



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

**** To view graphics and a more colorful version, open the attached pdf file. ****

NOVEMBER 6, 2024

CALENDAR

Sat, November 9: Eastside Creation Care Network @ SMC (see announcement/Outreach)
Sun, November 10: Pizzas for Peace (see announcement)
Mon, November 11: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Sun, November 17: Biblical Dialogue on Sexual Orientation @ Shalom, 4 pm (see announcement)
Mon, November 18: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St
Mon, November 25: *BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St.
Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom (see announcement/Community Life)
Mon, December 2: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
Sun, December 8: Congregational budget meeting following Sunday School
Mon, December 8: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave
Mon, December 16: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Sat, December 14: Christmas Banquet
Sun, December 15: No Carry-In Meal
*BRO: Brian's Roving Office

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Dan Rosenberger
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Wed, Nov 6 – Peter Wigginton
Thu, Nov 7: Rod and Martha Yoder Maust
Fri, Nov 8: Caleb Martin
Wed, Nov 13: Carl Rhine

Thanksgiving is coming! A carry-in meal is planned for Thanksgiving Day, November 28, in the fellowship hall for anyone who doesn't have plans and would like to come. Friends and family are welcome. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the back sanctuary window – indicate how many people would come, and what you would like to contribute. Or, just come. Turkey will be provided.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Children's Sunday School

Regular Children's Sunday School will not meet on December 1 but a children's activity will be offered so that parents can attend the planned adult Sunday school.

If you're willing and able to be Hall Monitor, please sign up for December openings by contacting Laura Harms, harms.laura@gmail.com

Hall Monitor:

Nov 10: Linda S	Dec. 1: Linda S
Nov 17: Linda S	Dec. 8: Linda S
Nov 24:	Dec. 15:
	Dec. 22:
	Dec. 29:

Teachers:

2-yr old class - Abri Hochstetler and Carol Weaver will co-teach
Pre-K and K – Beverly Smith will teach with Joyce Troyer as a substitute
Elementary - Frank Kandel and Rod Maust will co-teach
Youth - Jeanne Smucker and Brad Yoder will teach

Adult Sunday School Classes:

Sermon on the Mount class, meets in the sanctuary, facilitated by Craig Oury

- November 10: Fruit of our Actions 7:13-23
- November 24: Hearers and Doers 7:24-29 and SOM conclusions

He Came Preaching Peace, in the basement classroom. Facilitated by Wilma Bailey.

- Nov. 10 Please read chapter 11.
- Nov. 24 Please read chapter 12

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Eastside Creation Care will be meeting this Saturday, November 9th, at Shalom with a light breakfast from 8:30 - 9 followed by a meeting from 9 to about 11. All are welcome.

Chris Harrell from the Center for Environmental Policy and Management will share



with us his work toward a remedy for dangerously high lead in Indy's urban lawn soils and, if time allows, will speak on his other work.
Any questions can be addressed to Mike or Becky Wigginton.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Angie Buller

VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

As we are starting a new year here at Shalom thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve on our commissions. We do have one spot that is yet to be filled. Please be praying for the right person who is willing to serve as chair of the Outreach Commission.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Frank Kandel (Chair), Nizeet Deiter (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Grace Rhine

Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Brittany Bither (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (11/03), Brian continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount by reflecting on Matthew 6:25-34 and considering how "worry" can become another form of greed that can drive us to Mammon.

This Sunday (11/10), Craig will continue our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching from Matthew 7:1-12

Next Sunday (11/17), Brian will continue our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching on Matthew 7:13-23.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: The church that we are praying for this week is **Walnut Hill Mennonite Church**, which is in Goshen, Indiana and a part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- Organization: Our organization in focus is **Family Promise**, which is a partnership of congregations and community organizations responding to the crisis of children and their families who are homeless. They work to eliminate homelessness in Greater Indianapolis. (Contact: Solomon Abebe)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pizzas for Peace. This **Sunday, November 10**, several of us are going to be reviving an old and much cherished Shalom tradition: the pizzas for peace fundraiser. Shalom members will be making homemade pizzas and serving them for free at church after the Sunday school hour. Although there is no cost to eat pizza, we will be encouraging people to donate the money that they might otherwise have spent on lunch to Indiana AID. Furthermore, we will be using Everence funds to match the donations, so come and invite others to have some delicious homemade pizza and make a difference in the lives of others.

On Sunday, November 17 **from 4pm to 6pm**, Shalom will host the first of our SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) dialogues, which are conversations in which we explore different ways that Christians understand the Biblical teaching on these matters. This will involve one Christian leader who has a theologically conservative understanding (Tyler Hartford) and one Christian leader who has a theologically progressive understanding (Jewel Gingerich Longenecker) discussing the question, "How

does the Bible inform your understanding of same-sex attraction?” It will also give congregants a chance to submit questions to the speakers. Because of the sensitive nature of this conversation, we will not be providing a Zoom link, and we are going to ask all participants to sign a conversational covenant (which will be based on the AMBS covenant that is attached to this issue of Journeying Together). We understand that some people believe that God’s will is so clear on this that there is no purpose in discussing this question, and we would encourage those who have this mindset not to participate in this particular event. You are welcome at our church, but this meeting will not be beneficial for you. For everyone who is open to hearing different Biblical interpretations on this and who is willing to show respect to Christians with different views, we encourage you to attend.

Mennonite Arts Weekend: Early-bird registration is open for the 2025 Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 7-9. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Find the list of presenters, registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org>

Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference is partnering with Mennonite Mission Network to provide an opportunity for growing intercultural capacity and racial justice by offering a United States Civil Rights Tour February 18-25, 2025. For more information click [here](#).

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Hello, my name is Renee Begay. Keshhi ho’ Renee Begay le’shina. Ho K’o:lotda:kwe deyan K’yak’yali:kwe a:wan cha’le. I belong to my mother’s clan, which is the Sandhill Crane clan, and then I’m a child of my father’s clan, which is the Eagle Clan. And so that’s how we find out who’s related to who, who’s auntie of who or whatever. But that’s how I introduce myself.



Renee Begay grew up with a slew of family members in a trailer on the Zuni pueblo in Western New Mexico, near the Arizona border. Her family was poor, but it didn’t feel like that to Begay, whose family name is Kylestewa. Her family found ways to survive. When the electricity was shut off because of unpaid bills, they used candles. When the water was turned off, they hauled water from the homes of neighbors and family members.

In spite of those challenges, Begay’s mother, a single parent, found a way to pay for Begay to attend Saint Anthony Zuni Indian Mission and School in Zuni through eighth grade and Rehoboth Christian School, just outside of Gallup, for high school. “It was a really great experience,” Begay said of the education she received at the private schools. “It set me up to really study well.” It also set her up with her faith.



Begay is a Christian who comes from a family with close ties to its Zuni culture and religion. She made the decision to become a Christian during a Zuni holy week, when she was a sophomore in high school. That week, family members got into an intense fight as they prepared for a fast. Some family members fought physically, while others were shouting and crying. She stood back, paralyzed. Instead of taking part in the holy week event, she went home and sat on her bed. She recalls wondering what could help her family change, if not the holy week. She turned to a random passage in the Bible, Psalm 139, and started reading. It reads, in part, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...” Begay says she decided then to follow the Christian God because she saw that other efforts to heal her family weren’t working.

It was a difficult decision — one that had been brewing for more than a year — because it contradicted her family’s beliefs. “I have deep respect for my people and my family,” she said. “It was very

countercultural, and there were times where I may have disappointed my family because I decided not to follow their religious ways.”

In 2000, Begay came to New Mexico State University with her then-boyfriend, Donnie Begay (the two married in 2002), who also attended the Christian high school. On the Las Cruces campus, both felt culture shocked and lonely. They slowly branched out, getting involved with Campus Crusade for Christ (now called “Cru”) and finding their community. But they still felt a longing for the familiar.



As she headed toward graduation, Renee Begay wanted to help other Native students on campus. She prayed in 2002, asking God what to do. She says a vision came to her mind, and the Begays started *Nations* at NMSU. The nonprofit Christian organization “is a campus movement of Native American students and faculty who embrace and honor First Nations people while recognizing that there is one true Creator who desires to restore what has been lost by placing his Son Jesus Christ at the center of American Indian life and culture,” according to its website. Today, Nations is on 10 college campuses across the United States.

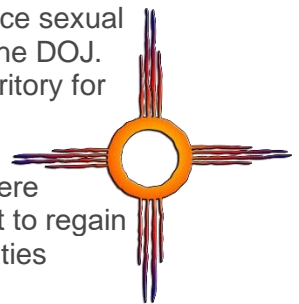
“We weren’t trying to replace (students’ homes),” Begay said, “but we wanted to be able to form a community where they felt they belonged and that they could have friendships and stuff to help keep them going.”

Begay has become a prominent figure in Cru. She travels to universities across the country to promote the Nations movement and spoke at a national Cru conference in 2013. Begay says the work is fulfilling. She has seen students move from shyness to having friends. But she also deals with difficult situations. During an interview, her voice shook as she described sexual abuse as “the No. 1, hardest thing we encounter.”



One in three Native women has been a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime, according to U.S. Department of Justice statistics. Native women experience sexual assault at a rate 2.5 times higher than the national average, according to the DOJ. Hearing stories of abuse and being a source of comfort comes with the territory for Begay. She said that’s “overwhelming sometimes.”

As she spoke, her emotion was apparent. At her family’s kitchen table, where many of Nations’ lively conversations take place, Begay needed a moment to regain her composure before putting on a smile and talking about the social activities students engage in during meetings at her house.



<https://nmindepth.com/2014/faith-helped-zuni-woman-succeed-in-college/>



Need something? Have something to give away?

From Beverly Smith: I have 3 items I would like to find new homes for.

- An apartment sized manual washer/spin dryer
- A recumbent exercise bike
- A Hoover vacuum.

I will wait two weeks for anyone to claim, then turn over to local charity thrift.

The washer works fine; Note: The washer does require manual filling and emptying, there is no automatic stop. Do not use the Wash function and the Drain or Spin Cycle at the same time. Be sure to place the "lid" over clothes in the spinner and do not fill to the top.

The bike works, but the electronic monitor may not. Check battery. There is a rubber mat included to go under the bike.

The vacuum works but may need some maintenance to perform better-a new belt?



REFLECTION

Psalm 46

God's Defence of His City and People

To the leader. Of the Korahites. According to Alamoth. A Song.

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
- ³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city¹ it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ 'Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.'
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

ROUTINE INFORMATION

"SHARING OUR LIVES" weekly power point.

We invite photo submissions of events / hobbies / interests in your lives. Send pictures to Linda Showalter at lindahowalter52@gmail.com by noon on Saturday. It will run before and after the service.

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

- Send announcements to Linda Showalter at lindashowalter52@gmail.com by Friday, 10 am.
- **Bulletins** are now attached with the Zoom link for those who are worshiping on Zoom. A link will continue to be sent out each week. If you have a prayer request or announcement you would like to share, **type your request live into the chat** feature on zoom and someone on the tech team will read it to the congregation at church.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER is compiled by Linda Showalter each week. Send information to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

SAM BIXLER manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone numbers. You can email changes or additions to the office at office@shalommennonite.com or bixlersc@gmail.com.

CRAIG OURY is managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at office@shalommennonite.com or craig@shalommennonite.com.

BUILDING USEAGE: If you want to use the building for a meeting or event, please check the online calendar first to be sure it's open, then email Craig at office@shalommennonite.com so he can add your item to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: In addition to our podcast, Shalom has a Youtube Channel. This is an easy way to share the good news with church members past and present, visitors and newcomers, and even outsiders. Check it out at youtube.com/@shalommennonite55.

VIDEO RECORDINGS (MP4) of our Zoom worship services are available online. A link to the worship service recordings is on the Member's page of our website.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:

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Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine, Brian Bither, Craig Oury