

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 12, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Reflecting on Jan. 7: Last Sunday: In his sermon, "Reflections of that Light," Frank Kandel preached on passages in Acts and Ephesians that describe Christians as vessels of the light of Christ. He reminded us that vessels can get clogged if we are not careful about maintaining them, and he introduced our yearly theme of Spiritual Disciples by encouraging us to think about them as practices that allow God to flow through us and speak to us.

This Sunday: This Sunday: Brian Bither will be preaching on the discipline of simplicity, in a sermon entitled, "Laying Aside Every Weight." To prepare, read 1 Samuel 17:1-7, 32-40, 48-50 and Matthew 6:25-33.

Sunday, Jan. 21: Next week, we will be privileged to have Les Gustafson-Zook, the Constituent Relations Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee (Great Lakes) come and bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Prayer Request for Peter and Delicia Bravo-Wigginton:

They have returned to the States with a very hectic schedule, which includes a trip to DC for immigration purposes and medical evaluations for baby Ariana. – Ruth Penner

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
11 am Sunday School

Jan. 13: 8:30am Eastside Creation Care
Jan. 18: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Jan. 24 7am Morning Breakfast Group
Feb. 1: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study
Feb. 4: Fellowship Meal

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Teacher Spots Open:

Sundays are still open to teach our children during Sunday School. Please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer or with questions, talk to Ruth Penner or Martha Yoder Maust.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Mennonite Women Brunch:

Mennonite Women is hosting a brunch and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Kit assembly next Saturday, Jan 20th, at First Mennonite Church (FMC).

They will start at 9:00 a.m. Bring a brunch item to share, no sewing skills necessary (plenty of bags need to have drawstrings put in). There is also a comforter or two that can be knotted.

Giving Corner:

This month and next the giving corner is collecting blankets and comforters for international (new) and local (gently used) use.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Need for a Wired Telephone:

Following our annual lift inspection, we thought it helpful to install a wired telephone inside the lift so anyone can call for assistance if needed. Does anyone have a wired wall

mounted phone that could be used? If so, please contact Jim Showalter. Thanks!

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Pastoral Search Survey:

The Pastoral Team Search committee has emailed a survey to help us discern pastoral needs as we move forward in the search process. This survey will be one of many tools that are utilized as we speak with potential candidates. As a participant at Shalom, we would like for you to complete this survey based upon your perspective and what you feel are the perceived needs at Shalom. Additional details and thoughts are included on the survey.

If you did not receive a survey, copies are available near the church mailboxes.

Please complete the attached survey and return to any member of the search team by January 21: Carol Bixler, Kristen Metzler Wilson, Linda Kandel, Herb Troyer, Brad Sommer

Milepost #299: **NThe Twelve Spiritual Disciplines**

As Frank mentioned in his sermon last Sunday, our church is going to be focusing on spiritual disciplines this year, which are practices that Christians have developed over the centuries to help us cultivate and sustain our relationship with God. There is no official list of "the spiritual disciplines," but one influential writer named Richard Foster wrote a book about them years ago called, *Celebration of Discipline*, in which he groups a number of important spiritual practices into twelve categories. The Discipleship Commission has decided to use his list as a basis for our approach to spiritual disciplines this year, though not in the same order in which Foster presents them. We encourage anyone who wants to study this subject in greater depth to read this book, which will be made available in the near future after we order more copies.

Rather than studying all of the disciplines at the same time, we are going to focus on one per month. Here is the schedule of our emphases for the entire year:

January – Simplicity
February – Confession
March – Fasting
April – Celebration
May – Study
June – Service
July – Prayer
August – Meditation
September – Worship
October – Submission
November – Solitude
December – Guidance

For those of you who have already been practicing one or more of these disciplines for years, as well as those of you who are new to them but who have had eye-opening experiences, we invite you to share your insights and experiences with the congregation. You can do this by sharing a testimony in a worship service, writing a milepost, teaching a Sunday school class to youth or adults, or through another creative venue that may come to mind. Please contact one of the members of the Discipling Commission if you'd like to do this: Martha Yoder Maust, Jay Brubaker, Lynelle Leinbach, or Brian Bither, and they will work with you to find a way for you to share about your insights and experiences.

May God bless as all in 2018 as we seek to know God better with the help of these ancient Christian practices.

- 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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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