Office for February and March.

Christmas Eve Service

A Christmas Eve service is being planned for Tuesday, Dec 24. The service will begin at 6pm.

Christmas Day Lunch

The Showalters are inviting anyone who has no plans on Christmas Day to join them for lunch at their home. Please let them know so they can plan.

PASTORAL TEAM SEARCH COMMITTEE (PTSC)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Over the last two months, the Search Committee has received two MLIs (Ministerial Leadership Inventories). However, prior to our being able to consider them, both applicants withdrew their applications for the position. Indiana-Michigan Conference continues to assist us in seeking interested applicants. At this time, there are a very limited number of people who would be willing to relocate for a half-time position. Please continue to pray for the leadership and the congregation's discernment around our congregation's pastoral needs.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

Sunday School Schedule

12/22 and 12/29 – No SS

Upcoming classes for Jan - Feb 2020

1. "Beyond the Grave" Sunday School Class, January 12 to February 23 - In Philippians 1:21, Paul famously stated: "For me, to live in Christ and to die is gain." This statement captures a universal Christian belief: that Christ offers us life after death. However, beyond this basic affirmation, there is widespread disagreement among Christians about what the afterlife will be like, who will get in, what will happen when Christ returns, and how much we can really know about these matters. If you have questions about these subjects and/or you are prepared to have an honest discussion with others at Shalom about what we believe and why, please consider taking this Scripture-focused class that will be led by Pastor Brian.
2. "Discovering your Spiritual Gifts." Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer for the common good of the church. Don't know what your spiritual gifts are? Please join us to find out! Meeting January 12 through February 23, in this class we'll share our stories and use tools to help discern our God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, passions, and callings. Teacher: Joyce Troyer

Shalom Orientation Class for March and April

Are you new to Shalom (or newish), do you have an interest in joining our church, or do you just want to more about Mennonites or how our church works? If there is enough interest, Pastor Brian will offer a "Shalom Orientation" class during Lent, from Sunday, March 1 to Sunday, April 12. If you are interested in this, either talk to Brian in person or email him at brian@shalommennonite.com so that he can make preparations to teach the class.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Helping a local family

About a month ago, a couple from our community that was facing homelessness reached out to our church for help, and some individuals from the church were able to help them acquire temporary residency while the Homeless Initiative worked on getting them settled in a permanent location. This week, they successfully moved into an apartment that is very close to Shalom, but they don't have any furniture and very few resources. If you would be willing to donate furniture or other items to them, email Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com and he will give you more information about what they need and how to get it to them.

Many Thanks from our Partners

Part of the Outreach Commission's responsibility is to relate to Mennonite and ecumenical agencies whose ministry Shalom supports financially and in other ways. Over the past few weeks we have received expressions of thanks from several of these organizations, and information about their ongoing ministries:

- 1) Meserete Kristos College (in Ethiopia) has increased their enrollment this academic year to 601, including students from many of Ethiopia's 82 ethnic and linguistic backgrounds, and also from Kenya, Eritrea, and Somalia. They have also launched a new master's program in partnership with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, another ministry Shalom supports.
- 2) Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) thanks us for our financial support and our contributions of hygiene kits, relief kits, and other gifts-in-kind.
- 3) Mennonite Mission Network thanks us for our financial support for their overall global ministry, and in addition our particular support for Peter and Delicia's work in Ecuador
- 4) Locally:
 - a) Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light appreciate our support for their advocacy on behalf our environment and Eastside Creation Care Network appreciate our regular participation in a variety of activities, and our decision to generate solar power,
 - b) Faith in Indiana appreciates our involvement in working for justice for immigrants to the US and working to reduce mass incarceration and gun violence, and
 - c) Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence values our support for efforts to promote gun safety and reduce gun violence.

These are all ministries that we together contribute to and support through our offerings every Sunday. Each of them, and together, represent and extend the outreach of Shalom into our community and around our Earth, contributing to the ongoing ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

-Brad Yoder

MCC Great Lakes

[Click here to watch a video](#) from Mennonite Central Committee, Great Lakes office.

Sharing Space

Relief kits are the focus for the Sharing Space in December. Contents (NEW items only):

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- Shampoo (1 or 2 bottles, totaling more than 20 oz.; place in resealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha, Sunlight, or Zote brands)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 29in x 60in)
- 2 wide-toothed combs (6-8in)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (min 40, assorted)
- Sanitary pads (THIN; 1 or 2 packages, min 28 pads total)

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

IRS Rules Regarding End of Year Giving

Please make note of this change to Shalom's practice on end-of-year donations for 2019. We will only be able to accept 2019 donations in the calendar year of 2019. Donations must be either

- post-marked by Dec 31, 2019 if mailed
- or handed in (offering plate, Treasurer mailbox, handed to Treasurer) by Dec 31, 2019

A check dated with a 2019 date, received in 2020, will be attributed to 2020 offerings.

Home for sale near church

The house just west of the church came up for sale rather suddenly two weeks ago. Several Shalom folks made an offer to buy it. However, reports from the realtor are that another offer

came in and that the Shalom group offer will not move forward.

- Frank Kandel, Pastor for Administration

Reflections On Pilgrimage

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

Pastoral Team:

Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320;

brian@shalommennonite.com;

Frank Kandel, (309) 532-2859,

kandel93@gmail.com;

Sabrina Falls, (317) 902-9495,

sabrinafalls@outlook.com

Vision & Accountability Team: Jeanne Smucker,

Cheryl Martin, Wilma Bailey, Rod Maust, Thad

Wilson, Brian Bither

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