

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 20, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, April 15:

Frank preached about Jesus' compassionate words to Thomas after Thomas had doubted him. He said: "Reach out your hand and touch me." This symbolic action, of reaching out to people and touching their lives, is life-altering. Is Jesus still reaching out to each of us?

This Sunday, April 22:

Herb Troyer will bring the message.

Next week, April 29, we will have a special service of celebration, in which congregational members will share their testimonies.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Update from Peter and Delicia in Ecuador:

Violence from southern Colombia has spilled over into Ecuador. The government of Ecuador announced on April 13 that it would send military forces into the area in coordination with the Colombian military. In response, the Mennonite Church in Ecuador has issued a proclamation for peace, calling all "to unite in prayer that resists violence" and to work for a permanent peace. Read more in Peter and Delicia's weblog <https://wiggipe.wordpress.com/2018/04/15/a-call-to-prayer/> and join your prayers to theirs.

Robert Coleman has moved!

Robert has moved into his new apartment at the Lawrence Senior Apartments. He is excited and says he does not ever want to move again. We need to provide transportation for him to and from church. The Apartments are located at [8301 E. 46th St., Apt. 101](#). It is an old high school building that

has been turned into apartments. He will be using the east side ground level entrance. I will try to coordinate transportation. If you are interested and willing to help with this on a somewhat rotating basis, please reply to me. When I have names, I will contact those interested and work out a schedule. – Cheryl Martin

## Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Apr. 19: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Apr. 25: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Hymn Sing

May 3: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

May 9: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Safety training:

This past Sunday we had a church safety training session focusing on preventing child sexual abuse. Anyone who is involved with the children and youth in any way (teaching Sunday school, mentoring, etc.) is asked to go through an annual training. If you missed the session you may access it online at [www.safechurch.com](http://www.safechurch.com) The login is in the upper left corner. Our username is Shalom 6100 and our password is shalom12. (There's a space before the number in both of those.) Click on Training and find the ACT videos for children's and youth ministry. Learn more on our website: <https://www.shalommennonite.com/church-policies>

Sunday school schedule:

- April 22-May 20 there will be two adult classes;
  1. Jay will lead an academic study of

Psalms, complete with homework. This is your opportunity to put into practice the discipline of study.

2. Joyce Troyer will lead a gifts discernment class. If you are not already in a small group that has been focusing on gifts discernment, this is a good opportunity to learn more about your own gifts.

- May 27--Memorial Day weekend, no SS

## OUTREACH

### Relationships beyond Shalom

April 28 Poor People's Campaign Gathering:  
Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. This is a national campaign to bring marginalized people's voices to the forefront modeled after a similar campaign that formed in the civil rights era. A gathering will be held in Indianapolis on Saturday, April 28 from 12-5 at Northwood Christian Church, [4550 N. Central Ave.](#) Check out their information at [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org) or talk to Laura Harms for more information.

#### I Choose Peace Fund:

As a historic peace church, we are committed to Jesus' teachings that violence is not a solution. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.

Our spiritual ancestors were martyred for this belief. Maybe you, or someone you know, were mistreated for living this out as a conscientious objector.

Mennonite Mission Network and the Peace and Justice Support Network ([PJSN](#)) are calling for all of our supporters to give to embrace peace. From April 16–20, we are seeking donations to the **[I Choose Peace fund](#)**.

This campaign seeks to support peace work around the world, and to give those of us committed to peace a way to offset our taxes that support war.

Billions of dollars are still paying for a war that we're still fighting in Iraq. Will you be one of the 100 donors needed to raise \$10,000 for the work of PJSN, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and other peace organizations?

Follow [Mennonite Mission Network on Facebook](#) to learn more about acts of peace, your taxes, and the work of [Mennonite Mission Network](#) and the [Peace and Justice Support Network](#).

All donors to this campaign will receive a peace pin as a way for you to publicly show your support for the work of peace.

## ADMINISTRATION

### Congregational support systems

MCC Summer Opportunity with SWAP:  
MCC's SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) home repair program has summer positions open in both West Virginia and Kentucky. The assignments run from May 30 – approximately August 11. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but positions are not limited to young adults. More information about SWAP and an application are available at [swap.mcc.org](http://swap.mcc.org) or by calling 606-633-5065. In both positions, an exceptional 18-year-old might be considered. A stipend, room and board and travel expenses are provided.

#### Milepost #390: **Thanks, but...**

Whenever I find myself in a heated conversation, I try to be careful about what words I use. For I believe that it is possible for conversations – even heated conversations – to lead to mutual understanding, compromise, or even healing. Indeed, conversation is one of the best tools that peacemakers have to do the work of reconciliation. However, I also recognize that it's possible for people to come out of a tense conversation feeling more bitter and damaged than they were going into it. Often, when a conversation goes bad, it is because someone used an inflammatory word

or phrase that triggered a negative emotional reaction in the other person. This is one of the reasons why the Bible urges us to be careful how we speak.

So I make an effort not to use inflammatory words. Nevertheless, despite my best efforts, I still use words from time to time that unnecessarily offend people. Not too long ago, someone pointed out that there is one word I use quite frequently in disagreements and tense conversations that triggers a negative response in others: the word “but.” They pointed out that I make several comments along these lines: “I appreciate that, but...” and “I hear what you’re saying, but...” and explained to me that the “but” invalidates the positive things I said in the first half of those sentences. That person was right. When I say things like, “I appreciate that, but...” it means that I’m not really appreciating it. Perhaps I am acknowledging that the other person did something good at some level, but that is not true gratitude. True gratitude entails a recognition of how fortunate you are that someone had done something for you. When I am focused on what was not done correctly or what I need, then I am not truly grateful, and that comes out in the phrase, “Thanks, but...”

Since receiving that constructive criticism, I’ve come to realize that much of my prayer life takes a “Thanks, but...” form as well. I thank God for the blessings in my life, but this is often just the preamble that I am running through in order to get to the petitions, the aspects of my life or the world that I want God to change. In some ways, that really undermines my words of thanksgiving at the beginning. It is a “Thanks, but...” prayer.

The spiritual discipline of celebration calls on us to thank God for the good gifts in our lives and to truly be grateful for them. If nothing in your life or your world were to change, would you be able to thank God for what you have? This gets us closer to the thankfulness that the Scriptures encourage us to seek. Psalm 86:12- 13 says, “I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.” Thanking God with your whole heart means being totally immersed in gratitude with no

exceptions or expectations attached. It doesn’t mean that we can’t ask for anything, but it means our gratitude shouldn’t be dependent on something else. We shouldn’t be holding back our praises until God gives us what we really need. Let’s thank God wholeheartedly for what we already have – no ifs, ands, or buts about it!

- 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](mailto:shalommennonite.com)

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