

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 15, 2018

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

This Sunday Feb. 18:

Scriptures: Psalm 32, James 5:13-19

Sermon Title: The Courage to Confess

It takes courage to confess. Whether we're confessing our "sin" or our "faith," it may involve risk. Facing our sin head on might mean plunging into darkness and wondering if we'll ever surface and see light again. Psalm 32 gives us confidence to confess as it describes the healing and peace that come with acknowledging our sin and sharing our truth-- first with ourselves and then with God. James 5:13-19 reminds us also to share our truth with one another, for we are called to a ministry of prayer for healing and forgiveness. In all of it, we are encouraged to feel safe to confess, because we are held in arms of love and mercy. – Sabrina Falls

Lent Resource from Mennonite Mission Network (MMN):

Looking for Lent activities for the whole family? Try our Lent activity calendar! Lent is a time of remembering Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness that prepared him for ministry. Starting Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14, join others across the United States in activities that encourage and prepare us to work for peace in our communities and world. You can find the calendar here:

<http://www.mennonitemission.net/lent>.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

Sun. 9:30am Worship

11 am Sunday School

Feb. 24: 8:30am Indiana-Michigan Conference
Southern Region Delegate Session

Feb. 28: 7am Morning Breakfast Group

Mar. 1: 6:30pm Meal/Bible Study

Mar. 4: Fellowship Meal

Mar. 18: 5pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Apr. 1: 8:30am Easter breakfast

Apr. 29: 6:30pm 5th Sunday Hymn Sing

DISCIPLING

Growing in our relationships

Urgent Need for Teachers:

We need teachers for the 2-3 year olds and for the middle school class for this coming Sunday (as well as a less urgent need for following weeks). Please let me or Ruth Penner know if you can help.

- Martha Yoder Maust

Favorite Bible Verse

Did you know? Pastor Brian Bither's favorite Bible verse is 2 Peter 3:9.

Please consider sending your favorite Bible verse to Abri to include in the newsletter by Thursday at noon. Thank you!

Catholic Economics Class Update:

The adult Sunday School class studying the book Catholic Economics should read chapters 8 and 9. - Wilma Bailey

Update on Gemina Trochez:

Gemina Trochez, the mother of Melanie, Jackie, and Lorraine, will have an opportunity within the next few weeks to make another appeal before an immigration judge that she should be released from detention while her case continues to be tried in the courts. Her legal team believes that it would help to have members of our congregation write the judge letters of support. Laura Harms has created a template that can be used to provide the basic information. If you are inclined to support their family in this way, please fill out the template or write your own letter, sign it by hand, and

put it in Brian's mailbox either this Sunday (2/11) or next Sunday (2/18). (Attached to this Journeying Together email.)

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Attention *MennoExpressions* Readers:

Are you interested in helping to brainstorm the content of *MennoExpressions* by joining a fun, creative, and enthusiastic group doing the same? We are looking for one or two people from Shalom to join the editorial board of *MennoExpressions*. We meet four times per year at First Mennonite Church, generally during the Sunday school hour. Editorial board members & the editor brainstorm each issue's theme together during lively, always-engaging discussions, and consider who in our respective First/Shalom Menno church circles might be willing to write prose or submit visual art relating to that theme. The Shalom representative(s) would specifically be responsible for asking Shalom congregants for contributions to *MennoExpressions*. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Alison Schumacher, editor, at MennoExpressions@indymenno.org. Thanks!

2018 Spring Clothing Drive:

Friday, March 2 through Sunday, March 18. Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis will be holding a clothing drive to collect gently used clothing in all sizes for children and adults from Indianapolis area congregations.

How it works:

Members of congregations collect gently used clothing and place them in white plastic kitchen trash bags. Members bring bags of clothing to their congregation March 2-18. During the week of March 19, congregation volunteers will deliver the clothing bags to the Family Promise Day Center. Based on the number of bags of donated clothing, Goodwill clothing vouchers are donated to Family Promise for guests to use in selecting clothing from a Goodwill Store.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Delegate Interest?

Coming up next Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9am to 4pm at the Mara Christian Church (415 W. Smith Valley Rd., Greenwood) the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference will host their winter delegate session. A handful of Shalom members will attend (including pastors Brian and Frank) but we have an open at-large representative. If interested or you'd like to learn more, please email Abri (abri.houser@gmail.com).

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

VAT Survey:

The VAT has prepared a congregational survey that is being sent to you by email. A few print copies will also be available at the mailboxes on Sunday. The survey is part of Pastor Brian's three-year review. It will also be used as part of his ordination process as requested by Indiana-Michigan Conference. Please fill out the survey and return it to Jeanne Smucker or Wilma Bailey by March 4, 2018. Thank you. - Wilma Bailey

Milepost #334: **Outreach**

The Outreach Commission has been considering what it is we're about, and we have come up with the following.

Philosophy of Outreach: To encourage congregants individually and corporately to share in the overflowing love of God with those beyond the confines of church:

- By identifying, acknowledging, and blessing what people are already doing
- By discerning over and evaluating corporate ministries in which we are already engaged
- By exploring, and encouraging new avenues of outreach and engagement
- By sharing God's love, justice, and peace in the world
- By acknowledging that outreach is mutual, and that while we have something to share,

we also have much to learn from those we share with

You recently (on February 11th) received by email a “Survey Monkey” from Mil Penner—a short two minute survey—to help guide our way forward. Thank you if you have already completed the survey. If you haven’t, it would be helpful if you would.

– Frank Kandel, Pastor for Outreach

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

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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