

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

January 18, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Reflecting on Jan. 14: On Sunday, Brian encouraged us to lay aside our “stuff” that we think protects ourselves, as David did preparing to face Goliath. This allows us to depend on God instead of our preparations, or self-protective strivings. We must trust that God will meet us where we are so that these preparations won’t keep us from engaging in a full spiritual life. To be heard, speak less. To be secure, own less. To prove your worth, do less.

This Sunday:

This week we will be privileged to have Les Gustafson-Zook, the Constituent Relations Coordinator for Mennonite Central Committee (Great Lakes) come and bring the message.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
11 am Sunday School

Jan. 24 7am Morning Breakfast Group
Feb. 1: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study
Feb. 4: Fellowship Meal
Feb. 14 7am Morning Breakfast Group
Feb. 15: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Sunday School Update:

Those of you in the Catholic Economics Sunday School class should read chapter 4 “Abuses of Financial Capitalism”. It explains the 2008 financial crisis, why banks failed in

the 1930s and how 70-94% income tax rates on the wealthy affected the economy.

– Wilma Bailey

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Mennonite Women Brunch:

Mennonite Women is hosting a brunch and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Kit assembly THIS Saturday, Jan 20th, at First Mennonite Church (FMC).

They will start at 9:00 a.m. Bring a brunch item to share, no sewing skills necessary (plenty of bags need to have drawstrings put in). There is also a comforter or two that can be knotted.

Voter Suppression Concern:

We have been concerned about voter suppression in Marion County. Please see [information on an upcoming Community Forum on the subject here](#).

- Wilma Bailey & Frank Kandel

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Need for a Wired Telephone:

Following our annual lift inspection, we thought it helpful to install a wired telephone inside the lift so anyone can call for assistance if needed. Does anyone have a wired wall mounted phone that could be used? If so, please contact Jim Showalter. Thanks!

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Pastoral Search Survey:

The Pastoral Team Search committee has emailed a survey to help us discern pastoral needs as we move forward in the search

process. This survey will be one of many tools that are utilized as we speak with potential candidates. As a participant at Shalom, we would like for you to complete this survey based upon your perspective and what you feel are the perceived needs at Shalom. Additional details and thoughts are included on the survey. If you did not receive a survey, copies are available near the church mailboxes.

Please complete the survey and return to any member of the search team by THIS Sunday, January 21: Carol Bixler, Kristen Metzler Wilson, Linda Kandel, Herb Troyer, Brad Sommer

Milepost #306: **Simplicity**

This month we are prayerfully considering the spiritual discipline of "Simplicity." Even this topic, which by its very definition is plain, easy to understand, and uncomplicated, seems to be rich with complexity when we reflect on the many ramifications of practicing simplicity in our personal lives and in the life of Shalom church. The spiritual discipline of "simplicity" involves not only our personal attitude and way of life but also how we bear witness as a congregation to Jesus' call to "seek first the kingdom of God."

How do we keep it simple? We are in the process of change in our structure and pastoral leadership. My first inclination was to write the preceding sentence as: "We are in the throes of change..." but that word, "throes," may conjure the sense of agony and travail! How about if I were to write it like this: "We are in the process of labor, transition, and childbirth in our structure and pastoral leadership?" If we think of "throes" as the pangs of childbirth, and if we think of "transition" as that time in the process of labor that leads to delivery, it gives us a fresh and more joyful perspective on it!

The focus is on the birth. Getting there may not seem so simple right now. Many of us struggle with what feels like a fair amount of complexity and some confusion about the new structure-- how does it work? Who does what? In his sermon last Sunday, Brian offered us

the vivid image of David struggling under the weight of Saul's armor (1 Samuel 17:32-40). This story always amuses me as I imagine a youthful David strutting around in this clunky metal suit that is way too big and heavy for him! It's much too cumbersome!

Early Quakers in their writings about how outward treasure distracts from God's truth often used the word "cumbers". One of my favorite quotes is from John Woolman's Journal: "The increase of business became my burden; for though my natural inclination was toward merchandise, yet I believed truth required me to live more free from outward cumbers; and there was now a strife in my mind between the two."

As we dwell in this space of complicated simplicity, God will carry us safely through the transition to the joyful birth. Practicing the spiritual disciplines during this period will be especially helpful to us in keeping our focus on the simple truth of our Provident God.

- Sabrina Falls

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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Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

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