

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

May 3, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, April 29:

Last Sunday's service was a culmination of our month-long focus on the spiritual discipline of "Celebration". We joined in joyful singing and scripture readings, and heard Joyce Troyer and Solomon Abebe share about their thoughts on celebration. We also celebrated new life with a baby dedication for Aletheia (Layla) Hope Bither.

This Sunday, May 6:

This week 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

Congrats, Grads!

Analisa Bixler graduated from the University of Cincinnati last Saturday with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. She will be moving to Massachusetts next week to begin working with Hutker Architects in their Martha's Vineyard office.

Kyle Stocksdale graduated summa cum laude with a degree in History with minors in Music and Peace, Justice, Conflict Studies from Goshen College. He'll be working in the Friends Archives at Earlham College this summer. He has been accepted into the University of Michigan's School of Information. So he'll be heading to Ann Arbor in the fall

either to start their master's program or to work for a year first.

Lydie Assefa graduates on May 11 from Northwestern's School of Law. She has a job in Chicago working for the 7th District Courts starting the end of August.

Fellowship Meal this Sunday:

Please join us for a fellowship meal following Sunday School this Sunday!

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

12 pm Fellowship Meal

May 6: 6:30pm Fireside Small Group

May 9: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

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

May 17: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

May 27: No Sunday School

May 23: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

June 3: Fellowship Meal

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Morning Star Donations:

Frank will be making the trip to Muncie for the Morning Star Advisory Meeting on this

coming Monday, May 7th. Please bring your donations for their FOOD PANTRY to church this Sunday.

Member Outreach Update:

From Rose Love

Most Thursdays I volunteer in my daughter Rachel's 2nd grade classroom at Nora Elementary School in the Washington Township school district. It is located at 91st and College and serves a large number of low-income and immigrant families. The student population is 42% Hispanic, 29% African American, 13% Asian/Burmese and 12% Caucasian. 46% of students speak English as a second language and 86% qualify for free lunches. Besides the diversity of languages, there are a variety of behavioral and learning disabilities. Some of the students who struggle the most seem to enjoy one-on-one instruction with me, not only to increase learning but also to boost their self-confidence. I find it rewarding to watch them make progress.

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

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Glen Guyton began as the new executive director of Mennonite Church USA on May 1. Read his reflections on the Holy Spirit moving within MC USA:

<http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/waiting-to-exhale>

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 #397: Small Groups at Shalom

In the past, Shalom Mennonite Church encouraged small groups and we had a number of them that went on for years. The groups tended to remain fairly stable, and periodically the elders, the pastor, and/or the church council recommended that the groups split up and re-form to get more people involved. As we developed this new structure, we again affirmed that small groups were and are vital to the atmosphere and growth of Shalom.

As we transition into this new structure we are all working at finding our way. The old small groups have tended to come to an end, and now we are left with just a few ongoing small groups meeting. There is the Campfire wisdom small group with the contact person of Herb Troyer, the Spirituality For Grownups small group with the contact person of Joyce Troyer, the small group with young children with contact person Brian Bither, and a small group that meets after church whose contact person Martha Yoder-Maust. Additionally, the Thursday evening Bible study that Kim

Johnson leads and all are welcome to attend; the breakfast group that meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the Illinois St. Food Emporium at 7am and Rod Maust is the contact person; and there is a hymn sing groups that meets the 5th Sunday nights at 6PM to sing. There is also a Peace Group that meets when the spirit moves, for which Mil Penner is the contact person. If I missed a small group please let me know.

In the new structure we continue to focus on small groups. In fact, we set goals for a high percentage of participants of Shalom to join or start a small group, and we are actually about a year behind our goals. In the new structure, groups are encouraged to meet around personal interests. For example, we can meet around anything from gardening, hobbies, special interests such as peace, and public advocacy, to cooking and/or quilting. I could name 100 groups that could be started, but in the end it needs to be focused on our own personal interests and passions. We can be a member of two or more small groups if we have time and enough people are interested in them to form a group of three or four or ten.

In these small groups a few things are encouraged to happen. The first is that at the beginning of each small group all participants are to tell their story. What in your life brings you to this passion or interests and how does this help your walk with God. There is a set of questions to answer if you need help with this story. Your story is told so that everyone in the group gets to know you. It seems that even though we meet in a variety of ways often our personal stories get left out. The groups themselves are to encourage us to blossom where we are planted and to take hold of how God is working in our lives as we talk and celebrate the interests we hold in common or the hobbies that we are meeting around. After meeting for a few months each group is to ask, "Is this group still making sense, or should we shift focus and work on something else?" The focus is always to be on getting to know and encourage each other to share how God is working or not working in our lives. The other focus is to celebrate those spiritual gifts given by God, which we are encouraged to use at the Shalom Church or elsewhere.

So the invitation is out. Let's find interests we can gather around and encourage each other to grow in love and express the passions that make life meaningful. Contact a pastor or myself as we begin to plan for the next group to start.

- Herb Troyer

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