

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 28, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, February 24:

We discussed a major feature of Jesus' ministry: casting out demons. At first, this topic seems incongruent with our experience, but a closer look reveals that the ancient Jews and Christians used demons as a way of describing the invisible and pervasive spiritual forces that influenced their lives. Indeed, we still have such "demons" that plague our society today. Luke 8:26-39.

This Sunday, March 3:

We will study Luke 9, which most Biblical scholars consider to be the turning point in the gospel narrative. Although Jesus continues to "proclaim and bring the good news" wherever he goes, he also begins to talk about the cross as the gateway to Jubilee. Luke 9:18-27.

Next Sunday, March 10:

We will look Luke 10:1-20 and see many of the themes we have discussed so far come together in the biggest preaching "campaign" that Jesus commissioned during his earthly life: the sending of the seventy disciples.

Iglesia Amigos, March 9 and 10:

All Shalom members are invited to participate in their Church Inauguration celebration, which will be held at Shalom on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

March 3 – Carry-In meal after Sunday School
March 4 – "Roving Office" 10:30am to 3:30pm;

Pastor Brian will be available for walk-in chats at Del Liva coffee shop in Fishers (8220 E 106th St, Suite 200, Indianapolis)

March 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

March 9 – Eastside Creation Care; 8:30am

March 11 – "Roving Office" 10:30am to 3:30pm - Panera on the northwest side of Indy (6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis)

March 13 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

March 18 – "Roving Office" 10:30am to 3:30pm - McDonald's on the southeast side of Indy (7822 Brookville Rd, Indianapolis)

March 24 – Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

March 25 - No Roving Office Hours

March 27 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

April 21 – Easter Breakfast 8am

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner:

Looking for something to do on a Sunday evening? How about something with a little bit of mystery? If so, please sign up for our annual Guess Who's Coming to Dinner event. Dinner will be March 24, 2019 at 6:00pm. Sign-up sheets are in your mailbox. Please complete and return to Angie Buller by Sunday, March 10.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Giving Corner:

In March, the emphasis will be on pasta for Second Helpings. This is in addition to the regular food pantry items for Morning Star, Muncie.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC):

MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) program is seeking volunteer groups and individuals. Summer will be here before we know it, so make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky or West Virginia.

Don't miss out on your chance to serve with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Groups or individuals can volunteer to serve for week-long opportunities. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP, visit swap.mcc.org or contact Angela Maggard at AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.

Climate Camp:

Youth have the opportunity to attend Climate Camp on Sat., March 23, a program of Earth Charter Indiana and held at Downey Christian Church. www.earthcharter.org for more info.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Sewer Work: A letter was emailed to the congregation regarding unexpected expenses due to a sewer back-up problem that started last Sunday. Copies available near the mailboxes for anyone that does not receive all-church emails.

Administrative email:

Please email office@shalommennonite.com with

- Commission minutes
- Calendar updates
- Requests to reserve the facilities for outside events
- Announcements (deadline Thurs at noon)

Minutes:

Outreach and Community Life Commission minutes are updated on the website.

Milepost #670 Train Up a Child

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it. Proverbs 6:22

Neuroscience is teaching us that our brains are very moldable—that the pathways of our mind are formulated and re-formulated by what we think and by what we do. This reminds me of several sayings: “Practice makes perfect” and “Garbage in, garbage out.”

It is said that during the first five years of life, children's brains are especially moldable. And yet, it's never too late. Even though they say, “You can't teach an old dog new tricks,” Jesus told Nicodemus that “you must be born again.” God calls us to change. The first words out of Jesus' mouth in the Gospel of Mark call for change: ... Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. **Repent** and believe the good news!” (Mark 1). “Repent” comes from the Greek word *metanoia*, which means one experiences a transformative change. As an older person I can be thankful that change is possible. In Revelation 21:5, the One seated on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Yesterday, Michael Cohen said on national TV that he has become a new person. Some want to believe that he is no more than a convicted liar, but he says he has changed and has become a new person. In Psalm 51 we find David repentant, calling for God's mercy: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love... blot out my transgressions... cleanse me from my sin... Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. God never gives up on us no matter how old we are. It is always possible to turn over a new leaf. And yet, isn't it wonderful that we are given the opportunity to interact with children who come to us with a clean slate. Jesus embraced the children. ¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Isn't it wonderful that God is not only giving us opportunity to relate to the children in our neighborhood (i.e. Thriving Thursdays), but is also giving us a whole new gaggle of children and youth from within.

Let us embrace the mission God sets before us, for God will make *all* things new—even the old!

Frank Kandel, Pastor for Outreach

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

Pastoral Team: Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320, 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