



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

DECEMBER 4, 2024

CALENDAR

Sun, December 8: Congregational budget meeting following Sunday School (see announcement)
Mon, December 9: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave
Fri, December 13: Church Women United at Shalom; 9:30 am (see announcement)
Mon, December 16: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Sat, December 14: Christmas Banquet, 6 pm (see announcement/Community Life)
Sun, December 15: No Fellowship Meal
Tue, December 24: Christmas Eve service, 6:30 pm (see announcement)
Mon, January 13: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 9236 N Michigan Rd
Tue, January 14: Commission Chairs meeting, 6:30 pm
Thu, January 16: Community Life Commission meeting, 6:00 pm
Mon, January 20: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
Mon, January 27: *BRO @ Downtown Panera, 430 N Mass Ave
*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!

Fri, December 6: Jim Martin
Fri, December 6: Joyce Troyer
Mon, December 9: Rachel Maust
Wed, December 11: Abigail Deiter
Wed, December 11: Julie Sanders



Christmas Carry-in meal is Saturday at 6pm. Please sign up for stuffed shell (recipe at back) 9x12 size pan and pies (any kind is fine). Appetizers, salad and drinks will be provided. Please invite family and friends to join in time of holiday fellowship. Thanks for helping, and hope to see you then.
Carol

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9

Any 5 – 9-year-old can have one of these cute nativities from Peru by reading 5 Christmas books during Advent, December 1 - 29!

After reading one of the many Christmas books in our library, meet with Linda Showalter, Carol Weaver or Rose Love in the library after the church service and tell them a little bit about the story you read (or was read to you). Then mark your record on the board and grab another book!



Children's Classes

Hall Monitor:

Dec. 8: Linda S
Dec. 15: Bob Love
Hall monitors will be needed again starting Jan 5.

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:

December 8: Technology and our Discipleship*, facilitated by Andrew Martin

*Innovations in communication technology have formed the church throughout her history. Scrolls, codices, printing presses, and radios have each had their own powerful effects on the way we read, teach, and experience the world around us. In this series, we will consider how technologies have shaped and reshaped the church in the past and in the present. Rather than viewing technologies as neutral tools, we will be taking the view that each medium carries its own set of implicit values that in turn shape us as we use them. How do our algorithmically-driven social media feeds disciple us? Does cable news help us be peacemakers? Do personalized advertisements shape our desires? Do auto-play videos and infinite-scrolling keep us from seeking the face of Jesus? What are phones doing to our children? Come to Sunday school in the first two weeks of December when we will give and receive counsel together about technology and our discipleship.

December 15: Caucus Sunday, Color of Compromise, chapter 5
December 22: Seasonal singing - all ages
December 29: Seasonal singing - all ages

Beginning in January we will be celebrating 500 years of Anabaptism. The Bible study class will pick up on beliefs and practices that formed the Mennonite Church.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

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

Reduction to MKS Giving. In light of the budget crisis, the Outreach Commission is recommending that we reduce our giving to Meserete Kristos Seminary to \$3,865, which is the amount that we give to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. For more information about this, please see the attached newsletter.

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 (12/1), Brian introduced a new series on "The Need for a Savior" that will take us through the Advent season, beginning with "The Need for a New 'Image'" that arose in the Garden of Eden.

This Sunday (12/8), Brian will continue preaching "The Need for a Savior" Advent series by considering "The Need for a High Priest" that became apparent when God established the Levitical priesthood at Mount Sinai.

Next Sunday (12/15), Craig will continue the series on the "Need for a Savior."

This week's prayer list:

- Church: The church we are praying for is **Belmont Mennonite Church**, which is a Mennonite church in Elkhart, Indiana that is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. They have asked us to pray as they continue connecting with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, update their bylaws and Safe Church policy, and navigate changing attendance and participation patterns.
- Organization: Our organization in focus this week is **Mennonite Disaster Service**, which is an organization that strives to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those affected by disasters by rebuilding homes and organizing and empowering volunteers in the U.S. and Canada. (Contact: Jim Showalter)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pastor Craig is on vacation until Monday, December 9.

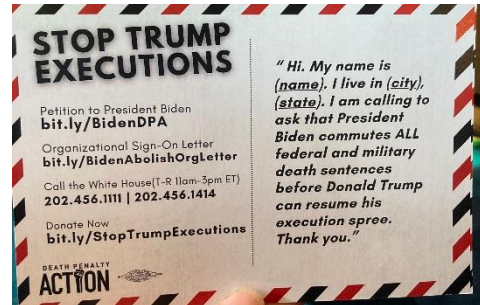
I shared at church several weeks ago about the upcoming execution of Joseph Corcoran on December 18 by the State of Indiana. Governor Holcomb has called for his execution and the executions for the 7

other men on death row in Indiana, after a 15-year moratorium on executions in this state. Handwritten notes or cards to politicians do matter, particularly during their lame duck time. If you are inclined, feel free to write a simple note asking to stop executions and why you feel that way. Addresses are included below to reach out to the governor and President Biden during their lame duck periods.

Additional information is attached about other ways to reach President Biden before he leaves office. Thank you for considering! -Lydie Assefa

Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

President Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500



Friday, December 13, Church Women United will hold their Human Rights Day celebration at Shalom. Registration starts at 9:30 am, along with light refreshments. The program begins at 10 am. All are welcome to attend. Contact Carol Bixler with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service. On **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30pm**, Shalom will be hosting a child-friendly Christmas Eve service in our sanctuary. Children will be invited to place nativity pieces on the central set throughout the service while we read through the Scripture story and sing Christmas hymns. All are welcome to attend.



Dear Shalom Sisters and Brothers,
This Sunday, December 8, at 12 Noon is our annual congregational Budget Party Meeting to review, revise, and approve our 2025 Shalom Budget. Please plan to attend this important congregational meeting. As always, I will strive to be as efficient as possible with our time.

As you know, we had trouble meeting our financial commitments in mid-2024. I want to announce, though, that generous offerings over the past 5 weeks have cleared much of our income deficit for the year. Specifically:

- As of the end of October, our 2024 spending had exceeded our 2024 offerings by \$22,717.
- As of December 4, 2024, our 2024 spending has exceeded our offerings by only \$4,451.

For those who like graphical reports, attached is a summary of our spending and offerings for the past several years, including a more detailed breakdown of our 2024 numbers.

Please be in prayer for God's guidance on our 2025 spending decisions. At our Congregational Meeting, we will look at the budget proposed by our Commission & VAT Chairs and seek agreement on whether any lines should be revised prior to congregational approval.

I have attached an updated copy of the proposed budget that includes our 2024 spending through Dec. 4. I will have a few paper copies available at our Budget Meeting, but it would be helpful if many of us could bring their own paper or digital copies.

In Christ, Bob Love, Treasurer

Shalom Orientation Class - We are about to pass a major historical milestone. January 21, 2025 will mark the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, out of which the Mennonite Church emerged. One way to celebrate this momentous occasion is to consider becoming a member of Shalom Mennonite Church. For those who are interested, Pastor Brian is going to offer a "Shalom Orientation class" in December and January that explains the basics about our church, our theology,

our history, and our decision-making/leadership structure, which will give participants an opportunity to decide whether they want to formally join the congregation or not. If you are interested in this, contact Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com. Both newer folks and long-time attendees are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in the class but are concerned about your ability to participate on Sunday mornings, reach out to Brian anyway and he will see if there is a way to work around your schedule.

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**. **Registration deadline is December 15**. For more information click [here](#).

REFLECTION

Providing Shelter

“Let me abide in your tent forever [and] find refuge under the shelter of your wings.” – Ps 91:4

As the weather dropped to below freezing temperatures this week, my mind went to 1,600 homeless people living in Indianapolis whose lives are at risk in the face of the cold. Homelessness is one of the biggest crises in Indianapolis because the number of unhoused people is significantly greater than the total number of beds available in all Indianapolis shelters combined. In 2021, the City-County Council commissioned a study exploring the possibility of investing in “low barrier shelters,” but there has not been enough political will to move forward with the recommendations that came out of that study. One of the biggest challenges has been finding a place to put such a shelter – few homeowners or businesses are willing to have one set up in their backyard. In the meantime, the unhoused population is literally left out in the cold. Last year, 123 unhoused people died in Indianapolis in part because they had no place to call home.

As individuals or even as a single church, we will not be able to solve this problem. Nevertheless, it is important for us to remember the homeless during this time of year. One of the great metaphors that God uses in the Bible is the metaphor of shelter. For example, Jesus once said to the city of Jerusalem, “How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.” Like Jesus, our hearts should go out to those who lack shelter: we should keep them in our prayers, treat them with compassion when we encounter them, and work toward finding solutions for them. We may not be able to fix this problem, but we must avoid the temptation to look away and pretend it isn’t there.

In addition to the 1,600 people in Indianapolis who need physical shelter, there are many who long for spiritual shelter. There are people who feel judged because of their social status, alienated from loved ones because of family conflict, or afraid of their neighbors because of their immigration status. They long for a community where they can find dignity and acceptance, where they can sense God’s wings of protection coming around them. May Shalom be one such place! As is the case with the homeless crisis, we can’t ourselves be all things to all people, but if we proclaim the good news of God’s shelter and extend grace to those we encounter, then we may have the opportunity to see God’s tent expand in our faith community. ~ Brian

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO



Three Things You Might Not Know about Rosa Parks

You probably know that Rosa Parks sat in the white section of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama and was arrested for doing so, and that her action was one of the factors that sparked the Montgomery bus boycott that lasted 381 days and finally ended when the US Supreme Court ruled that bus segregation was unconstitutional.



You might not know about Parks' commitment to racial justice from an early age. She and her husband joined the NAACP, where she was the Montgomery Chapter's youth leader and secretary to NAACP president E.D. Nixon.

You might also not know—I didn't—that the line between white and black sections of the bus was moveable. Rosa actually sat down in the black section when she got on the bus, but when a large group of white people got on the bus the driver moved the line to behind her seat and she refused to get up for a white man.

You may have heard that she didn't get up because she was tired. This makes it sound like this was just an unexpected event. But there's more to the story.

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true," she wrote in her autobiography, *Rosa Parks: My Story*. "I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in." (Quoted in *How to Fight Racism, Young Reader's Edition* by Jemar Tisby, p.172.)



So instead of an old tired lady, Rosa Parks was a person who was working for racial justice, and who deliberately performed an act of civil disobedience. As a result, she lost her job and could not find another job in Montgomery. She eventually moved to Detroit, Michigan and worked for Congressman John Conyers, supporting his civil rights work. And at age seventy-four she and a friend founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development and she traveled around the country speaking about her experiences.

Now you know. ~ Martha



Need something? Have something to give away?

We have a Radon Instrument to lend that will show the radon level in your home. Jim S.



Found in the kitchen. Is it yours?

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 lindashowalter52@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 worshipping 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:

6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

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