

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

June 6, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Chair: Linda Showalter

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Chair: Linda Kandel

Last Sunday, June 2

We began studying a new section of Micah – Micah chapters 4 & 5 – which in contrast to the previous three chapters, does not focus as much on God's judgment and human sin but instead offers several images of hope.

However, these images of hope sometimes conflict with one another, which raises the question, what does it mean to believe that God intervenes in human affairs? Can we trust God to spare us from suffering and disaster or not?

This Sunday, June 9

Pastor Mũthoni - who is also known as Gladys by many Mennonites in our conference - will come to Shalom to bring the message. She is a co-pastor at the Morning Star Church in Muncie, Indiana, a Mennonite congregation that dedicates much of its energy to its community service and food pantry ministry. Mũthoni will be preaching on John 2:1-11.

Next Sunday, June 16

Frank will deliver the message on Micah 4:1-8.

CHURCH STRUCTURE EVALUATION

Cheryl Martin and Sam Bixler

Please complete your survey by June 16

On Sunday, May 26, the survey regarding the new church structure was placed in each mailbox. There are instructions on the first page of the survey. Please complete the survey and return it as indicated in the instructions. If we do not receive a response from you, we will be contacting you. If you have any questions, please contact either Sam Bixler or Cheryl Martin.

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00am Sunday School

Mon, June 10 – Roving Office NW

Panera, 6050 W 86th

Wed, June 12 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

June 13-15 – IN-MI Annual Sessions at Amigo

Mon, June 17 – Roving Office, Greenwood

Panera, 789 U.S. 31N

Thu, June 20 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Meal 6:30; Bible study 7-8* (to be held off-site)

Mon, June 24 – Roving Office, Fishers

Della Leva, 8220 E. 106th St.

Tues, June 25 – Family Promise, 5pm

Wed, June 26 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

Thu, June 27 – Thriving Thursdays, 5-7pm

Sun, June 30 – 5th Sunday Hymn Sing at

Showalter's, 6-8pm

Pastoral Care and Visitation Team

The Pastoral Team is forming a Pastoral Care and Visitation Team to help with these ministries during Brian's sabbatical. On Sunday, July 7, at noon, we will fill our plates at the carry-in and take our meal to the Adult Sunday School room. We will have a session for some brief training on pastoral care approaches and to discuss how we will coordinate this ministry among ourselves and stay connected for support, accountability, and congregational needs. Although several among us have offered to participate in this ministry, others of you who sense a leading of the Spirit to serve in this way are invited to join us. If so, or for more information, please contact Sabrina.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Food Pantry Giving

Let's surprise Pastor Gladys, our guest preacher this Sunday, with a boatload of food items for her to take back to the Morning Star Food Pantry.
-Frank Kandel

Thriving Thursdays are back!

We are planning for 5 Thriving Thursdays beginning on June 20th. This year we are focusing on ***Living Lives of Peace***, guided by the *Peace Lab* MennoMedia Bible School Curriculum.

Volunteers needed on Thursdays from 5-7pm. June 20 & 27 and July 11, 18 & 25. Let Frank know when and where you can help during fellowship time on Sunday, Kandel93@gmail.com or 309-532-2859.

Family Promise

Shalom members can support families experiencing homelessness by volunteering on Tuesday, June 25 during the week that First Mennonite Church hosts the Family Promise families. Contact Solomon for more information.

Sharing Space

The Julian Center is the focus for our Sharing Space in June.

- Office equipment/supplies
- School supplies
- Books
- Artwork
- Services (building repairs, landscaping, etc)
- Cell phones
- Clothing, toys, household goods, and furniture

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

Minutes

Corrected minutes from the VAT meeting on May 20 were uploaded to the Shalom website.

Indiana-Michigan Annual Sessions

Worship services are free to attend

- Thursday, June 13 at 2:30 and 7pm;
- Friday, June 14 at 8:20am and 7pm;
- Saturday, June 15 at 10:30am.

Friday evening's sit-down dinner is also open to anyone who contacts the Conference office to reserve a seat. There will be no cost for the meal as it has been sponsored by Everence. We are excited to announce that there will be English to Spanish simultaneous translation available. For more information visit <https://im.mennonite.net>

MennoCon19

There is still time to register for MennoCon19! Come for a couple days or the whole time. Get more info and register at convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration

MILEPOST #683

The Benefit of Doom

Last Sunday, we came to a turning point in the book of Micah, in which the prophet changed his emphasis from one of doom to one of hope. Moreover, we observed that this shift happened quite abruptly. Micah chapter 3 ends on the lowest note in the entire book by making the unambiguous claim that Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah, would be destroyed: *"Therefore because of you, Zion shall be plowed as a field; Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins; and the mountain of the house a wooded height."* (3:12) But it is immediately followed by the *highest* note in the entire book, a vision of global salvation that included and extended beyond Judah itself: *"In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'" (4:1-2)*

This shift from despair to hope is jarring, but I believe it was intentional. From a chronological perspective, it would have made more sense to put this section *after* Micah 5, so that the book would gradually move from despair (3:12), to

hope in the near future (4:9-5:1), to hope in the intermediate future (5:2-15), and finally to the ultimate hope of eternal peace (4:1-8). From a logical perspective, that would have been preferable, but from a *prophetic* perspective, it was brilliant to jump from the lowest note of despair to the highest note of hope, for this reveals a deep understanding of the human spirit.

Human beings have a hard time accepting loss. When a program or an organization or a relationship begins to decline, we are pretty good at recognizing that things are not as good as they used to be. However, when the decline gets so bad that an organization or relationship begins dying, we refuse to believe it. We rationalize losses as temporary setbacks. We insist that “the thing” can be saved with a little patience and effort. This is especially true if the thing that is dying is something that we have invested ourselves in and has become a part of our identity. We don’t want give it up. As painful as it is, we need someone like Micah to come along and tell us, “This is dead. It has no future. You need to let go.”

Micah’s message in chapter 3 didn’t mince words. He doesn’t offer any glimmers of hope, any way for Jerusalem’s fate to be avoided, or any comfort for those who would be impacted by its destruction. He simply proclaimed the merciless reality of loss. However, *after* he issued this proclamation, after he had made his claim about Jerusalem’s death completely clear, *then* he offered a word of hope – indeed, he offered a vision that was even greater and more inspiring than the hope that Judah could be restored to “the way it used to be.” Micah knew that before they could really appreciate this new vision and embrace it, they had to let go of the old one entirely. The old had to die to make way for the new.

Sometimes, we are faced with the reality that our hopes, our dreams, our programs, our investments are dying. This is hard to accept. But when we finally do accept it, not only do we experience a sense of relief, but we open the door for the Holy Spirit to inspire us with something new. May we as individuals and as a church have the courage to face death and be open to new life.

--Pastor Brian Bither

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