

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 12, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, July 8:

We looked closely at the grammatical structure of the Lord's Prayer in an effort to better understand what the phrase, "Your will be done" means. In Greek, this phrase is in the third person imperative, and by saying it we are invoking a reality that we can't control. Despite this, Jesus seems to believe it was very valuable to make this prayer because it invites us to participate in God's reign and God's will, and it is in this context that we are encouraged to make petitionary prayers to God, such as, "Give us this day our daily bread."

This Sunday, July 15:

Brian will continue to preach on the Lord's Prayer by giving special attention to the line, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Next Sunday, July 22:

Wilma Bailey will deliver the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

July 12: Thriving Thursday

July 14: 8:30am Eastside Creation Care Meeting

July 18: (WEDNESDAY) 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

July 19: Thriving Thursday

July 26: Thriving Thursday

July 29: 5th Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #378)

August 5: Potluck (nothing in the oven)

Update on Gemina Trochez:

If you haven't heard the news yet, Judge Phelps, the new judge in Arizona who has presided over Gemina's most recent hearings, granted her a bond of \$17,500, which means that she could be released and allowed to live with her daughters while her appeal for asylum continues if the money could be raised. Earlier this week, our Support Team created a GoFundMe page for Gemina, and at the time I am writing this announcement, that page has already raised about 1/3 of the cost. Furthermore, we recently received the good news that RAICES, an immigration advocacy group based out of Texas is willing to help cover the rest of the bond so long as we make our best fundraising effort by this Sunday. That is great and unexpected news, and it nullifies the need to hold a congregational meeting after church on Sunday (July 15). So, just to clarify, the after-church meeting to discuss Gemina's bond is CANCELLED.
-Pastor Brian Bither

Bither Family Moving:

The Bithers are moving to 5415 N Kenyon Drive, 46226! Please see the volunteer sign-up sheets in the foyer. We'll need packers (6) on Monday, July 16. (Tuesday, July 17, professional movers will take care of large articles.) On Monday, lunch is planned for 12:00 at the "old" house (2423 McLeay, 46220). Box movers, assemblers of beds and desks at the new house and clean up in their current house on McLeay (6) is needed Tuesday. On Tuesday, lunch will be at 1:30 at the "new" home on Kenyon Drive. Also needed: a pick-up truck and driver to take donations to Salvation Army or Goodwill. There will be a food donation sign-up for each day. Work is planned from 10:00-5:00 each day and could be done in shifts. Thank you.

-Linda Kandel and Rose Love

Sanders Family Moving:

Julie and Donald Sanders need help to paint and move into their new home the next two weeks. On July 14th they need volunteers to help paint. Julie, Donald, and Herb Troyer will be at the new house (10916 Trailwood Dr., Fishers, 46038) starting at 9:00am. 3 or 4 volunteers to help paint would be appreciated. We will be done by or before 12:00 and the CLC committee would also like to ask for a volunteer to bring over a light lunch for the crew around 11:30. Please contact Herb Troyer (troyers_hj@hotmail.com or 317-407-6340) if you can help paint or bring lunch. The following Saturday, July 21st, they will rent a truck and need help loading, unloading, and setting things up at their new house. If you could come to their current apartment (6274 Brookline Dr., Indianapolis, 46220) around 9:00am on July 21st to help move that would be great. Please let Herb Troyer know if you can help so that we can offer a light lunch at 12:00 as a thank you for all your help. Again if there is a volunteer who wants to provide some of the meal let Herb know as well so we can plan for the amount of food needed. There will be childcare provided by Joyce Troyer at 112 Glenwood Ln. Fishers. She will keep Liam and any other children but please let her know which children will be coming and any childcare tips. A helper may be needed if many small children need care.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School on July 15:

For our Service Project during the Sunday School hour on July 15, we will be led on a tour of the newly hewn pathway through our little woods next to the church. Tour leaders, Mike and Becky Wigginton, will be pointing out natural features that enhance the woods as well as invasive species that threaten it. Please dress accordingly.

July Sunday School Schedule:

For the month of July, Sunday School will continue to be one inter-generational class for everyone over the age of 2. The schedule for the month is below.

July		
7/15	Community Service in Nature	Frank Kandel
7/22	School Kits	Carol Bixler
7/29	Prayer walk	Marilynn Teel

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

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.

- 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)

Note: There are plenty of rulers for the school kits. Please continue to donate other supplies for the July 22 "stuffing party".

Thriving Thursday:

Thriving Thursday welcomes the Neighborhood into the Shalom Church Family from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 12, 19 & 26. Let Frank know on which of these dates you can be present to help share the love of Jesus.

And guess what? The Neighborhood is joining us for: **A Bench for Caps. ABC** is our summer program to get a new bench for the playground that we share with our neighborhood. Marilyn Teel has the details!

Cookies for Morning Star:

On Saturday, July 14th Morning Star in Muncie will be holding their annual Summer Neighborhood Outreach. If you would be willing to bake cookies for this event, Frank will be glad to deliver them.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Interim Bylaws:

Do you wonder what each Commission is responsible for? Do you need a quick refresher on our new Church structure? We have a document that is serving as our guidelines posted on the Members Page - Church Policy section of the website entitled '2018 Interim Bylaws' that you might find helpful.

Blessings,
Vision and Accountability Team (VAT)

Youth Room Plans:

The Building Committee (formerly Building & Grounds), in conjunction with the Administrative Commission is planning to remodel the Youth Room area, which includes a bathroom and the worship supply storage area. The project includes furnace, drywall, ceiling, lights, recondition doors, and electrical and telecommunication upgrades.

In order to make the space most suitable for future needs, we want to explore long-term plans for the room and how much flexibility it needs to have. Anyone who'd like to participate with input should contact the Administration Commission at admin@shalommennonite.com no later than July 15th.

Milepost #467 – The Gift of Prayer:

Who doesn't love to give and receive gifts? I mean, not "spiritual gifts," but "presents"--those colorfully-wrapped boxes presented to us on special occasions. One of the best--or worst--aspects of gift-giving is the reaction. When you give a gift, you want to see the recipient's face when they open it -- the big smile, the laughter, the delight, the gratitude!

What if the reaction is, well, not what you'd hoped? A little shadow swipes across their face and you think they don't like it, or it isn't what they really wanted. Or, maybe they act all excited and happy, but then you never see the gift again and you wonder, why doesn't she ever wear those earrings I gave her? Or maybe they did appreciate it but got busy and forgot about it, or didn't have time for it, like that book you just knew they'd love but it seems they never got around to reading it! So how do **you** react when you receive a gift? If you are disappointed, do you let it show? I'm afraid I might be guilty of just that, and I deeply regret it, because I know that sinking feeling of giving a gift and then realizing it wasn't the best choice. Well, as the saying goes, "It's the thought that counts." What matters is the intention.

Gift-giving and intention are both key to prayer. As we focus this month on the spiritual discipline of prayer, our sermons are looking intently at "The Lord's Prayer," which Jesus gave us as a gift to teach us how to pray. All prayer is a gift. Because of this gracious gift, we have a way to communicate and commune with the Living Christ!

How do we receive this gift? Do we act all excited and happy about prayer, only to rarely use it? Do we pretend that we really love it--just to be nice and hide our disappointment that it takes time out of our busy day, or it doesn't seem to work properly, or it didn't come with clear enough instructions and is just too hard to do?

Jesus teaches us to give without expecting anything in return (Luke 6:35) because this is how God gives. So we don't react with delight and gratitude to the gift of prayer because it's expected of us, but because we know the intention of infinite and unconditional love with which God gave it.

And when we're not sure how to pray, all that really matters to God is our intention--that we come to God in and with love.

God has given us a variety of beautifully-wrapped presents of prayer, all of which help us find a unique and profound way to communicate and commune with God. Along with the familiar petitionary and conversational forms of prayer, God has given us centering prayer, contemplative prayer, intercessory prayer, praise, practicing the presence of God, and more. Let's open some of these together in the days ahead!
-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.

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 Emily Fox: office@shalommennonite.com