

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

April 27, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, April 22:

Herb reminded us how foundational celebration is to the Christian life. It is at the foundation of the Biblical story (Genesis 1 is a celebration of creation), it is at the foundation of Jesus' ministry (in Luke 4, he proclaims a year of Jubilee), and it is at the foundation of all of the other spiritual disciplines. Most of all, Herb encouraged us to make celebration foundational to our own life – as we draw our strength from the love and the goodness of God.

This Sunday, April 29:

This Sunday's service is a culmination of our month-long focus on the spiritual discipline of "Celebration". Come and join in joyful singing and scripture readings, and hear what Joyce Troyer and Solomon Abebe have to share about their thoughts on celebration. We will also celebrate new life with a baby dedication for Aletheia (Layla) Hope Bither.

Next week, May 6, we will begin our focus on the next spiritual discipline: study. All Shalom members are encouraged to read chapter 5 in Foster's book, which offers practical guidance as to how we can incorporate study into our lives. Then, Brian will begin a three-week sermon series on the intellectual virtues, starting with the virtues of intellectual curiosity and intellectual courage.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Hernandez Sisters Pledge:

Melanie, Jackie, and Lorraine Hernandez have been separated from their mother for much longer than expected. The host family and temporary legal guardians, Cruz and

Carlos, have extended their support well beyond what they expected. Now friends of our church community can help. We are asking families to pledge for a sponsorship program that will help cover costs. Please see the Hospitality Sponsorship Pledge Form for details (printed available and attached).

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

May 3: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

May 6: Fellowship Meal

May 9: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

May 12: Women's Brunch at FMC (First Mennonite Church)

May 27: No Sunday School

June 3: Fellowship Meal

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Safety training:

Two Sundays ago 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. 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. Please see the attached Church Safety Policy, also available on our website:

<https://www.shalomennonite.com/church-policies>

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Thriving Thursdays 2018:

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

June 21, 28, July 12, 19, & 26

In a continuing effort to shine the overflowing love of Jesus Christ beyond the walls of Shalom, this summer we are planning round # 2 of Thriving Thursdays. While we were pleased with the participation of both community kids and church members last summer, we want to build on what we learned last year and make it even better.

This year we hope to emphasize outdoor education, worship, and meal fellowship. And another thing we hope to build are on-going relationships between persons of the neighborhood and persons of the church.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and be thinking about how you or your Commission might support Outreach Commission in this ministry of God's love and hope.

- Frank Kandel, Pastor for Outreach Commission

Member Outreach Update:

TRINITY FREE CLINIC – Jeanne Smucker

People may be surprised that there is a need for a free clinic in Hamilton County. You should know that only about half of all Hamilton County families have an annual income that the United Way of Central Indiana would consider adequate for self-sufficiency. 21% of Hamilton County households have an income that is barely enough for basic survival, around \$59,212. (From TFC webpage) People who are new to the community or to our country may arrive without resources and not know where to find them. Since health insurance is usually linked to jobs, people who are between jobs also find the self in need.

Trinity Free Clinic started in the school nurse's office and library of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. I started volunteering there just as it was moving into the new Matthew 25 Center, a modern, well-equipped facility. The Clinic offers medical, pediatric, immunizations, women's health, pharmacy and dental services to eligible Hamilton County residents.

When I started volunteering there, many of the patients were Spanish-speaking and I served as both a nurse and an interpreter. We continue to have many of people who struggle with English but their mother tongues include Arabic, Pharissee, Yoruba, Mandarin, Cantonese and many others. Efforts are made to have interpreters available if the clinic know in advance.

Care is provided by volunteers from the community. Trinity Free Clinic is committed to providing care with respect and dignity. It is rewarding to work with these professionals and to share the other ways that they are connecting with the world.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Search Committee Update:

The Pastoral Team Search Committee is continuing to look at applications for the second pastoral position. We appreciate your continued prayers for wisdom during the discernment process. If you are interested in the position or if you have names to suggest (from inside or outside the congregation), please contact Dan Miller at dan@im.mennonite.net. The conference is willing to contact potential applicants to gauge their interest. - Carol Bixler, Linda Kandel, Kristen Metzler-Wilson, Brad Sommer (chair), & Herb Troyer

Milepost #390: **Pura Vida!**

As we conclude our month-long focus on the spiritual discipline of "celebration," I offer this thought: celebration is not only something we do; it is also an attitude toward life. While that may not be the dictionary definition, it might help us to consider celebration as a spiritual discipline.

I wanted to know the etymology-- or origin and development-- of the word "celebration" and found that it is actually somewhat vague! It derives from Latin but the root seems to have to do more with solemnity and public observance than with fun and frivolity. In the Catholic Church, for example, they speak of

communion as the “celebration of the mass” or “eucharistic celebration.”

There seems to be a public dimension of celebration, whether it be solemn or joyous-- or both--as in a festival or feast day or special event where a number of people gather to share in the observance of something significant.

In his book *The Celebration of Discipline*, which we have been reading and reflecting on together these past several months, Richard Foster focuses on the joyful aspects of celebration. He reminds us that joy is a “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22), that Israel was a Jubilee people (Leviticus 25), that the gospel of Jesus Christ is “good news of great joy” (Luke 2:10). To cultivate an inward spirit of celebration, Foster encourages us to live lives of obedience to God’s commandments and of care-free trust in God for the “peace that passes understanding.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

Although celebration seems by definition to be a corporate activity-- carried out as a congregation or other group-- it will not be very much fun if few of us feel like celebrating! One of the challenges of the institutional church is how to keep our regularly scheduled and seasonal observances, which can be very strengthening and foundational to the life of faith, from feeling obligatory and becoming rote, mechanical, and joyless.

To do something by rote means to do it unthinkingly, mindlessly. If we are not mindful then ultimately we are not present. To call communion a “celebration” is so apt because it reminds us that communion is Presence -- the intimate experience of Christ present with us and us with Christ!

Mindful celebration is an attitude of thankfully abandoning ourselves to the One who provides for us, carries us, embraces us, dances with us, walks with us, sings to us, eats and drinks with us, plays with us, and loves on us!

The attitude of celebration presented itself beautifully to me and David during our recent trip to Costa Rica. The people there have an expression which I love: “Pura Vida.” Literally it is Spanish for “pure life” or “simple life” but it expresses much more: an attitude of celebration-- mindfulness of and gratitude for

the goodness of life. It says: hello, goodbye, it’s all good, be thankful, be happy-- celebrate! Whatever comes our way, we celebrate the love of God. Pura vida!

- Sabrina Falls

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

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Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Abri Hochstetler: abri.houser@gmail.com