

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

June 20, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Last Sunday, June 16

For six weeks we have been riding the ups and downs of Prophet Micah's relationship with the Southern Kingdom of Judah – "will we survive or will we not?" Don't miss this week's hopeful vision of where things will end up as we explore the climax in chapter 4 verses 1-8.

This Sunday, June 23

We will wrap up our study of the book of Micah by studying chapters 6 & 7. As we turn to this final section of the book, we are once again brought into a divine courtroom for judgment - but this time, with an entirely different result. In this trial, God speaks openly and even vulnerably about the struggle of maintaining both justice and faithfulness to Israel, and in the end offers us a model of justice, kindness, and humility to follow.

Next Sunday, June 30

Brian will preach for the last time before his sabbatical begins. He will take the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual journey that Shalom has been through over the past six years and to offer some hopes and prayers for the future. Deuteronomy 8:2-10 will be the guiding text.

Opportunities to serve Shalom

In your mailbox you will find a document that will help you know what opportunities there are for different ways to serve our church body. Each commission has included a list of responsibilities that they would like to see people volunteer to fill. This is a vital tool that can be used to find people who are passionate about the different aspects of our corporate church life. Please prayerfully discern where you best fit in and return to my mailbox. The sooner the better.

-Linda Showalter

Calendar

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

Mon, June 24 – Roving Office, Fishers
Della Leva, 8220 E. 106th St.

Tues, June 25 – Family Promise, 5pm

Wed, June 26 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Thu, June 27 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Sun, June 30 – 5th Sunday Hymn Sing at
Showalter's, 6-8pm

July 3-6 – MennoCon19

Sun, July 7 – Carry-in Meal after SS

Wed, July 10 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Thu, July 11 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Thursday Evening Meal and Bible Study will be taking a break over summer and will not plan to meet. Participants are encouraged to take part in Thriving Thursdays during this break.

Pastoral Care and Visitation Team

The Pastoral Team is forming a Pastoral Care and Visitation Team to help with these ministries during Brian's sabbatical. On Sunday, July 7, at noon, we will fill our plates at the carry-in and take our meal to the Adult Sunday School room. We will have a session for some brief training on pastoral care approaches and to discuss how we will coordinate this ministry among ourselves and stay connected for support, accountability, and congregational needs. Although several among us have offered to participate in this ministry, others of you who sense a leading of the Spirit to serve in this way are invited to join us. If so, or for more information, please contact Sabrina.

Photographer Needed

The Community Life Commission would like to update the photo directory of attendees that is on the bulletin board in the Shalom foyer. We have a list of people needing a current picture,

and the photographer can plan times on Sunday a.m. to take pictures and post them on the board. We hope this visual will remind us of our love and commitment to all at Shalom as the body of Christ. Please speak with Rose Love if you are able to help with this ministry.

Church Retreat

Shalom Mennonite Church Retreat will be November 2nd. If you are interested in helping to plan for the upcoming retreat please contact Herb Troyer, Linda Kandel, or Rose Love.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

Mike Wigginton has agreed to serve on the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team as Justin finishes his term. Joyce has agreed to continue as chairperson.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Homemade Cookies and Volunteers are needed for Morning Star's June 22 Summer Outreach Picnic in Muncie. If you would like to help, please notify Frank Kandel at kandel93@gmail.com or 309-532-2859

Thriving Thursdays are back!

Pray for Neighborhood Kids & Volunteers--
Thriving Thursdays begins this week

Volunteers needed on Thursdays from 5-7pm. June 27 and July 11, 18 & 25. Let Frank know when and where you can help.

Kandel93@gmail.com or 309-532-2859.

Family Promise

Shalom members can support families experiencing homelessness by volunteering on Tuesday, June 25 during the week that First Mennonite Church hosts the Family Promise families. Contact Solomon for more information.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADNet)

The term "disabilities" usually brings to mind visible conditions such as using a wheelchair or Down's syndrome facial features. Many disabling conditions, such as chronic pain and severe hearing loss, are less obvious but remain challenges to daily living and social

situations. The latest *Connections* newsletter from Anabaptist Disabilities Network includes helpful articles addressing drug dependence and auto-immune disease which are two hidden types of conditions: "Can the Church be Good News to People Who Use Drugs?" (helping those caught up in drug dependency) and "Living with Auto-Immune Disease" (practicing self care with a hidden disability). You can read the paper copy posted on the bulletin board near the nursery, or online here:

<https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Pages/default.aspx>

A resource for families, congregations, and individuals affected by disabilities of all kinds, Anabaptist Disabilities Network is a joint organization of the Mennonite Church USA and the Church of the Brethren. Shalom is a member congregation and your advocates are Joyce Troyer and Mary Albrecht.

submitted by Joyce Troyer

Sharing Space

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

Facilities Use

Administration Commission has updated the [Guidelines and Agreement](#) used when someone would like to make use of our facilities. Shalom congregants can request use of the building with no fee. The forms provide guideline and fee information to others such as non-profit, community, health-related or neighborhood groups that want to use the facility.

Minutes

Minutes from [Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team](#) (SGDT) on 5/8/19 and [Community Life Commission \(CLC\)](#) on 6/11/19.

MennoCon19

Wilma Bailey will be attending the Mennonite Church U.S.A.'s Convention in Kansas City (July 3-6) as the representative from Shalom. The assembly this year will not be resolution driven. Some changes to the bylaws are being proposed, the most exciting and important one being to allow for youth delegates. If the resolution passes, each congregation will be permitted to send one youth delegate (16-21 years of age) in addition to an adult delegate to MCUSA Conventions, each Conference may send two youth delegates and each racial/ethnic group may send two youth delegates in addition to the adult delegates. If you have an opinion about the addition of youth delegates, do let me know. Unless there is a wellspring of opposition in Shalom, I plan to vote in favor of this bylaw change.

The information that is sent to delegates is available for anyone to read on the website: mennoniteusa.org/resource/delegate-resources. There you will find the daily schedule, reports from the church agencies and lists of persons being nominated to serve in church positions.

From the website- "In 2019 we will focus on equipping our church leaders for mission while we discuss major issues of policy and discern next steps for the national conference." In addition, Tom Yoder Neufeld will lead a Bible study each day on the book of Ephesians.

Anyone can attend the Convention. You do not have to be a delegate. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience worship with hundreds and thousands of others, to discover agencies and institutions that serve MCUSA, to learn new skills and gain new knowledge in workshops and seminars, to network with others who share your interests and to fellowship with new and old friends.

Wilma Bailey

MILEPOST #685 Sabbatical

In European history, one of the most important innovations that helped European civilization arise as a global power was the development of the three-field rotation system. This was a

farming technique that vastly increased the food production in Europe. In the three-field system, every farmer divided their land into three parts. They planted wheat or rye in one third of the land, a crop such as peas or beans in another third of the land, and they left the remaining third fallow, which means that nothing was planted there. Then, they would rotate what they planted in each field so that all the fields had a chance to grow wheat, peas, and lay fallow.

To the untrained eye, this might seem like an inefficient way to farm. After all, a whole third of their land that was just sitting there unused! Wouldn't it be more efficient to grow plants on all three parts simultaneously? Yes, planting in all three fields would yield more results in the short run. However, if you continue planting the same crops in the same place year after year, those crops eventually deplete the soil of all of the nutrients it needs to sustain them. So, by leaving the soil fallow for one out of every three years, farmers allowed their land to be regularly replenished so that it could continue producing good crops for many generations. Moreover, because different crops have different effects on the soil, alternating between two different kinds of plants made the soil even more fertile and robust.

The Mennonite Church has recommended that its member congregations engage in a similar practice by granting their long-term pastors sabbatical after every three years. Although this may seem like it puts an unnecessary burden on a church, it is designed to sustain healthy ministry over long periods of time. And I will confess: as much as I have enjoyed my time at Shalom, I can tell that some of my theological sharpness, my compassion, and my energy for ministry is depleting, and so I am grateful that the church has decided to grant me a sabbatical from July to November. I believe that this will replenish me and that it will benefit the church by putting different people in leadership positions I would normally hold, thus bringing a different set of "nutrients" to our congregational "soil."

My plan for my sabbatical time that is to work on four areas of "health" in my life: spiritual/emotional health, physical health, intellectual development, and organization (i.e. creating a healthy environment). For the first two weeks, I have plans to meet with spiritual advisors, institute new spiritual practices, and establish some rigorous eating, sleeping, and exercise routines that will hopefully remain

constant throughout the rest of the sabbatical and beyond. After that, I have divided the rest of the time into two-week increments in which I plan to study a different subject and work on a different organizational project in each increment. For example, one two-week block will be focused on studying parenting techniques (from an Anabaptist perspective) and organizing all of my miscellaneous notes and photos of children in a memorable form. Another two-week block will be spent studying liberation theology and organizing my basement (in this case, it's not as clear what the two things have to do with each other). Anyway, I hope that these intellectual focuses will not only to benefit me personally but contribute to my pastoral leadership, and that my spiritual, physical, and organizational practices will center me in the Spirit and give me more energy and compassion.

Finally, I want to say how grateful I am that you (the congregation) are giving me this opportunity. I recognize that getting a sabbatical is a privilege, and that there are many churches that simply can't afford to offer it to their pastors. Besides this, I recognize that many of you who are in *other* careers could benefit from a sabbatical just as much as I can, but your jobs don't offer that. And so, I see our church's decision to prioritize this "fallow time" for me as both a countercultural witness about how we believe work and rest should be held in tension, and as a gift of love and care for my well-being. Thank you for supporting me in this way.

- Pastor Brian Bither

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
office@shalommennonite.com