

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

December 26, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God
Chair: Linda Showalter

Last Sunday, Dec 22

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, our wait for Christ had almost reached its furthest point, which can be a strain on our faith. Not hearing from God for such a long time can push us toward darkness and despair, so how are we supposed to sustain our faith in these extended periods? Passages like Isaiah 7:10-16 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 suggest a radical answer: that God invites us to *question* Him during these times.

This Sunday, Dec 29

We will celebrate the good news: Christ has come! Christ is with us! Although we struggle to see God in the midst of this broken world, this may be because God came in a form we did not expect. Join us as we reflect on 1 Kings 19 and John 1 this Sunday.

Next Sunday, Jan 5

We will celebrate Epiphany and reflect on what it means to say that Christ is our light, drawing from Isaiah 60:1-6 and other texts.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom
Chair: Linda Kandel

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship
11:00am Sunday School

Mon, Jan 6 – Roving Office, Northwest
Panera, 6050 W 86th St, 8a to 2p
Wed, Jan 8 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am
Thurs, Jan 9 – Planning mtg, World Day of
Prayer, 10-11am
Mon, Jan 13 – Roving Office, Southeast
Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, 8a-2p
Thurs, Jan 16 – Meal, 6:30; Bible Study, 7-8pm

Roving Office

Would you like to meet with Pastor Brian on a Monday at a location near you? Feel free to email him at brian@shalommennonite.com with location and date suggestions for the Roving Office for February and March.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Chair: Jeanne Smucker

Two years ago, Shalom initiated a new structure. That new structure envisioned a pastoral team made up of both paid staff and volunteer pastors. Over the last two years, Sabrina Falls and Frank Kandel have shared generously of their time and abilities in the volunteer roles. Now that they have finished their terms of service, the VAT is seeking others who might be willing to assist Pastor Brian in ministering to the congregation as we continue our search for another paid pastoral team member. If you have the background or skills that would allow you to serve, we ask that you prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you at this time. If you feel called to join the pastoral team, please contact one of the members of the VAT and make your interests known.

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships
Chair: Martha Yoder Maust

Sunday School Schedule

12/22 and 12/29 – No SS

Upcoming classes for Jan - Feb 2020

1. "Beyond the Grave" Sunday School Class, January 12 to February 23 - In Philippians 1:21, Paul famously stated: "For me, to live in Christ and to die is gain." This statement captures a universal Christian belief: that Christ offers us life after death. However, beyond this basic affirmation, there is

widespread disagreement among Christians about what the afterlife will be like, who will get in, what will happen when Christ returns, and how much we can really know about these matters. If you have questions about these subjects and/or you are prepared to have an honest discussion with others at Shalom about what we believe and why, please consider taking this Scripture-focused class that will be led by Pastor Brian.

2. "Discovering your Spiritual Gifts." Spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to every believer for the common good of the church. Don't know what your spiritual gifts are? Please join us to find out! Meeting January 12 through February 23, in this class we'll share our stories and use tools to help discern our God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, passions, and callings. Teacher: Joyce Troyer
3. The Sunday school class facilitated by OlaJowon Turentine will be about Jesus. Was he all that human really? How important is the answer to that question? We will explore the words and actions of the God who became human too, for our sake.

Shalom Orientation Class for March and April

Are you new to Shalom (or newish), do you have an interest in joining our church, or do you just want to more about Mennonites or how our church works? If there is enough interest, Pastor Brian will offer a "Shalom Orientation" class during Lent, from Sunday, March 1 to Sunday, April 12. If you are interested in this, either talk to Brian in person or email him at brian@shalommennonite.com so that he can make preparations to teach the class.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom
Chair: Brad Yoder

Eastside Creation Care

January 11, 2020 Eastside Creation Care Network bi-monthly meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Irvington, 9:00 - 11:00 am. A light breakfast is available from 8:30 am.

Benches for Caps

First Mennonite has received their bench! They thank Shalom for giving them many plastic caps and lids. They had about 70 pounds extra and

recently took those to Irvington United Methodist Church. We are now collecting caps and lids for that church, which is a member of ECCN. Their Green Tree Plastics project includes a bench for their church yard and a toddler picnic table for their preschool playground.

Sharing Space

Thank you for all the donations to Mennonite Central Committee Relief Kits. The emphasis in January is on blankets - both new and gently used are acceptable.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems
Chair: Laura Harms

IRS Rules Regarding End of Year Giving

Please make note of this change to Shalom's practice on end-of-year donations for 2019. We will only be able to accept 2019 donations in the calendar year of 2019. Donations must be either

- post-marked by Dec 31, 2019 if mailed
- or handed in (offering plate, Treasurer mailbox, handed to Treasurer) by Dec 31, 2019

A check dated with a 2019 date, received in 2020, will be attributed to 2020 offerings.

To all my friends and fellow Christians at Shalom:

Christ's Peace. I hold you in my heart just as I did when I was present in body. I have moved to be closer to Nora. At 94 I am going strong but it is time to be nearer to family. May each and every one have a Joyous Christmas and keep the Christ Spirit in your hearts during the new year.

Blessings,
Sarah Palmatier
900 North Taylor Street
Arlington, Va.22203

Minutes

[Minutes from the November 4 VAT meeting](#) have been uploaded to the Shalom website.

Reflections On Pilgrimage

We are pilgrims, traveling together to the Holy. This space is a way to be companions to one another on this pilgrimage. This space is

here for anyone among us to share a reflection, a prayer, a question, a challenge, a poem, even a graphic or artwork. It's an opportunity to communicate something we might not feel comfortable speaking aloud but would like to express with the community of faith. In this space we can reach out with messages from the Holy Spirit or offer a gift of holy creativity. If you want to contribute but are still feeling shy about it, it's OK to remain anonymous. Another option is to send in a quote or poem or short devotional or graphic that you read or saw-- sharing with the rest of us the blessing that special tidbit of insight or wisdom. Thank you!

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: Jeanne Smucker, Cheryl Martin, Wilma Bailey, Rod Maust, Thad Wilson, Brian Bither

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