

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

September 20, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, September 16:

Brian posed the question, "What should we do if we find it difficult or uncomfortable to worship?" Rather than looking for the right conditions that make us feel worshipful, he suggested that we should consider the question, "What is getting in the way of our worship?" After all, we are worshipping creatures by nature, *homo adorans*.

This Sunday, September 23:

This Sunday is Peace Sunday. Following the lead of Mennonite World Conference, we will focus on the theme, "A renewed peace church welcomes the stranger." Brian will preach on the subject of Christian internationalism, using Isaiah 60:1-11 as the central text.

Next Sunday, September 30:

We will re-visit the subject of spiritual gifts. Pastor Brian will reflect on how natural and spiritual gifts play a key role in re-creating God's social and economic world order.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

House warming open house for the Sanders:

Come and see Julie, Donald, and Liam's new house. No presents needed. Come and go as you will like; it's an open house!

Saturday Oct. 6th, 4-8pm

10916 Trailwood Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11:00 am Sunday School

Sept 26 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Sept 30 – 5th Sunday Hymn Sing (ready for HWB #432), 6:30-8pm

Oct 4 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm

Oct 7 – Potluck after church

Oct 10 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Oct 14 – Wilma Cender visits

Oct 18 – Meal, 6:30 pm, Bible Study, 7-8 pm

Oct 20 – Sexual Assault Awareness Training @Shalom, 9:30-11:30am

Oct 21 – CropWalk

Oct 24 – Morning Breakfast Group @ Ill. Food Emporium, 7am

Nov 3 – Church Retreat @ Jameson Camp

Nov 17 – Fall Clean-Up, 8-12

Game Time Small Group:

You can still join the Game Time group by coming to our first session scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 30 from 4:30-6:30, right before the 5th Sunday hymn sing. In addition to playing games, we'll use this first session to establish guidelines and schedules for future meetings. Bring a little \$ for pizza. If you enjoy games, it's not too late to get involved!

Save the Date:

Fall Clean-Up will be held on Nov. 17 from 8-12. (rain date of Dec. 1) More details to come!

Church Retreat:

Shalom Mennonite Church Fall Retreat will be November 3, 2018. Dan Hess will lead us as we discover our stories:

An informal seminar on story telling

- stories for fun
- stories for meaning

Whether you are a skilled story teller or not,
whether you are verbal or quiet,
whether you are somewhat bashful or
outgoing —
you will enjoy our time together at Shalom
Retreat.

More information will be coming as we get
closer to the retreat!

Living Things Team:

Our grounds need our care and attention! A Living Things Team is forming to coordinate maintenance of our green spaces. The Living Things Team will convene under the umbrella of the Administration Commission and alongside the Building Team to plan for grounds care, implement projects, and inspire participation. Please consider giving leadership and service to Shalom by caring for our grounds. Contact Laura to be a part of the team. harms.laura@gmail.com

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

September Sunday School Schedule:

Starting Sept 9, there will be two
adult classes:

--Jeanne and Wilma will lead a discussion of the Pathways study guide, part of Mennonite Church USA's Journey Forward process. The study guide is available at:
http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pathways_Study_Guide_Final.pdf

This class will meet in the adult classroom downstairs.

--Kim will facilitate a sermon discussion class at the back of the sanctuary.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Crop Walk:

The annual Greater Indianapolis CropWalk to help stamp out hunger, locally and globally, is scheduled for Oct. 21. Mary Albrecht will again be the contact person. We encourage you to support this as you have for many years. Please consider walking. Put out the word for donors and the reason why you walk. If you are unable to physically take part, please donate to a walker!! Last year, we had 10 walkers and raised \$3,255. Your participation envelopes continue to be available from Mary Albrecht. Donors can designate funds . . . see the list by the coffee pot in the basement.

T-Shirts for Ecuador:

Joyce and Herb are making a trip to Ecuador and will have room to take T-shirts to Delicia and Peter. They use them in the refugee program. The folks make them into bags, so old Medium or larger, not overly worn or with holes. Bring them to Herb and Joyce this Sunday or next, 23rd or 30th.

Friday Night Film:

Friday, September 21 at 7 pm: **THE TRUE COSTS** at Irvington United Methodist Church – [30 N. Audubon Road](#). This is a story about clothing. The film pulls back the curtain on an unseen part of our world and asks who pays the price for our clothing.

Giving Corner:

For September we are starting a new project with Teachers Treasures. A wish list can be found on their website: <http://www.teacherstreasures.org/>

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Pastoral Candidate:

The VAT, Pastoral Team Search Committee, and Brian Bither have met with and will be inviting Wilma Cender, on October 14th, to Shalom so that the congregation can consider her for the 0.5 FTE pastoral position. Wilma will be bringing the Sunday morning sermon; during the SS hour she will share her faith journey with us. We will then have a noon potluck meal followed by a time of conversation with Wilma where we will encourage questions and discussions with Wilma on a more informal basis.

Then on Oct 21st we will ask for a congregational vote whether to extend an offer to Wilma for the position.

Please remember to continue to lift up this process in prayer as we collectively discern God's continued Vision & Mission here at Shalom.

We will be sending out Wilma's biography early next week.

Milepost #535 – Worship

As we reflect together this month on the spiritual discipline of worship, we may discover that each of us has different experiences of worship. Our varying backgrounds--how we were raised, what we chose later in life--have a powerful impact on how each of us understands and feels about worship.

My experiences of worship pretty much run the gamut within the Jewish tradition: Conservative (with family), Orthodox (with high school friends), Reconstructionist (with sister when she served as a cantor), and Messianic (with college friends). My varied adventures in worship continued in the Christian Church: joining an "unprogrammed" Friends (Quaker) Meeting in Philadelphia,

later worshipping with an American Baptist Church, then with a "programmed" Friends Meeting in Indiana, interim pastoring a Presbyterian church, returning to Friends, then joining a Mennonite church... and this doesn't even include my associations with Catholics and Evangelicals, or the many churches I've attended as a harpist providing music for worship, weddings, and funerals!

Wouldn't it be fascinating--and fun--sometime for all of us to share our worship experiences and stories? Even if you are a "cradle" Mennonite, you probably have experienced diverse ways of worshipping within the Mennonite church itself as well as in your associations with people of other denominations and faiths.

This past week, as Jews have been celebrating the High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah--the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur--the Day of Atonement), I have remembered very special worship experiences from my earlier life. One of the most important prayers that is recited in public worship is called the "Mourners' Kaddish." "Kaddish" is Aramaic and means "holy." Individuals, with interspersed congregational responses, stand and recite this prayer on the anniversary of a loved one's death, and the whole congregation stands and recites it in unison on Yom Kippur.

Notice how this prayer does not even mention death. It is all about praising God and encouraging the living:

Glorified and sanctified be God's great name throughout the world which He has created according to His will.*

May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and during your days, and within the life of the entire House of Israel, speedily and soon; and let us say, Amen.

May His great name be blessed forever and to all eternity.

Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, extolled and honored,

*adored and lauded be the name of the
Holy One, blessed be He,
beyond all the blessings and hymns,
praises and consolations that
are ever spoken in the world; and let
us say, Amen.*

*May there be abundant peace from
heaven, and life, for us
and for all Israel; and let us say, Amen.*

And let us say, Amen!

*Masculine terminology is not required to pray
this prayer!

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