



(Advent display by Bek Linsenmeyer)

## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

### *A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church*

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

**DECEMBER 18, 2024**

#### CALENDAR

Sat, December 21: Longest Night Service, 6 pm (see announcement)  
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 Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm  
Thu, January 16: Community Life Commission Zoom meeting, 6:00 pm  
Mon, January 20: \*BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN  
Tue, January 21: 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement Zoom service, 7pm  
(see announcement)  
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!*

Sat, December 21 – Sheila and Solomong Abebe, 1997  
Wed, December 25 – Carol Bither

## DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



### **Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9**

A couple of our kids have already reached the 5-book goal! The others are working on it diligently.

#### **Children's Classes**

##### **Hall Monitor:**

Jan. 5: Joann Buerge  
Jan. 12: Joann Buerge  
Jan. 19: Bob Love  
Jan. 26: Linda Showalter

##### **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 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

## 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 (12/15)**, Pastor Craig brought the Advent message from 1 Samuel 8:1-22

**This Sunday (12/22)**, Brian will wrap up "The Need for a Savior" Advent series by considering "The Need for a Liberator," which became especially apparent in the wake of the fall of Babylon. Jeremiah 42 and Luke 4 will serve as guiding texts.

**Next Sunday (12/20)**, Craig will bring the message.

**This week's prayer list:**

- Church: The church we are praying for this week is **Benton Mennonite Fellowship**, which is a Mennonite church in Goshen, Indiana that has just come through a time of pastoral transition. We pray for them as they begin a new season of church life together.
- Organization: Our organization in focus this week is **Meserete Kristos Seminary**, which is a Mennonite seminary in Ethiopia that exists to equip men and women for the holistic transformation of the church and society. (Contact: Zenebe Abebe)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Saturday, December 21** at 6pm, Shalom will host a Longest Night service in our sanctuary. While the Christmas season inspires joy for many people, the lack of sunlight and absence of loved ones from our family circles can make it a painful season for some of us. This solemn service will provide an opportunity for us to share in that grief and pray together on the longest night of the year. Please do not feel obliged to come if this is not applicable to you, but anyone who wants to attend is welcome.

**Sunday, December 22** after the service and before Sunday School there will be cookies provided by First Mennonite to thank Shalom for lending the use of Pastor Craig's services the last couple of years as his time at FMC has come to an end.

**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.



Anyone who has no plans for **Christmas Day** is invited to share a noon meal with us. If there are more than we can comfortably accommodate at home, we'll move it to the church basement. Let us know! (Ham will be on the menu.) It would be helpful to know if you're coming by Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jim & Linda ★

There is a (slightly edited) version of a paper attached that Peter Wigginton submitted for a class at the seminary. He's planning on submitting it to Anabaptist Witness they are doing a version on Latin American mission.

**January 21, 2025 at 7pm** - Next January, we will cross the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement, which began when Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, George Blaurock, and several others defied the orders of Zurich City Council to baptize their newborn babies and instead baptized one another as adults, which they understood as a voluntary decision to commit their lives to Jesus. Shalom will be celebrating this milestone later in the year, but for anyone who wants to celebrate on the exact day, College Mennonite Church will be broadcasting a special service which you can watch by registering at [this link](#).



**AMBS (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary)** has some amazing courses during the second semester (Jan. 13 to May 2, 2025) that are open to guest students! Are you a history lover? Try "Global Anabaptist History and Theology" with Jamie Pitts or "Biblical Hermeneutics and the History of Interpretation" with Paul Keim. Worship leaders may enjoy "Christian Worship: Theory and Practice" with Rachel Miller Jacobs. Are you concerned about the environment? "Spiritual Practices: Water of Life" with Janeen Bertsche Johnson, which meets for five Tuesday evenings may be what you are looking for. Are you perplexed by Revelation? "Apocalypse Against Empire: The Book of Revelation" with Drew Strait may intrigue you. And there are several other great options that are designed for distance learning. Please look over the list of courses available to guest students here:

<https://ambs.edu/upcoming-courses/>. There is a significant discount for students taking their first course at AMBS.

## FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

### Florence Price

Florence Price was born Florence Beatrice Smith on April 9, 1887, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She died on June 3, 1953. She was considered to be the first African American female symphonic composer to have her music performed by major orchestras.



Her mother was a white music teacher who started Florence on her musical journey. Her father was an African American dentist. Her early education was at a Catholic school where she graduated from high school at age 14 as the valedictorian. She then went to the New England Conservatory of Music with a double major in organ and piano teaching. Initially, she passed as Mexican to avoid racial discrimination against African Americans, listing her hometown as "Pueblo, Mexico". She graduated in 1906 with honors, and with both an artist diploma in organ and a teaching certificate.

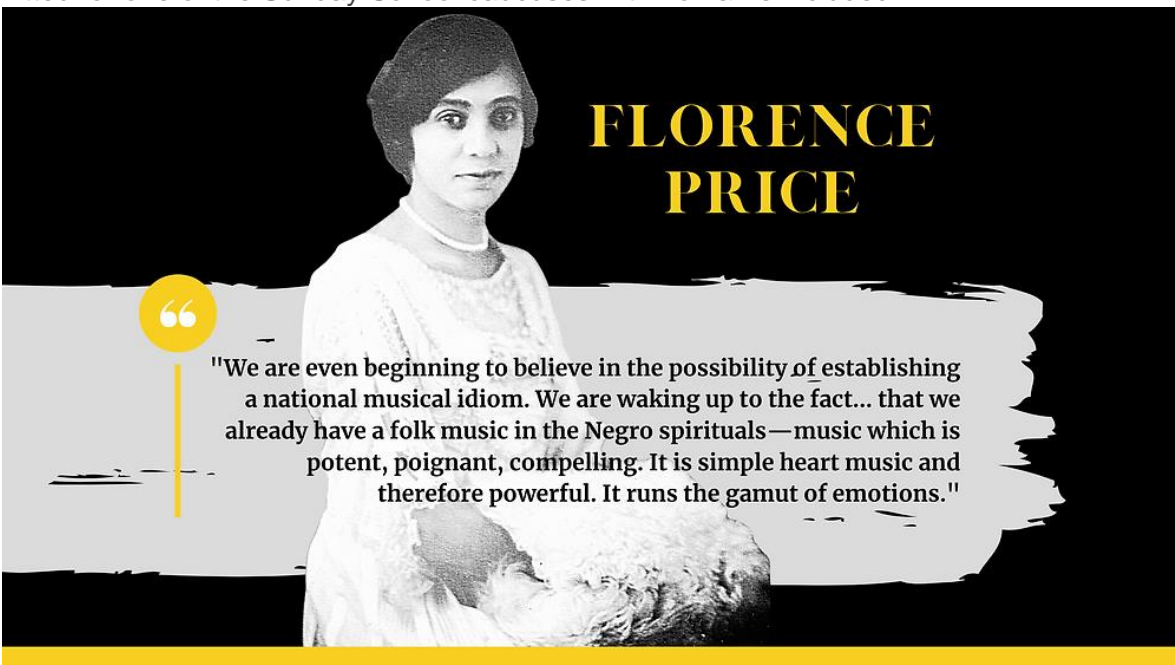


Her first teaching job was head of the department of music at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Two years later, she married Thomas Price, a lawyer in Little Rock. They had 2 daughters and a son together. She could not work there because of segregation, so they moved to Chicago. Her career flourished there, and she studied and composed numerous works.

Florence divorced her husband at age 44 because of financial problems and abuse. She worked under a pen name as an organist for silent movies, and composed works.

She had many honors given to her over the years and was well known in music circles. In 2009, a substantial collection of her works and papers was found in an abandoned, dilapidated house on the outskirts of St. Anne, Illinois, which Price had used as a summer home. That is how much of her work has been reborn. She died of a stroke at age 66.

Submitted for one of the Sunday School caucuses with no name included.







Need something? Have something to give away?

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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](http://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