

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

August 2, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, July 29:

We concluded our month-long focus on prayer by celebrating a tremendous answer to prayer: Gemina Trochez Castellanos has been released from detention and reunited with her daughters here in Indianapolis. Gemina shared her powerful testimony about God's calling on her life and protection of her family as she went through the process of being persecuted in Honduras, detained in the United States, caught in the legal process, and eventually reunited. It is a powerful testimony. If you missed it, you can hear it on the "Recordings of Recent Services" link in the Members section.

This Sunday, August 5:

We will turn our attention to the spiritual discipline for August: meditation. Although we sometimes think of meditation as an "advanced" spiritual practice that is only reserved for very religious people, Brian will explain that it is simple in its essence and really essential for anyone to have a healthy life, turning to Psalm 119:9-16 as a guiding text.

Next Sunday, August 12:

We will focus on small groups. Brian will preach on the value of Christians gathering to meet together regularly, and the Community Life Commission will distribute a list of new small group options for people to consider joining in the Fall.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

August 2: Meal, 6:30pm, Bible Study, 7-8pm

August 5: Potluck (nothing in the oven)

August 8: Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill.

Food Emporium, 7am

August 16: Meal, 6:30pm, Bible Study, 7-8pm

August 22: Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill.

Food Emporium, 7am

Baby Margaret:

Luke and Rachel Yoder Penner wish to thank everyone for their prayers for Baby Margaret who continues to do well at home in Goshen. Also, Rachel's father, Dr. Mike Yoder, has passed away on Monday, July 30. A memorial service will be held in Goshen on August 18.

Upcoming Nature Hikes:

On Saturday, August 4, I will be leading a 3-4 mile hike at Sodalis Nature Park (7700 South CR 975 East) in Hendricks County starting at 9 a.m. Bring a hat, sunscreen, bug spray and water. You might want to stay for a lecture by a park naturalist on "Wicked and Ugly Plants."

On Saturday, Sept. 15 at 9 a.m., I will lead a 3-4 mile hike at Mounds State Park (fee) in Anderson, Indiana. Meet at the nature center. Bring a hat, sunscreen, bug spray and water.

-Wilma Bailey

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

August Sunday School Schedule:

Regular classes for children age two and up will resume in August. We are open for new teachers starting in September. Please contact Martha Yoder Maust if you are interested.

Adult classes:

Theme: In this time of so much national conversation about keeping immigrants out, we will focus on stories of welcoming and being welcomed.

August 5: sharing stories of welcoming and being welcomed. After some planned sharing, there will be an open mic time for others who would like to share. Youth are welcome to participate.

August 12: a panel of persons who have been immigrants will share stories. Moderated by Laura Harms. Youth are welcome.

August 19: Jeanne Smucker and Brad Yoder will share about their trip to Israel/Palestine and Greece.

August 27: Dan Hess will share stories about "The Other and me."

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Giving Corner:

Due to your generosity, we are nearing our goal of 100 school kits! We now have extra erasers and the pencil sharpeners are being purchased separately. You may continue to donate the other items:

- 1 flexible (not wooden) ruler
- 1 package of 12 colored pencils
- 8 regular pencils
- 4 spiral notebooks
- 2 black or blue ink ball point pens

Anabaptist Disabilities Network:

Did you know that Shalom is part of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network? Did you know that you have advocates representing you? Joyce Troyer and Mary Albrecht are those advocates at the present time. We welcome and encourage you to advise and share with us your needs and observations as we want to make Shalom a welcoming place for all. From time to time, we receive materials from ADN and want to share the latest one with you. You can find a recent ADN blogpost attached with this newsletter.

-Mary Albrecht & Joyce Troyer

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Pastors on Vacation:

Pastor Sabrina will be on vacation from Saturday, August 4 through Monday, August 13. Please direct any pastoral concerns to Brian Bither or Frank Kandel during that time.

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, August 13 through Sunday, August 19. Please direct any pastoral care concerns to Frank Kandel or Sabrina Falls during that time.

Caring for God's Creation:

As Thriving Thursday reminded us, God's creation is right at our doorstep. Shalom has a beautiful campus with endless environmental advantages. Admire the newly mulched areas by the peace pole and sign, but remember outdoor spaces need attention in the same way that indoor spaces require. Shalom needs a better plan for upkeep of the outdoor spaces, and the request is outstanding for the administrative team and church members to place this on their to-do list. What can all of us contribute?

-Ruth Penner

Milepost #486 – The Spiritual Practice of Prayer Walking

For our most recent intergenerational Sunday School, Marilyn Teel took us on a “prayer walk” through the neighborhood surrounding our church building. As we ventured down Catherwood and along 31st Street we stopped at each house where Thriving Thursdays participants live. At curbside, Marilyn gave us brief backgrounds on the people who lived in each of these houses--how they collected recyclable caps or sent their kids to us or supported us in some other way--and then we prayed for the safety, healing, wisdom, faith, and salvation of the residents.

Although we didn’t name this at the time, I would say “prayer walking” is a spiritual discipline. More than just a one-time Sunday School session, what if we were to do this on a regular basis? Those who are physically able can take neighborhood prayer walks at any time of day or day of the week, as individuals or in small groups.

Spiritual disciplines require extra effort and practice, so even though most of us don’t live near the Shalom neighborhood, this might inspire us to make the trip to Shalom at another time of the week other than Sunday morning--perhaps, for example, Thursday evenings, first to prayer walk and then to return to the church to join those who meet there regularly for a light supper and Bible study.

If it’s not possible to get there during the week, Sunday mornings or early afternoons are just as meaningful and effective times to prayer walk--maybe arrive slightly early to prayer walk before worship, or go out during fellowship time to prayer walk before Sunday School, or after Sunday School before heading home or to our next activity. We can also practice the spiritual discipline of prayer walking in our own neighborhoods. This is healthy both for the neighborhood and for our own bodies, minds, and spirits. Take your dog along if you have one! As you pass the homes of people you know, pray for their specific needs of which you might be aware. As you pass the homes of those unknown to you, pray more generally for their health, guidance, and well-being. For all, pray that

they might feel the love and grace of God in a very real and intimate way and pray for the peace and healing of the neighborhood as a whole.

Prayer walking can also be another way to pray in general. Whether you take a gentle stroll, brisk power walk, or something in between, walk with intention, mindful of your surroundings and God’s presence. Listen intently to the birds and other sounds, feel the breeze, inhale the fragrances, swing your arms, greet passersby, and remember your Creator who loves you and walks alongside you.

Let’s go for a (prayer) walk!

(Some scriptures about walking with God: Genesis 5:22, 24; Genesis 6:9; Micah 6:8; Isaiah 2:5; Lev 26:12; 2 Cor 6:16; 1 John 1:7)
-Pastor 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

Pastoral Team: Brian Bither, (317) 322-7320, brian@shalommennonite.com; Frank Kandel, (309) 532-2859, kandel93@gmail.com; Sabrina Falls, (317) 902-9495, sabrinafalls@outlook.com
Vision & Accountability Team: Brad Sommer, Jeanne Smucker, Wilma Bailey, Carl Rhine, Kim Johnson, Brian Bither

Please submit information by Thursday, 12pm, to Emily Fox: office@shalommennonite.com