

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 3, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, December 30:

We returned to the theme of seeking guidance during Advent by looking at the story of Simeon and Anna. Just as many of us have been "surprised" when we discovered that a job, a ministry, or a relationship turned out to have aspects to it that we didn't expect, Mary and Joseph were surprised to hear how these two saints understood God's calling on their lives.

This Sunday, January 6:

We'll celebrate Epiphany, the day when the Magi finally arrived at Jesus' home, and it will bring our sermon series on guidance to a conclusion. An epiphany - or more precisely, a revelation from God - compels movement, and it is up to us to decide how we will react or respond when God gives us a challenging/empowering insight.

Next Sunday, January 13:

Emily Fox will bring the sermon.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Jan 6 – Fellowship potluck after SS

Jan 9 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Jan 17 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

Jan 23 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

Feb 3 – Pizzas for Peace lunch after SS

Feb 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Schedule:

Two classes for Jan-March:

1. Brad Yoder and Jay Brubaker will lead a discussion of J. Denny Weaver's book *God Without Violence*. If you would like to participate and did not pick up a book, please contact Brad Yoder directly. Meets in classroom 1 downstairs.
2. Bible Study/sermon discussion led by Cheryl Martin. Brian and others will be preaching through the book of Luke, and each class session will focus on the text for that week. Meets in the back of the sanctuary.

*Jan. 20, regular adult classes will be cancelled so that as many as possible can attend a training on sexual assault awareness.

Membership Exploration:

Pastor Brian will be offering a "Membership Exploration" class for six weeks from January 20 to Feb 24 in the upstairs Pastors Office, for anyone who wants to learn more about Mennonites in general or Shalom in particular. A Spanish interpreter will be present to help make the class accessible to everyone.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Mennonite Mission Network Update:

Mennonite Mission Network (MMN) partners with churches around the world. Two recent stories:

--In northern Argentina (where the Wigginton family served in the 1980s-90s) MMN supports a bilingual school where students from the Toba/Qom indigenous group can learn in their own language, in a setting that incorporates their indigenous culture and worldview. At the same time, they meet the

government's Spanish-language requirements, which equips them to go on for further professional education that they can use to serve their community.

--In the Democratic Republic of Congo, violence by rebels and the army over the past two years has resulted in 5000 civilian deaths and 1.5 million people displaced. Most of those displaced are in the three provinces where Mennonite World Conference member churches are based. MMN and several other agencies have joined with local churches in a relief program that includes food, education, farming supplies, and trauma healing workshops to people displaced by the violence.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network:

We are all affected by disabilities and know individuals who encounter barriers while participating in faith communities. If we ourselves have not yet faced such challenges, most of us will at some time! Through accessibility advocates in congregations, Anabaptist Disabilities Network (ADN) works to find the best way to assist people with vision loss, hearing loss, mental illness, mobility difficulties, and other disabilities to enjoy full participation in faith communities. Shalom Mennonite Church is a supporting congregation to ADN.

Anabaptist Disabilities Network provides multiple resources encompassing all ages and stages of disabling conditions and caregiving. Check out AnabaptistDisabilitiesNetwork.Org to become familiar with the wide range of inspiring and practical resources available. You can read or subscribe to the *CONNECTIONS* Newsletter (3x/year; available by post or email) and/or *Opening Doors* blog posts (a few times/month).

Shalom has been proactive in many ways - from installing the lift and accessible bathroom to providing large print bulletins and song books. Joyce Troyer and Mary Albrecht are your congregational advocates. Please inform us of any known or suspected needs you notice.

Milepost #639

Reviewing the Twelve Disciplines

Happy New Year! Although New Year's Day is a somewhat arbitrary holiday, it creates a natural opportunity for us to look back on how we spent the past year and to think about our priorities in the year to come. One of the priorities that we set for 2018 was to study the twelve spiritual disciplines that are laid out in Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*. Through preaching, teaching, and some interactive opportunities, we covered the following disciplines during this past year:

January – Simplicity
February – Confession
March – Fasting
April – Celebration
May – Study
June – Service
July – Prayer
August – Meditation
September – Worship
October – Submission
November – Solitude
December – Guidance

This Sunday (January 6) is Epiphany, and it will bring our series on the final spiritual discipline – guidance – to a conclusion. However, my hope is that the practices we studied will become a regular part of our individual and corporate lives. In fact, when we created a four-year vision back in 2017 (which you can find on [this link](#)), we set a goal that 75% of us would incorporate two of these disciplines into our regular lives by mid-2020. So, as you set your New Year's resolutions, I would encourage you to consider this as well: were there any disciplines or practices from the above list that you found inspiring or challenging? Is there a practical way that you could incorporate that discipline into the routines of your life?

Having spent a year focusing on our inward and spiritual health, we are planning to focus our attention on the outward expressions of our faith for the first part of 2019, particularly in terms of loving our neighbors. But as we do this, I pray that all of our thoughts, words, and actions will flow out of the relationship we

have built with God, in part through the spiritual disciplines.

- Brian Bither, Pastor

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 office@shalommennonite.com