

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 27, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, September 23:

This Sunday was Peace Sunday. Following the lead of Mennonite World Conference, we focused on the theme, "A renewed peace church welcomes the stranger." Brian preached on the subject of Christian internationalism, using Isaiah 60:1-11 as the central text.

### This Sunday, September 30:

This Sunday (9/30), we will face the reality that the church - in addition to being a divine community is a human institution, and that one of the needs that we face as an institution is for people to volunteer to do the work that keeps the church running. But how should we recruit those volunteers? What responsibility do each of us have to volunteer? And what does all of this have to do with spiritual gifts? Pastor Brian will wrestle with these questions in a sermon that looks to both the "already" and the "not yet" dimensions of God's new social order.

### Next Sunday, October 7:

Next Sunday is World Communion Sunday.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### House warming open house for the Sanders:

Come and see Julie, Donald, and Liam's new house. No presents needed. Come and go as you will like; it's an open house!

Saturday Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-8pm

10916 Trailwood Drive  
Fishers, IN 46038

## Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Sept 30 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #432), 6:30-8pm

Oct 4 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm

Oct 7 – Potluck after church

Oct 10 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Oct 13 – Memorial Service for Florence Bucher, 3:30pm

Oct 14 – Wilma Cender visits

Oct 18 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm

Oct 19 – Worship Commission meeting, 10am @ Showalter's

Oct 20 – Sexual Assault Awareness Training @ Shalom, 9:30-11:30am

Oct 21 – CropWalk

Oct 24 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Nov 3 – Church Retreat @ Jameson Camp

Nov 17 – Fall Clean-Up, 8-12

### Fifth Sunday Hymn Sing:

Join us from 6 - 8:30 pm this Sunday in the sanctuary for our 5th Sunday Hymn Sing. We are ready for hymn #432. It would be great to have a larger crowd, but it will happen with whoever comes!

### Shower for Baby Shenk:

Anne and Phil Shenk will have a baby shower on Saturday, October 27 at Morning Star Church, the Mennonite Church in Muncie, where they live. More information will be forthcoming as details are worked out.

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

### September Sunday School Schedule:

Starting Sept 9, there will be two adult classes:

--Jeanne and Wilma will lead a discussion of the Pathways study guide, part of Mennonite Church USA's Journey Forward process. The study guide is available at:

[http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pathways\\_Study\\_Guide\\_Final.pdf](http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pathways_Study_Guide_Final.pdf)

This class will meet in the adult classroom downstairs.

--Kim will facilitate a sermon discussion class at the back of the sanctuary.

## OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Crop Walk:

Continue to consider participating in Crop Walk, Oct. 21, either as a donor or a walker. Right now I have given out 6 walker envelopes; we had 10 walkers last year. The envelopes will continue to be available through Oct. 14.

Thanks, Mary Albrecht

### T-Shirts for Ecuador:

Joyce and Herb are making a trip to Ecuador and will have room to take T-shirts to Delicia and Peter. They use them in the refugee program. The folks make them into bags, so old Medium or larger, not overly worn or with holes. Bring them to Herb and Joyce this Sunday, September 30th.

### MEDA Convention:

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) is holding its annual conference at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis on November 8-11. Several church members from First and Shalom will be on the conference schedule including Shannon Dycus, Lali Hess and Dan Hess. The theme for the conference is "Roads to Enduring Livelihoods." Registration information at [medaconvention.org](http://medaconvention.org).

### Giving Corner:

For September we are starting a new project with Teachers Treasures. A wish list can be found on their

website: <http://www.teacherstreasures.org/>

Thank you for all the donations this month for Teachers' Treasures.

In October our project is Infant Care Kits for Mennonite Central Committee.

**Contents (NEW items only, sizes 3-12 months)**

- 3 gowns/sleepers (flannel or similar warm, soft material)
- 3 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- 1 receiving blanket (lightweight fleece or flannel, minimum 30 in x 30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy-duty safety pins
- 1 large bar mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

### My Coins Count:

We want to thank all the children and adults at **Shalom Mennonite** for your generosity and enthusiasm in supporting My Coins Count this year at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS) with your contribution of **\$242.11**. Together, with matches from local businesses, MyCC raised over **\$130,000**, helping families gain access to life-giving water.

When water is available, children are better fed and are healthier. Families can garden and generate income to pay education and/or medical expenses. Communities have less conflict over scarce resources. One mother gratefully shared that having enough food and water prevents her children from becoming thieves in order to survive.

The **Michiana Sale** total this year was over **\$477,000**. Thank you for your work and support of the sale, and for sharing your resources in the name of Christ, so other families can have their basic necessities met through Mennonite Central Committee and our partners around the world. – John Martens, MyCC Coordinator, MMRS

## ADMINISTRATION

### Congregational support systems

#### Pastoral Candidate:

The VAT, Pastoral Team Search Committee, and Brian Bither have met with and will be inviting Wilma Cender, on October 14th, to Shalom so that the congregation can consider her for the 0.5 FTE pastoral position.

Wilma will be bringing the Sunday morning sermon; during the SS hour she will share her faith journey with us. We will then have a noon potluck meal followed by a time of conversation with Wilma where we will encourage questions and discussions with Wilma on a more informal basis.

Then on Oct 21st we will ask for a congregational vote whether to extend an offer to Wilma for the position.

Please remember to continue to lift up this process in prayer as we collectively discern God's continued Vision & Mission here at Shalom.

Wilma's biography is attached with this newsletter.

#### **Milepost #542 – Worship as Offering**

If we were to take a poll at Shalom that posed the question, "What part of the Sunday morning worship services do you find the most meaningful?" I imagine that we would get a few different responses. Some people would likely identify the music as the key way in which they connect with God at church. Others might point to the preaching. Still others might mention the prayer and sharing time. But I would be surprised if anyone identified the offering as the most meaningful part of the worship service. In fact, for many of us, the passing of the offering plates is the most uncomfortable part of the service. It's uncomfortable either way: we feel a bit embarrassed if we don't have anything to put in it that week, or we feel a bit "showy" if we

do. Nevertheless, we recognize that it as a necessary part of the service because it is how the church pays its bills (not to mention staff), but it doesn't necessarily stand out to us as an act of worship.

The irony is that the offering is perhaps the oldest and most straightforward form of worship in the entire service. If we consider the original model of worship in the Bible, it was not one of people gathering around to sing or to read the Scriptures or to ask God for healing – although these things did happen occasionally. Instead, the original form of worship that the Bible describes was the sacrificial system: one in which people brought the firstfruits of their crops and livestock and *offered* them to God. This system was set up before there was a money economy in Israel, and so this was the way in which people offered their *wealth* to God, making it the predecessor of our practice of passing the offering plate today.

Now, the sacrificial system was established early in the Bible, most prominently in the book of Leviticus. However, as the Biblical narrative moved on, the prophets began to expand the idea of what *offering* meant. They spoke about the importance of offering not just a portion of our wealth at the altar but our entire lives in pursuit of God's will. For someone to offer their cattle to God but to treat their neighbors with disregard or disrespect was considered hypocritical. The New Testament further expands our understanding of an offering but expanding it to include actions such as praising God, prayer, and working for God. Indeed, the New Testament teaches us that we can worship God in anything we do, so long as the actions we perform are intended to be an offering to God. As Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, let us present our bodies as living offerings to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."

So let us remember that – at its foundation – worship is about offering ourselves to God. Let us allow the offering plate to remind us of this, so that – even if we don't have money to put in it – we use it as a reminder to offer our thoughts, our attention,

our dreams and ambition, and work and rest and relationships to God in an act of worship.  
-Pastor Brian Bither

*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.*

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

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Emily Fox: [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)