

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

July 18, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, July 14

Gemina preached on “Bartimaeus calls out, Bartimaeus throws off his cloak, Bartimaeus springs up. Gemina reminded us that Bartimaeus got louder when he was told to be quiet because of his faith. He let go of his only small piece of security by throwing off his cloak in the midst of the crowds. He did not go home or off to find his friends. He began to follow Jesus. Text was Mark 10: 46-52.

This Sunday, July 21

Pastor Sabrina Falls will preach on 2 Kings 6:8-23. This is one of the most fascinating stories in the Bible—rich with lessons about fear and faith, blindness and sight, war and peace, enemies and friends. We will explore how God speaks to us through the prophet Elisha and the circumstances facing God’s people in ancient Israel.

Next Sunday, July 28

Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton serve as Ecuador partnership coordinators and also in the church programs with their gifts in music, education, and children’s and youth ministries. They serve with Iglesia Cristiana Anabautista Menonita de Ecuador (ICAME) through the Ecuador Partnership, which includes Iglesia Cristiana Menonita de Colombia and Central Plains Conference.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00am Sunday School

Wed, July 24 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Wed, Aug 14 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Sat, Aug 24 – Bagels and Bards Writing Group, 4pm

Wed, Aug 28 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Natasha Diener Update

A letter from Natasha is attached. Photos, stories, and prayer requests included!

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

Adult Education

July 21: Solar Panel Discussion

July 28: Peter and Delicia – Ecuador

Aug 4: Cheryl and Sam – structure evaluation

Aug 11: Kevin King on Mennonite Disaster Service

Aug 18: Wilma, Rose, and Bob on their trip to Ecuador

Aug 25: Wilma, Jeanne, and Brad on their trip to South Africa

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

Chair: Joyce Troyer

VAT Chair/Vice-Chair transitions

Kudos to Brad Sommer for his pioneering leadership as the initial Chairperson of the Vision and Accountability Team (VAT)! His two years will end August 30, and Jeanne Smucker, the current Vice-Chairperson will assume responsibilities as Chair. That leaves open the Vice-Chair position which is selected by the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) and affirmed by the congregation.

SGDT is pleased to share that Cheryl Martin has accepted our nomination for VAT Vice-Chair. This is a four year term as she will move into the Chair position her third year. During her first two years, her role also includes serving as a member on the SGDT. Please send comments of affirmation or concerns regarding Cheryl Martin as Vice-Chair of the VAT to Joyce

Troyer (troyers_hj@hotmail.com) by Sunday, July 21, 2019.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Brad Sommer

Solar Panel Proposal – Congregational Discussion

The Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) has received a proposal from the Outreach Commission related to the installation of solar panels at Shalom. During the Sunday School hour on July 21st, 2019, VAT is asking people who attend Shalom to meet in the sanctuary and discuss the various aspects of this proposal. Information will be provided during this meeting by several people with time for questions and answers. The funding amount of this proposal will require a vote by the congregation. This vote will be collected two weeks after the July 21st discussion to give people time to think about any additional questions and be provided more information as needed. Please join us at 11am on July 21st for this discussion – all are invited!

--Carl Rhine, VAT member

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

Thriving Thursdays

The last two days of Thriving Thursdays have been cancelled. We will see our neighbors again at the Fall Festival.

Sharing Space

In August, we will be doing school kits for Mennonite Central Committee along with "My Coins Count."

We also have an opportunity to contribute to Family Promise: Bring in gently used clothing in 13-gallon white plastic bags – no shoes, no purses. Each bag equals a \$5 voucher at Goodwill for Family Promise clients.

Fair and Impartial Policing Community Session Opportunities

As one part of its efforts to promote impartial policing, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department provides its personnel with Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) training. This state-of-

the-art training is based on the modern science of bias, recognizing that even well-intentioned individuals have implicit biases that can impact on perceptions and behavior. The FIP Community Training Session brings together community members to (a) learn about the science of implicit bias and the training that the agency is providing to its personnel, (b) reflect on how implicit bias can impact on police personnel and individuals in any walk of life, and (c) discuss skills for police and others to reduce and manage biases. The session will involve discussion and interaction, and participants will learn about the agency's comprehensive efforts to promote fair and impartial policing. The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department will host two community sessions in which community members are encouraged to attend (space is limited). If you would like to register or you have additional questions, please copy and paste one of the following links into your web browser. [Wednesday, August 7, 2019](#) - [Thursday, August 8, 2019](#) -

Evening Gleaning

Register at www.endhunger.org to join the group of volunteers on Monday evenings 7-9pm. The location is on Indy's east side, exact details available after you register.

MCC training

MCC Great Lakes is excited to offer a unique training opportunity for individuals to explore and engage with the legacy of colonialism and understand the intersecting history between Native people and European settlers. Aug 25-27 at Waterford Mennonite and AMBS. Visit www.mcc.org/gl-dod or contact Kelly Shenk Koontz at kellyshenckoontz@mcc.org.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Chair: Laura Harms

Mennonite Publications Access

Wilma Bailey, as our delegate to Mennocon19 has provided the following:

<https://themennonite.org> – This is the website of the periodical known as "The Mennonite." It is an official church publication.

<http://mennoworld.org> – This is the website for the periodical known as the "Mennonite World Review". It is privately owned.

The Mennonite and The Mennonite World Review are going to merge and become one periodical. The new periodical will be independent.

<http://mennoniteusa.org> – is the website for Mennonite Church USA.

Reflections On Pilgrimage

This week my Facebook page resounded with responses to “Go back to where you came from.” A friend with Asian appearance reflected on instances in her life when this had been said to her. A long debate ensued, making it clear that this comment is viewed differently by different people. The statement and debate also prompted my memories of Marcela’s first experience at a summer camp in southern Indiana where adult counselors asked her whether her parents were legal or not. When I first learned about this experience, I tried to downplay it, attributing good intentions to the counselors. Maybe they had never interacted with a Latina and were wondering about her life situation. They probably do see themselves that way. But, I also ask myself: would a counselor ask any other child spending a week away from home whether their parents are criminals? The question made Marcela feel unsafe in a space designed for spiritual exploration. Thankfully, she wasn’t alone at camp and she and her friend could “laugh it off” and give each other some protection. But the unease is still there, years later.

I was interested to learn this week that the federal agency charged with enforcing anti-discrimination laws has determined that such statements are part of what creates a racist environment. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines read: “Ethnic slurs and other verbal or physical conduct because of nationality are illegal if they are severe or pervasive and create an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment...Examples of potentially unlawful conduct include insults, taunting, or ethnic epithets, such as making fun of a person’s foreign accent or comments like, “Go back to where you came from,” whether made by supervisors or co-workers.” The statement is not a harmless one.

I am pleased that Mennonite Church USA has taken an anti-racism stance and offers resources for exploring racism whether hidden or blatant. “Undoing racism and advancing intercultural transformation is one of the seven priorities laid out in [Mennonite Church USA’s Purposeful Plan](#)...The Purposeful Plan states, “Racism, antipathy and alienation among different cultural groups stand in the way of Christ’s kingdom of love, justice and peace. As missional communities we will seek to dismantle individual and systemic racism in our church. We will also seek to develop intercultural competence, which means that we intend to heal racial divisions, learn to live and work in a multicultural context, and value all the gifts of God’s diverse people....” (<http://mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/undoing-racism/> as viewed on 7/18/2019). Our family feels welcome and valued at Shalom. I hope we can continue the hard work of examining hidden places within ourselves and stretching ourselves to respond to racism and discrimination around us.

--by Laura Harms

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, (on sabbatical July – Nov 2019); 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, Rod Maust, Brian Bither

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