



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 30, 2024

CALENDAR

Mon, November 4: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave
Mon, November 11: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
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
Sun, December 1: No Sunday School (Thanksgiving weekend)
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!

Thu, Oct 31 – Bethany Martin

Fri, Nov 1 – Brad Yoder

Sun, Nov 3 – Delicia Bravo Wigginton

Wed, Nov 6 – Peter Wigginton

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Children's Sunday School

There will be NO Sunday School on December 1 due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Hall Monitor:

3-Nov	Joann	Dec 1	No S.S.
10-Nov	Linda S	Dec 8	
17-Nov	Linda S	Dec 15	
24-Nov	Linda S	Dec 22	

Teachers:

2-yr old class - Abri and Carol W will co-teach

Pre-K and K - Beverly will teach with Joyce as a substitute

Elementary - Frank and Rod will co-teach

Youth - Jeanne and Brad will teach

Adult Sunday School Classes:

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

- November 3: Do not judge and Asking God 7:1-12
- 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.

- Nov. 3 Please read chapters 9 and 10.
- 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

We enjoyed a beautiful evening with Peter and Delica in Quito, hearing about their work and what God is doing in South America as well as seeing the landscape and hearing Peter, his dad and Ariana share a song. Thank you for sharing this time with us. Some of you were not able to attend the Zoom meeting so we recorded it to share with you.

Here is the video link. (Control + click to follow the link)

[Wigginton/Bravo MST presentation](#)
[youtu.be](#)

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

This Sunday (11/03), Brian will continue 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.

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

This week's prayer list:

- **Church:** **Sunnyside Mennonite Church** is a Mennonite church in Elkhart, Indiana which is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. They have asked for prayers as they discern who they are as a congregation and who God is calling them to be in the next season.
- **Organization:** **Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association**, which is the community organization that represents the region of Indianapolis that is bounded by 38th street to the north, 21st street to the south, Shadeland to the east, and Sherman to the west - which includes Shalom. Let us pray for them as they seek to beautify the area, bring neighbors together, bring awareness through advocacy, and build/continue legacies through neighborhood stories. (Contacts: Zenebe Abebe and Becky Wigginton)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO



Bessie Coleman was born in a one-room cabin on January 26, 1892, in Waxahachie, Texas. She was one of 13 children. Her birth was neither recorded on a birth certificate nor in a family Bible. Her mother, Susan, and her father, George, could neither read nor write. It is not known whether Bessie's parents, both Texas-born, were enslaved before the Civil War. Susan's family was originally from Georgia and had migrated to Texas before her birth. George's family had significant Native American roots. Three of his grandparents were Native - most likely Choctaw or Cherokee. His father was from Indian Territory and his mother from Missouri.

Even while facing the violence and barriers created by Jim Crow segregation, George Coleman bought a small plot of land in Waxahachie, Texas. Bessie Coleman's early childhood was a happy one, spent playing and attending church on Sundays. In 1898 Coleman started school. Two years before, the US Supreme Court had established the legality of the "separate but equal" doctrine in schools with the *Plessy v Ferguson* decision. The racially segregated school she attended was a one-room building that held students in grades one through eight, with only one teacher for all. Coleman walked four miles from her home to school. Intelligent, uninhibited, and eager to learn, she quickly established herself as the star student in math.

In 1901, Coleman's life changed when her father left the family. It's possible his decision could have been influenced by the hundreds of lynchings in the South and violence specifically in Texas. George was of both Black and Native ancestry. Hatred and violence towards Natives were also part of Texas history. However, in Oklahoma, George's Native ancestry could offer him an escape from the violence created by his double bind in Texas. In Indian Territory, he could enjoy the full rights of a citizen.

So, at the age of 45, Susan Coleman became a single mother at a time when most Black households were expected to be led by men. She became a cook and housekeeper for a white couple. Susan ensured the education of her children through a traveling library. Among the books Coleman read to her sisters at bedtime was "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Written by an abolitionist, it was popular among progressive whites, but less so among Blacks because it depicted docile enslaved Black people. "I'll never be a Topsy or an Uncle Tom," Bessie said after closing the cover.

Every year, Bessie's school schedule was upset by the cotton harvest. Cotton drove many decisions, causing school to shut down as soon as cotton picking began, and Bessie worked in the fields. After completing school, she worked as a laundress, collecting, washing, and delivering laundry. All the while, she dreamed of escaping Waxahachie for better opportunities. She did briefly, when she attended Langston Industrial College in Oklahoma, but could only afford one semester, so she dropped out and moved to Chicago. By 1919, she was living with two brothers who had also moved to Chicago.

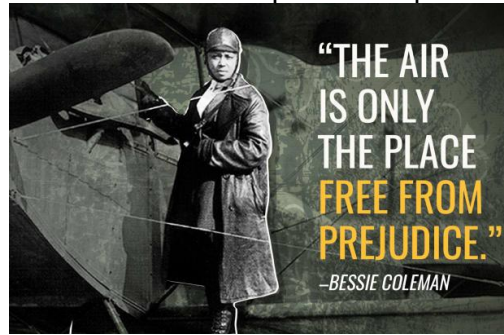
When Coleman moved to Chicago, she began looking for a job. Most African American women who worked outside the home were domestic workers, although a few became schoolteachers. It wasn't until the first World War that factories would employ Black women. With limited opportunities, Coleman decided to become a beautician and enrolled in the Burnham School of Beauty Culture to become a manicurist. She soon became one of the most popular manicurists in Black Chicago.

After five years in Chicago, Bessie learned a trade, married, found her own place to live, had seen her brothers go to war, and survived a race riot. Although Coleman and her family survived the riot, it left 38 people dead, 537 injured and left over 1,000 people homeless. Even in the North, Coleman found her life at risk and opportunities limited because of her race and gender. At the age of 27, after her brother John described women flying airplanes in France while he was there during the war, she decided the air would be the arena for her ambitions. She applied to almost every American flying school but was rejected because of her race and gender. The doors to the open skies of America were closed to Coleman, but France appeared to be a different story.

Coleman went to France to attend an aviation school to become a pilot. In 1921, she became the first American woman to obtain an international pilot's license. She came back to the United States and

became a stunt pilot. She also raised money to start a school to train African American aviators, hoping to afford them opportunities that were not then available in the U.S.

Coleman was killed in 1926 during an aerial show rehearsal. Her barrier-breaking life, determination, and impressive career accomplishments continue to provide inspiration for others to this day.



<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/bessie-coleman>

REFLECTION

Election Season Confession

Twelve years ago, I was invited to participate in an Election Day Communion service, which I had never heard about before, and I was originally very resistant to that idea. To me, this sounded to me like another inappropriate way of blending Christianity with nationalism - similar to July 4 services in which Christians fly the flag in church buildings or Veterans Day services that glorify war. But as it turns out, this was quite the opposite of those. While it is a practice developed specifically for our culture, it is designed to push *against* the partisanship and idolatry that tends to go with election season and call us back to our primarily Christian identity.

This is not to say that voting is wrong or that we should abstain from participating in the democratic process. I readily acknowledge that I am planning to vote this year and I feel very strongly about the choices I am making. But these must always remain secondary to the hope we place in Christ and our allegiance to God, and the election day communion service aims to remind us of that. Just to give you a sample of its emphasis, I want to share the prayer of confession, which was written four years ago and yet is just as potent and relevant today as it was then:

God, out of our zeal to see your will done on earth, we have engaged the politics of the world. And we confess that we have not just been in the world, but we have been affected by it. We've eaten the daily bread of political updates instead of every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have grown apart as a church, that we have surrounded ourselves with those who share our views, and have begun to see our sisters and brothers in Christ who disagree with us as enemies. We have spoken the truth as we understand it, but not always in a spirit of gentleness and love. We have judged the speck in our neighbor's eye before seeing the plank in our own.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We've failed to pray for those leaders with whom we fiercely disagree. We've doubted your power to break down every barrier, and forgotten that nothing is impossible with you. We've lifted our eyes to Capitol Hill, as if that is where our help comes from.

Have mercy on us, O God.

May God give us both grace and mercy as we discern how to participate in the secular democratic society in which we live while seeking first the kingdom of God and its righteousness. ~ Brian



BULLETIN BOARD

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 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