

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 24, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, May 20:

For Pentecost we both celebrated the arrival of the Holy Spirit and concluded our discussion of the intellectual virtues. Although these themes may seem unrelated, the "Wisdom" described in Proverbs is considered a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, and the way the disciples prepared themselves to receive the Spirit has a lot to teach us about receiving wisdom. To do this, we need the intellectual virtues of tenacity and diligence.

This Sunday, May 27:

Sabrina Falls will bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

May 27: No Sunday School

June 3: Fellowship Meal

June 13: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

June 14-16 Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Meetings

June 21: Thriving Thursday

June 27: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

June 28: Thriving Thursday

July 1: No Sunday School

July 3: Family Promise at First Mennonite Church

July 5: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Break:

There will be no Sunday school May 27 or July 1.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Volunteers needed to help at Conference

June 14-16:

We need your help with all sorts of things.

Click link to see times and details:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4DA9A828A2F85-june>

First Aid Support for Conference:

We are looking for volunteers with medical, nursing, or first aid training to help staff the first aid station at Indiana-Michigan Conference June 14-16. Meetings will be at First Mennonite (except Friday night, which I will cover). You can see the schedule at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DPLKe6rMfKoZ5P4b2R8WITjd2nr_Cf2wrUKs1-6sKrl/edit#gid=0

(It may require you to ask me for permission before you can add your name.)Thanks.

- Martha Yoder Maust

Giving Corner:

We are doing School Kits for June and July. Florence is sewing the bags and we will fill the bags together on July 22. Feel free to contribute quantities of individual items or whole kits. Please note the content additions from previous years, underlined below.

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens

- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

Save the date for Family Promise:

The next Family Promise activity at First Mennonite Church will be on July 3, 2018.

Pray for Peace on the Korean Peninsula--
Watch MCUSA's Korean Peninsula Webinar with Dr. Inyeop Lee about the history of the division, the Korean War, and the decades long confrontation and why previous talks have failed. You Tube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqfwhx4OXug&feature=youtu.be>

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

New Administrative Assistant:

We are thrilled to welcome Emily Fox as our new administrative assistant for Shalom Mennonite! She will be working quarter-time and supporting the many administrative functions of our church. Thank you for your patience as she transitions into this new role, for both her and Shalom! With questions, please contact an admin commission member: Laura, Sam, Abri or Frank.

Bulletin Contact Swap:

Sam Bixler will be doing the bulletins the next 2 weeks. Email announcements to bixlersc@gmail.com.

MCC Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour:

Join MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Great Lakes and Center for Community Justice for a week-long Pipeline to Prison learning tour. Based in Goshen, Ind., the tour will focus on the challenges and complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system and include day trips to Elkhart, Peru and Kokomo. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry. All who are interested in learning about disparities in the justice system, including those working in or seeking to develop a prison/re-entry ministry, are welcome. For more information

and registration visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison or contact Cyneatha Millsaps at CyneathaMillsaps@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Search Committee Update:

The Pastoral Team Search Committee is in the process of setting up initial phone meetings with applicants. Please pray with us that we sense God's direction during this process. - Carol Bixler, Linda Kandel, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Brad Sommer (chair), & Herb Troyer

Milepost #418: Prayer Warriors

Memorial Day, which is this weekend, means something different for each of us. Some remember loved ones lost in war. Some celebrate patriotism. Some enjoy picnics, cookouts, or whatever you call your gathering of family and/or friends. Some go away for the weekend. Some get a day off from work. Some still have to work. Some ignore it entirely!

For me, it always calls to mind my sister's birthday because she was born on May 30, which was always Memorial Day before national holidays got shifted to Mondays!

Since Memorial Day is for remembering warriors, I have decided this year to remember "prayer warriors." Are you familiar with this term? At first I didn't like it, because it sounded like an oxymoron--how do you put "prayer" and "warrior" together? Upon further reflection, it grew on me and I actually use it now. It takes a word we associate with misery, violence, and death ("warrior")--and reimagines it into something hopeful, and life-giving. Christians affirm that the power of a prayer warrior is far superior to that of a military warrior.

While the term "prayer warrior" is not found in the Bible, it is biblical in the sense that it describes one who puts on the "whole armor of God" and prays "with every prayer and petition at all times in the Spirit." (Ephesians 6:10-18) The armor of God is the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes for

readiness with the gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. These equip the prayer warrior to pray with complete trust that God answers prayer in accordance with God's will.

Prayer warriors have a special calling to intercessory prayer, which is simply praying on behalf of others. Although we are all called to pray, some have a unique spiritual gift for this ministry. Some people are especially diligent about praying for others. They often maintain "lists" to help them remember specific individuals, families, groups, and/or situations and their needs. Mostly praying in private, they may occasionally offer prayer in the presence of others, and their prayers are often quietly powerful, providing comfort, strength, hope, encouragement, faith, wisdom, and peace.

Warriors typically have each other's backs--making sure to take care of a fallen buddy and leave no one behind. In the same way, prayer warriors have our backs. When facing a tough or challenging situation, just knowing that someone is praying for us helps us get through it with a little less fear or anxiety. At times in my younger years when I felt afraid, I would remember that my Dad was always praying for me, and--since my Dad had a very special pipeline to God--just this thought gave me peace!

Who are, or were, the prayer warriors in your life? Remember them this Memorial Day! And while you cherish their memory, prayerfully consider whether you, too, might be called to this ministry!

– Sabrina Falls

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.

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: 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

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