

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 30, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, August 23:

Jeanne Smucker preached from II Kings 4:1-7. She focused on the idea that while there are ways to facilitate meditation, sometimes meditation is just being open to the infilling of God's spirit. We come as empty vessels to be filled by a generous God.

### This Sunday, September 2:

Sabrina Falls will deliver the message. Since it will be the first Sunday of a new month, we will be starting on a new spiritual discipline focus: "Worship." The scripture text will be John 4:1-26. Those who would like to reflect more deeply on worship this coming week are encouraged to read chapter 11 of Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* and/or read the following scriptures: Hebrews 9; Deut 6:13-14, 10:12ff; Micah 6:6-8; Isaiah 1:11-17; Amos 5:21-24; Romans 12:1-2.

### Next Sunday, September 9:

We will have a special look back at what God has done in our congregation over the past year.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Church Retreat:

Mark your calendars for our Church Retreat on November 3, 9:00-4:00. Our resource person will be Dan Hess who will guide us in story telling. Those of you who attended adult SS last Sunday got a little preview! More info later.

### Save the Date:

Fall Clean-Up will be held on Nov. 17 from 8-12. (rain date of Dec. 1) More details to come!

### Calendar

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

Sept 6 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm  
Sept 12 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am  
Sept 16 – Fall Festival, 5-7pm  
Sept 20 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm  
Sept 26 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am  
Sept 30 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #432), 6:30-8pm  
Oct 20 – Sexual Assault Awareness Training @ Shalom, 9:30-11:30am  
Nov 3 – Church Retreat @ Jameson Camp  
Nov 17 – Fall Clean-Up, 8-12

### Living Things Team:

Our grounds need our care and attention! A Living Things Team is forming to coordinate maintenance of our green spaces. The Living Things Team will convene under the umbrella of the Administration Commission and alongside the Building Team to plan for grounds care, implement projects, and inspire participation. Please consider giving leadership and service to Shalom by caring for our grounds. Contact Laura to be a part of the team. [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com)

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

### September Sunday School Schedule:

There will be no Sunday school on Sept. 2 (Labor Day weekend).

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.

- Several people to grill the meat
- Several people to bring relish dishes
- Four people to staff the serving line
- Several people to help set up
- Several people to help clean up and put things away

If you can help with any of this, let Frank Kandel know [kandel93@gmail.com](mailto:kandel93@gmail.com) or text or call 309-532-2859

## OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

### Outreach Commission:

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is pleased to announce that Brad Yoder was affirmed for the position of Chair of the Outreach Commission. Mil Penner and Marilyn Teel will continue as members of the Outreach Commission.

### Fall Festival:

For **Fall Festival on Sunday, September 16, 5-7 p.m.** we are inviting the Thriving Thursday kids and everyone in the neighborhood to join us for an evening of Fun, Food, & Fellowship. This event provides not only a good opportunity for us to get to know our neighbors better, but also a time when the neighbors can become better acquainted with each other. At Fall Festival we plan to chronicle the highlights from Thriving Thursdays and to dedicate the new 100% recycled park bench for our playground. In the event of rain, the Festival will be held in the Fellowship Hall. We are trying to keep the food simpler this year so most of it will be provided but we do need:

- Several people to help with the games/recreation
- Several people to bring their gas grills

### Crop Walk:

The annual Greater Indianapolis CropWalk to help stamp out hunger, locally and globally, is scheduled for Oct. 21. Mary Albrecht will again be the contact person. We encourage you to support this as you have for many years. Please consider walking that day (envelopes available on Sept. 16.) or donating to another walker if you are unable to walk yourself.....more details soon.

### RAICES:

The Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) is the only nonprofit organization in the country that works directly with and provides legal services to children, adults and families detained in federal custody. In 2017, it closed 51,000 cases with free legal representation.

In response to the separation of more than 2000 immigrant children from their parents at the US border, hundreds of people created social media fundraisers for RAICES. One viral fundraiser donated more than \$20 million. Although the millions of dollar sounds like a lot of money, they said the reality is that it gets eaten up fast when dealing with things like attorney fees, paying bond and transportation costs.

The interesting fact to note is that RAICES began as a grassroots organization and has a long term relationship with Mennonite Voluntary Service and San Antonio Mennonite Church. In 1990, the organization initially offered services like clothing, medical care and shelter to immigrants fleeing civil wars in Central America.

The most interesting note is that RAICES donated the bond money needed for Gemina's release from the Eloy Detention Center!

#### Peace Sunday:

The Mennonite World Conference is inviting congregations to observe Peace Sunday together with brothers and sisters in the global Anabaptist church family on September 23, 2018.

The theme for this year's Peace Sunday is: "A Renewed Peace Church Welcomes the Stranger." Throughout the biblical narrative we encounter a God who reminds his people to show hospitality to others, especially those who are the most vulnerable in society – the widow, the orphan, and the alien.

Worship and resource materials that your churches may want to use in celebrating Peace Sunday are available at [www.mwc-cmm.org](http://www.mwc-cmm.org)

#### Giving Corner:

We are just finishing up Mennonite Central Committee School Kits. For September we are starting a new project with Teachers Treasures. A wish list can be found on their website: <http://www.teachertreasures.org/>

#### My Coins Count:

Children will be collecting change from the congregation for Mennonite Central Committee's "My Coins Count" program. We have a large water jug to fill before the Relief Sale in September.

#### A Bench for Caps:

Our A Bench for Caps project is progressing nicely! Our youth have begun to enthusiastically sort the plastics. Weighing the plastics will follow. We are in the final stretch of collecting and need everyone to help us meet our goal of 200 pounds of plastic caps and lids! We have a delivery date set with Green Tree Plastics in Evansville on Friday, September 7! At that same time, we will pick up our bench for the playground! A dedication of the bench will happen at Shalom's Fall Fest on September 16. We can do this with your help!

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems

#### Pastoral Search Update:

The PTSC is in conversation with a potential candidate for the 0.5 FTE pastoral position. Please pray that all involved will feel the Spirit's presence during this discernment process. - Brad Sommer (Chair), Carol Bixler, Linda Kandel, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, & Herb Troyer

#### **Milepost #514 – A Bench for Caps**

Last Sunday Jeanne Smucker based her sermon on II Kings 4:1-7, the story about the widow who was destitute, having nothing left in her house "except a little oil". Elisha the Prophet advised her to "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars...don't ask for just a few. Then go inside, shut the door behind you...Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side...They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. When all the jars were full, she said, 'Bring me another one.' But her son replied, 'There is not a jar left.' Then the oil stopped flowing.

A woman named Marilyn said, "If we can collect 400 pounds of plastic bottle caps we can get a 100% recycled bench for the playground." Someone said to Marilyn, "Do you have any idea how many bottle caps it takes to make 400 pounds?" Marilyn said, "Yes I do. I have done it before, and WE can do it again!" And Marilyn went on to enlist the

support of the Congregation, the Neighborhood, Northview Church of the Brethren, and the Children of the Church. And just when the going got tough, we got Good News from Green Tree Plastics in Evansville: "You only need to collect 200 pounds of plastic caps to get your 100% recycled bench." "Yeah" shouts Marilyn, "WE are going to make it!"

Visit your neighbors and your co-workers and bring lots of plastic caps this Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marilyn Teel and Mike Wigginton are planning to take our allotment of plastic caps to Green Tree Plastics on September 7<sup>th</sup> and bring home the bench for the playground.

When there were no empty jars left, the oil stopped flowing. Lord, give us oil for our lamp.

-Pastor Frank Kandel

*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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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

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