

Journeying Together

Shalom Mennonite Church

February 7, 2019

WORSHIP

Our relationship with God

Last Sunday, February 3:

As Jesus prophetically declares Jubilee for the world, he performs miraculous signs of the coming freedom of his Kingdom. The sick are healed. Demons are cast out. Captives are free. When Jesus finds himself preaching at the Sea of Galilee, he demonstrates his glory again through a miraculous catch of fish and follows it up with a call for disciples to be fishers of men. This same call is extended to us. On Sunday, our guest preacher - John Miller, who is planting a church in Speedway (within Indianapolis), will help us explore how to be fishers of Jubilee.

This Sunday, February 10:

Although we already have gotten glimpses of Jesus' teaching through his miraculous signs and brief comments, Luke 6:17-49 is the first that Jesus lays it out in extensive teaching and instruction in the third gospel. This material is often called "The Sermon on the Plain," but calling it a "sermon" may undermine its social and political significance. Pastor Brian will encourage us to think of this material as a kind of constitution for the people who want to join the Jubilee movement.

Next Sunday, February 17:

Wilma Bailey will deliver the sermon.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Relationships at Shalom

Calendar

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

Feb 13 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am
Feb 21 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8
Feb 26 – Family Promise at First Menno

Feb 27 – Morning Breakfast Group 7am

March 3 – Carry-In meal after Sunday School

March 7 – Meal, 6:30pm; Bible Study 7-8

March 9 – Eastside Creation Care; 8:30am

March 13 – Morning Breakfast Group, 7am

March 24 – Guess Who's Coming for Dinner

Pizzas for Peace: Thanks to everyone who graciously and generously contributed \$1,188 at our Pizzas for Peace luncheon last Sunday! It is always a fun event and we are thankful for the opportunity to share these funds supporting the work of the Peace and Justice Support Network of MCUSA.

OUTREACH

Relationships beyond Shalom

Family Promise (IHN)

FMC is hosting another round of Family Promise the week of Feb 24. Shalom is assisting by hosting Family Promise on Tuesday, Feb 26. You have the opportunity to serve, please sign up to help.

In the late 1980s, a crisis of family homelessness was being discovered. Most traditional shelters at the time separated genders - some for women and little children, others for men and older boys - and families were split apart. Interfaith Hospitality Network was born to begin to house families together. In 2013 the program expanded to include case management services and the name became "Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis."

"We are Family Promise because we believe in the promise - the potential - inherent in each family that enters our doors. It also refers to our promise to keep a family together, and to help the family succeed, through its most difficult time."

Read the full story in a separate attachment.

Giving Corner:

Some blankets have already been taken to Wheeler Mission. We will continue to collect comforters and blankets through February.

ADMINISTRATION

Congregational support systems

Administrative Assistant: Shalom has hired Laura Harms as Administrative Assistant starting in this month. Please continue to email all announcements or requests to office@shalommennonite.com.

Office Hours for Brian:

On Mondays, Brian usually puts in office hours at the church while doing administrative work. He is experimenting with a "roving office hour" model, where he will be traveling to different parts of the city in Indianapolis in case those of us who live far away from the church would be interested in coming by to chat. This Monday (2/11), Brian will be at the Cumberland Starbucks by E Washington St and Mitthoeffer Rd from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Feel free to come by if you'd like to talk.

Invitation to complete Survey:

As the Pastoral Team Search Committee continues, we are aware of some issues with the 20 pastoral tasks survey that we did one year ago. This tool is important for us as well as pastoral candidates to know where the congregation's priorities are. There are two major concerns which we wish to address:

- 1) With less than 40% of the congregation returning the surveys, we may not have had true representation of the whole congregation.
- 2) The tasks are meant to apply to the whole pastoral team, not just the current candidate.

The new survey will be available from Sunday, February 3. It will need to be returned by February 17, 2019.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM (SGDT)

In their meeting this past week, the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team has produced the

following philosophy statement that lays out that group's mission and principles: "The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team exists to help individuals discern their spiritual gifts and to help the congregation to find the best people to meet its needs. We value the unique gifts of every individual, and we seek to foster the discovery, growth, and application of those gifts in the congregation and beyond it, which we hold in creative tension with our responsibility to meet the needs of the church. We promote diversity in the leadership, encourage leaders to look for new ways to integrate more people, and encourage the entire congregation to partner with us in the work of discernment and affirmation." This can now be found on [the SGDT page](#) of the website.

Milepost #668 Jesus: Healer or Activist?

Many historians – both Christian and non-Christian – consider Jesus of Nazareth to be the most influential person in human history. After all, Christianity is the largest religion in the world today, and besides that, Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection has inspired countless social programs and political movements that have shaped the global society we live in – from agencies like Samaritan's Purse that send doctors to meet medical needs all over the world to movements like the satyagraha campaign of Mohandas Gandhi that use organized nonviolence to bring about social change. However, some of these programs and movements are so different from each other that one wonders how it is possible that they all claim to be inspired by the same person. We may be inclined to ask, "What kind of person was Jesus anyway? Was he a Jewish rabbi or a political revolutionary? Was he concerned about getting people to heaven or about things happening on earth? Was his healing ministry like a charitable medical mission or a social justice campaign?"

The answer to those questions is: yes. One of the features of modern society/culture is that we tend to divide the full human experience into separate compartments: body or spirit,

political or personal, public or private, etc. But in Jesus' time, people understood that these were all interconnected, and so while people usually come to Jesus with one need in mind, he usually ends up going beyond the immediate need to bring them holistic healing. For example, when a man who was paralyzed came to Jesus for a spiritual blessing in Luke 5, Jesus not only offered him forgiveness (a spiritual blessing) but helped him to walk as well (a physical one). Or as another example, when a man with leprosy begged Jesus for healing in that same chapter, Jesus not only healed his body but gave him instructions that would allow him to re-integrate into society, recognizing that illness causes social as well as physical damage. In a third example, Jesus not only recognizes the social dynamic that was oppressing a crippled man in Luke 6, but he rebukes the people who were using this man's pain as a political tool to try to "trap" him.

In summary, Jesus always sought to heal the whole person – keeping their physical, social, and spiritual needs in view – as he went around proclaiming Jubilee. As we continue to carry this good news to the world, we would do well to follow his example.

- Brian Bither, Pastor

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