

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

November 15, 2018

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

### Last Sunday, November 18:

Pastor Sabrina Falls further explored the spiritual disciple of solitude by engaging Exodus 33:7-23 and Luke 5:12-16. We found that when we practice solitude as a spiritual practice, we are the least alone because it is where we come into communion with God, and in that we come closest to one another as well.

### This Sunday, November 25:

Bob Brown, Pastor at First Mennonite, will bring the message. His texts will be Psalm 46 and Matthew 14:13-14. As we seek solitude, our worries will follow us. Solitude isn't a simple escape from our struggles, fears and anxieties - it is actually an opportunities to engage with them more directly. Solitude allows us to experience the reality that wherever we go, there we are. A quiet place may force us to wrestle with our own demons, instead of worrying about everyone else's.

### Next Sunday, December 3:

As the first Sunday of Advent, Thad Wilson will bring the message.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

### Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Nov 28 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Dec 6 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Dec 9 – Pastoral Search Discussion during Sunday School hour

Dec 9 – Congregational Budget Meeting after Sunday School

Dec 12 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Dec 20 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Dec 26 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

### Membership Exploration Class:

Are you new or newish to Shalom? Would you like to learn more about who the Mennonites are, what the different Mennonite acronyms mean (MCC, MDS, MMN, etc.), and how Shalom works? Pastor Brian is preparing to hold a "Membership Exploration" class in January and February of 2019 for anyone who would like to learn more about these subjects or consider getting more involved at Shalom. If you have interest, please email him at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com).

### Fall Work Day Thank You:

THANK YOU to the more than 25 volunteers who contributed to our Fall Work Day accomplishments. If you have feedback to help in future planning, please share with Laura Harms, [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com).

### Retreat Follow Up:

Thank you to all who participated in our annual retreat at Jameson Camp. And we want to give a special thanks to Dan Hess, who helped us develop our skills in storytelling, and to Gemina Trochez, who donated and prepared our delicious lunch. About 30 people participated in our post-retreat survey. Responses showed strong support for continuing our tradition of an annual, all-church retreat, and for holding our retreat at Jameson Camp. We have therefore reserved Jameson Camp for Saturday, November 2, 2019. Please let any of the CLC members know if you are willing to help plan our 2019 retreat.

#### Spanish Interpretation Interest:

Worship Commission is looking into offering Spanish interpretation of our services and an adult Sunday School class. We would welcome feedback of interest within our congregation, and/or suggestions of organizations that would be recommended to contact. This would be a paid position and could easily be shared with multiple persons. Please let one of the Worship Commission members know if this is something you would be interested in. Linda Showalter, Brittany, Bither, Grace Rhine

#### Christmas Eve Service:

We are planning a joint Christmas Eve service with First Mennonite this year. If you would be interested in helping plan for this service, please let one of the Worship Commission members know, and we'll include you on the planning meeting. We would also like to provide refreshments after the service to allow time for additional conversation and fellowship with our sister church members. If you have an interest in helping with that, also let one of us know. Linda Showalter, Grace Rhine, Brittany Bither

#### Christmas Banquet:

The Christmas Banquet will be held at Shalom this year on Saturday, December 15. Before it begins, you are invited for Christmas caroling in the neighborhood at 5:15pm, and then to come back for appetizers (open to everyone) at 6:15pm. The meal begins at 6:30pm. Invite your friends and family to this rich Shalom tradition!

### **DISCIPLING**

Growing in our relationships

#### Sunday School Schedule:

- Nov 2--no SS
- Dec. 2 -- Abd-ARahman Kharousha will share about life in Palestine (youth will join the adults)
- Dec. 9--Pastoral Search Committee will have a time of debriefing with the congregation
- Dec. 16--Christmas hymnsing
- Dec 23 and Dec 30--no SS

### **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

#### Eastern Star Church:

Eastern Star Church has recently invested \$5M in our east side community, including affordable housing and a grocery store. To assist in the project, Eastern Star was the recipient of a \$50,000 grant through the 2018 Faith & Action Project (Christian Theological Seminary). The ROCK Fresh Market, one of the only grocery stores in the neighborhood federally declared a food desert, had its grand opening in August. It's location is Sunstone at Arlington Woods, 5620 E. 30th Street. Let's support this local initiative. Be sure to stop by and pick up some of your fresh produce and grocery needs!

ROCK Fresh Market Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-6pm; Saturday 8am-6pm; Sunday 9am-4pm.

#### Giving Corner:

Thank you for all the extra food you have been bringing during November for the Food Pantry at Morning Star in Muncie.

Phil Shenk will be picking the Food up on Tuesday, November 27th so **you can still bring items on this Sunday**, the 25th. They appreciate items like canned vegetables and fruits, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, instant potatoes, cereal, peanut butter, etc. You may place your donated food items in plastic tub in Shalom's '**Giving Corner**' in the southeast corner of the sanctuary.

This month, in addition to food pantry items, we are collecting mittens and caps.

#### Passing of Rene Reyes:

Rene Alberto Reyes, the brother of Carlos Reyes (the friend whom Gemina and her daughters are living with) passed away this past week. His funeral service will be held at Legacy Cremation and Funeral Services on Monday, November 26 from 12pm to 2pm. The family appreciates Shalom's support during this difficult time.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Congregational support systems**

#### Iglesias Amigos Update:

Jim Showalter, Laura Harms, and Frank Kandel recently met with leaders of Iglesias Amigos about their use of the Shalom Church Building. Iglesias Amigos tentatively plans to begin using the Shalom Church Building in February. In the meantime, we continue to work out the details of this arrangement. We will keep the congregation informed as plans progress. - Frank Kandel, for the Administration Commission

#### Announcements:

Emily Fox will no longer be putting the newsletter (Journeying Together) or bulletin together. ALL announcements for either publication should be sent to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by Thursday at noon.

#### Pastoral Search Process:

On December 9th during the Sunday school hour the Pastoral Team Search Committee would like to have further discussion regarding our pastoral search process. We want to hear further what you believe God desires in the pastoral team for Shalom.

We plan to review the process and then have conversations regarding our path forward as it relates to future pastoral candidates. Please join us on the 9th as we collectively experience God's love and guidance.

#### **Milepost #597**

##### **The Discipline of Giving Thanks**

This year, we have been studying the twelve spiritual disciplines that Richard Foster identified in his book, Celebration of Discipline. The book is very helpful for exploring some great Christian disciplines, but it's important to remember that this is not a comprehensive list. There are other spiritual disciplines that Foster does not mention, and one of the most significant ones that comes to my mind is the discipline of giving thanks.

It is somewhat odd for us to think about "thanksgiving" as a discipline in the United States, because our culture puts a lot of emphasis on authenticity, and so many people believe that thankfulness should be something that springs spontaneously from the soul rather than something that is practiced or performed. However, thankfulness will only "spring from the soul" if we have trained our souls to produce it. Unfortunately, it is part of our fallen nature to start to feel entitled about the blessings we have received as time goes on. Knowing this, the Bible seeks to correct this habit by teaching us to practice thanksgiving regularly, whether we "feel like it" or not. Here are a few key examples:

The entire book of Psalms could be listed as an example, because it calls on us to thank, praise, and bless the Lord over and over again. Psalm 118:24 encourages us to acknowledge that every day "is the day that the Lord has made, [so] let us rejoice and be glad in it." Inspired by this, many Christians have opted the habit of saying, "Thank you, God, for a new day" as soon as they wake up. Psalm 100:4 tells us, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." This calls on God's people to bring a spirit of gratitude with them to their worship experiences. It doesn't mean that we can't ever be somber or discouraged or have prayer requests, but even in the context of these, we can remember all that God has done for us. Similarly, Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Even our urgent prayer requests and supplications should be attached to an awareness of all that God has done to and for us. Taking this idea one step further, Paul teaches the Thessalonian Christians to "give thanks in all circumstances." This does NOT mean praising God for everything that happens to us, but which teaches us to look for the light of God even in the darkest places. The overriding point here is that our lives should be rooted in a thankful appreciation of what God has done for us.

One of the reasons why I like Thanksgiving is because it is a national holiday in which Americans are encouraged to practice the

discipline of thanksgiving at least once per year. As a nation that prides itself on hard work and personal achievement, what a blessing it is that we have a day of gratitude built into our national calendar. May we make the most of it by re-steeping ourselves in gratitude for all that God has done for us.

*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 [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com)