

# Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

October 17, 2019

## WORSHIP

Our relationship with God  
Chair: Linda Showalter

### Last Sunday, Oct 13

Frank Kandel will preach on "Digging in our Heels" from 1 Samuel 17:3 and Ephesians 2:13. By dependence on God's help, we disarm our tribalism and extend an open hand to our enemies.

### This Sunday, Oct 20

Frank will preach from Genesis 25:20-28 and Romans 11: 25-36. In the push and pull of life, we want to "grab" to get ahead, but God shows preference to invite the outside in.

### Next Sunday, Oct 27

Eric Kurtz, Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee, Great Lakes will visit, offering reflections during worship and an adult Sunday School class.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom  
Chair: Linda Kandel

### Calendar

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

Wed, Oct 23 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Sat, Nov 2 – All Church Retreat at Jameson Camp, 8:30am start

Thurs, Nov 7 – Meal 6:30pm; Bible study, 7-8

Sun, Nov 10 – All Commissions Budget

Meeting, noon

Wed, Nov 13 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Fri, Nov 15 – Eastside Creation Care Film  
Night, 6pm

Thurs, Nov 21 – Meal, 6:30; Bible study, 7-8

Sat, Nov 23 – Fall Work Day

Wed, Nov 27 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Sun, Dec 8 – Congregational Budget Approval  
Meeting, 12noon

Sat, Dec 14 – Christmas Banquet

### Church Retreat – Saturday, Nov 2, 2019

The Community Life Commission is excited about our Shalom retreat on November 2 at Jameson Camp! Our theme is, 'It Takes a Village.' Because we are blessed with many children, it seems helpful to understand and nurture the little ones as well as support parents and SS teachers.

The attached document provides reflection questions that you can begin to think about now to be prepared for our conversations.

Gathering 8:30-9:00

Worship 9:00-9:15

First conversation 9:15-10:15

Second conversation 10:35- 11:35

Lunch 12:00

Afternoon free to hike, play games, visit, etc.

Looking forward to spending time together as a blessed community of believers.

-Linda Kandel

### Continuation of Care for Gemina and family

What a blessing to be a part of surrounding this family with the support they need! For the past 18 months, this fund has been able to distribute monthly financial support to the family. The support group would like to recommend continuing to offer this support at the same level of \$600/month. Please see the attached report and return the pledge sheet.

-Laura Harms

## DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Chair: Martha Yoder

### Next Sunday, 10/27

Eric Kurtz will talk about the work of MCC-Great Lakes. Regular adult classes will not meet.

### My Coins Count

Special thanks to everyone who donated coins during the offering time. This year Shalom raised \$324.51 for the My Coins Count program. That's enough to provide vaccinations for a flock of 25 chickens in Bangladesh, one goat in Haiti, take-home soap for 50 students in Burundi, materials for one community group (25 people) to save crop seeds in Bangladesh, one sow for a family displaced by violence in DR Congo, and two water filters needed for one well in Mozambique. Thanks for sharing.

-Martha Yoder

## **OUTREACH**

Relationships beyond Shalom

Chair: Brad Yoder

### Family Promise

You have the opportunity to serve the homeless at First Mennonite Church on Tuesday, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up for tasks as identified on the sign-up sheet.

-Solomon Abebe

### Eastside Creation Care Network Film Night

Friday, October 18, 7:00pm at Downey Avenue Christian Church in Irvington, the ECCN is showing the film "Courage, Brains, and Muscle." Judy O'Bannon sets out on a road trip around Indiana and finds environmental champions and new pathfinders sparking a revolution of inspired innovation, which can lead us to a safer, healthier tomorrow. Judy O'Bannon will be there too!

-Marilynn Teel

### Nobel Peace Prize

Congratulations to Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and the members of Shalom who have special connections with Ethiopia, on his being honored with the Nobel Peace Prize. After Ahmed was elected last year he immediately began negotiating a peace treaty to end violent conflict with neighboring Eritrea, which he completed within three months. He has also led major reforms to expand human rights, to expand educational opportunities, and to protect the environment. His Green Legacy Tree Planting Program aims to plant 4.7 billion trees. Our Ethiopian partner Meserete Kristos College participated in planting over 350 million trees in one day!

-Brad Yoder

### Indigenous People's Day

We encourage you to think of the federal holiday celebrated the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day (not Columbus Day), to recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples around the Earth. Following Christopher Columbus' invasion of the Caribbean in 1492, he led to the genocide of at least 9 million indigenous people, and we don't think that his actions should be celebrated. Columbus died never knowing about the existence of North America (see James Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me*).

-Brad Yoder

### The State of Health in Our Community

On Saturday, October 19, 8-3:30PM, Martin University, 2186 N Sherman Drive, will host a community forum called "The State of Health in Our Community". It will particularly focus on infant mortality, and mental health. We encourage you to participate.

-Brad Yoder

### Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence

invites you to participate in their annual dinner on Wednesday, October 23, 6:00PM, at All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E 56th Street. The keynote speaker will be State Senator Greg Taylor. Please RSVP with your name(s) to [info@hcgv.org](mailto:info@hcgv.org). There is no charge for the dinner.

-Brad Yoder

### Bike Michiana, 2019

I thank my Shalom friends for your sponsorship of my recent MCC Bike Michiana tour. All contributions, which included friends and family, totaled \$2,782.00. Shalom friends contributed \$1,414.00 of that amount. Thank you for your generosity, which will be directed to help "the least of these, our brothers and sisters" who struggle to escape violence and poverty.

-John Amstutz

### Sharing Space

Thank you for the donations to the Sharing Space. We have 5 infant care kits ready to send to Mennonite Central Committee. Extra sleepers are still needed to complete 5 more. Diapers are not needed. 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 30x30 in, larger sizes preferred)
- 4 large, heavy duty safety pins
- 1 large bar of mild soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 cap

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Congregational support systems  
Chair: Laura Harms

#### Minutes

The Administration Commission minutes from [Oct 10, 2019](#) are on the website.

### **Reflections On Pilgrimage**

A selection from Peter Wigginton's blog post from [www.wiggipe.wordpress.com](http://www.wiggipe.wordpress.com)

Our friend and mentor Pastor Jose Manuel Guaman Malan of the indigenous Mennonite churches in Ecuador ICME sent us this communication:

"Last night, [Sunday, October 13] the indigenous peoples and the government of Ecuador agreed not to implement the measures taken by the government and to stop the indigenous protest. I thank you all for your solidarity, fraternal relations and prayers to the God of life.

Peace has returned, but we must work for justice; so that peace is the fruit of it."

This is amazing news for a nation that had been suffering for more than 11 days. We must also remember that the indigenous nations have been suffering for several hundred years up until now. We have to hope that brothers with ponchos or paint on their faces and sisters in *anakos* will be treated differently than they were a few weeks ago before this effort of so many indigenous brothers and sisters. I asked my friend Julian Guaman what he thought about these last few days, he said:

"The repeal of the Decree 883 that ended subsidies for fuel in Ecuador, is a symbol of struggle, resistance and dignity. What comes in the new Decree will mark the political direction of the country."

These are only a few steps on the long arduous road of a people who have endured much. But we are reminded to have joy in suffering.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,  
3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James 1:2-4

This is an opportunity as a global church to remember to pray and rejoice even in suffering. These days after so much movement in the Ecuadorian capital there have been many messages of thanks that the church was able to share food and other aid during the days when there was almost no movement in the city and it was even difficult to get food in some sectors. Now we are able to rejoice when, these trials have been overcome but we must remember that many more will come and we must continue to rejoice and join in prayer as the global body of Christ joins together with the Holy Spirit.

Those who are in positions of power will try to push us right or left or exclaim that we are listening to only one side or the other. But we have to remember to look all around us, to the left, right, up, down and also forward. In unity and together with the Holy Spirit we are much stronger than any political party, any economic proposal, any advice from the right or left, we must go deeper and further. When we are drawn together in prayer we are able to see the face of Christ.

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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)