



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

NOVEMBER 27, 2024



CALENDAR

Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom, 1 pm (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 (see announcement)
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 Fellowship Meal
Tue, December 24: Christmas Eve service, 6:30 pm
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!

Wed, November 27: Issac Lederach

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving! A carry-in meal is planned in the fellowship hall for anyone who doesn't have plans and would like to come. Friends and family are welcome; we'll aim to eat at 1 pm .



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9 begins Sunday!

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!



There will not be coffee this Sunday, however, adult Sunday school will meet with the first of a number of discussions on Technology and Our Discipleship facilitated by Andrew Martin. Instead of regular classes, all the children will meet in the fellowship hall for activities.

December 22 and 29: Regular Children's Sunday School will not meet. Kids can join their parents for congregational singing.

Hall Monitor:

Dec. 1: Linda S

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 1 & 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 (11/24), Sabrina Falls preached the final message in our Sermon on the Mount series.

This Sunday (12/1), Brian will introduce 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.

Next 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.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: Today, we are praying for **Ann Arbor Mennonite Church**, which is a small church in Ann Arbor, Michigan that is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- Organization: We are also praying for **Mennonite Central Committee**, which is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, which shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of

Christ by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. (Contact: Zenebe Abebe)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon!

This is your opportunity to take part in a once-every-500-year moment of unity and faith! MennoMedia's Anabaptism at 500 is collaborating with Mennonite World Conference in this extraordinary event as 500 voices will join together to read through the entire Bible – from Genesis to Revelation – in multiple languages. Register [here](#).

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.



On **December 8, 2024, right after Sunday School**, we will meet in the sanctuary for our annual **Shalom Budget Revision and Approval meeting**. Please plan to participate in this important time of decision-making for the congregation.

Attached is the Proposed 2025 Shalom Budget, provided by our Commission Chairs. I will place some paper copies by the mailboxes.

As you know, we had some difficulty meeting our 2024 spending commitments. I will provide an updated report of offerings and expenses at the end of November and at the Dec. 8 meeting.

The proposed 2025 spending plan represents a \$14,419 (6.1%) increase from 2024 budget. Please be in prayer for God's guidance as we approve our spending commitments.
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**. For more information click [here](#).

REFLECTION

Matthew 10:16 I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves,
so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (NRSVUE)

Last weekend I attended the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference Pastor's Retreat (and was also on the planning team for it). It was a rich time together with several other pastors in our conference. There was lots of time sharing and learning together. I find it helpful to connect with other pastors to freely share about our lives and our churches. It is extremely valuable for me to hear what other churches are doing, what is working for them and also what is not working so well. The

connecting and sharing with each other was only part of the retreat, we also worshiped together and were led in four sessions from our speaker, Nekeisha Alayna Alexis.



Nekeisha's topic was "Intercultural Competence while Standing in the Gap for those who are Vulnerable". In light of policies that are proposed for the near future, most of our conversation was focused on immigrants. Nekeisha encouraged us to think about the ways our churches can stand "in the gap" between vulnerable people and the people and powers that look to do harm to them. Those who desire to do harm towards the immigrants among us are organized and are devising a plan. We too must also organize and prepare ourselves. We must think about how we want to respond and what actions we want to take. Preparing ourselves for how we want to respond will help us react with intention instead of reacting emotionally.

Several times Nekeisha encouraged us to remain grounded. Grounded in our faith in God, our love of each other, and that for God to use us we must step up and be willing to tackle the unknown while remembering that those who wish to do harm are also made in God's image. It is in our stepping out of our comfort zone that we become more aware of our need to depend on God's Spirit and more aware of the ways that we need to train ourselves to do God's work of standing up for those who are the focus of injustice.

The main passage used for the weekend was from Matthew 10 and verse 16 was highlighted. "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." An image Nekeisha used was knowing when to travel like both of those animals. Sometimes we need to move covertly in the cover of grass and other times we need to be out in the open flapping our wings bringing the attention away from others towards ourselves even if that means we taking a vulnerable position in order for others to be protected.

It was a good weekend that left me with lots to think about and a challenge to put those thoughts into action. I'm thankful that I was able to attend. ~ Craig

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

NATIVE AMERICAN **HERITAGE MONTH**



Squanto: The Good and the Not-so-Good

Historians generally agree that Tisquantum, known commonly as Squanto, belonged to the Patuxet tribe, which was a branch of the Wampanoag Confederacy. He was born around 1580. Although little is known of his early life, Squanto came from a village of hardworking and resourceful people. The men of his tribe would travel up and down the coast on fishing expeditions, while the women cultivated corn, beans, and squash.

Before the early 1600s, the Patuxet people generally had friendly contact with the European settlers — but that certainly didn't last long. At some point during his youth, Squanto was captured by English explorers and taken to Europe, where he was sold into slavery. The most widely-accepted theory is that Squanto and 23 other Native Americans boarded the ship of Captain Thomas Hunt, who put them at ease with promises of trade before setting sail. Instead, the Natives were held captive aboard.

"This is not revisionist history," said Wampanoag expert Paula Peters. "This is history that's just been overlooked because people have become very, very comfortable with the story of happy Pilgrims and friendly Indians. They're very content with that — even to the point where no one really questioned how is it that Squanto knew how to speak perfect English when they came."

The Patuxet people were outraged by the kidnappings, but there was nothing they could do. Squanto and the other prisoners were likely sold by Hunt as slaves in Spain. However, Squanto somehow managed to escape to England, he began to master the language.

It was in Newfoundland that Tisquantum met Captain Thomas Dermer, a man in the employ of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, an Englishman who helped found “the Province of Maine” back on Squanto’s home continent. In 1619, Gorges sent Dermer on a trade mission to the New England colonies and employed Squanto as an interpreter.

As Squanto’s ship approached the coast, Dermer noted how they observed “some ancient [Indian] plantations, not long since populous now utterly void.” Squanto’s tribe had been annihilated by the diseases that the white settlers had brought with them.

In 1620, Dermer and his crew were attacked by the Wampanoag tribe. Dermer and 14 men managed to escape. Meanwhile, Squanto was taken captive by the tribe — and he was longing for his freedom yet again. In early 1621, Squanto found himself still a prisoner of the Wampanoag, who cautiously observed a group of recent English arrivals. These Europeans had suffered grievously in the winter, but the Wampanoag were still hesitant to approach them, especially since Natives who attempted to befriend the English in the past had been taken captive instead.

Eventually, however, a Wampanoag named Samoset “came boldly amongst [a group of pilgrims] and spoke to them in broken English, which they could well understand but marveled at it.” Samoset made conversation with the Pilgrims for a while before explaining there was another man “whose name was Squanto, a native of this place, who had been in England and could speak better English than himself.” With the assistance of Squanto as interpreter, the Wampanoag chief Massasoit negotiated an alliance with the Pilgrims, with a promise not to harm each other. They also promised that they would aid each other in the event of an attack from another tribe.

Squanto worked hard to prove his value to the Pilgrims as not only a vital communicator but also an expert on resources. He taught them how to cultivate crops that would help them get through the next brutal winter.



Unfortunately, Squanto developed a reputation for being manipulative and power-hungry. At one point, the Pilgrims actually appointed another Native American advisor named Hobbamock to keep Squanto in check. It’s easy to imagine that he may have secretly wanted to seek revenge on a group of people who had once enslaved him. On top of that, Squanto was aware of how valuable he’d become to the Wampanoag as the Pilgrims’ closest ally.

In short, he exploited the power his fluency in English had given him by threatening people who displeased him and demanding favors in return for appeasing the Pilgrims. By 1622, according to Pilgrim Edward Winslow, Squanto had begun to spread lies among both the Native Americans and the Pilgrims. Squanto’s wrath finally caused him to overstep his bounds when he falsely claimed that Chief Massasoit had been plotting with enemy tribes, a lie that was quickly exposed. The Wampanoag people were enraged. Squanto was then forced to take shelter with the Pilgrims who, although they had also become wary of him, refused to betray their ally by handing him over to certain death among the natives.

It proved to not matter, since in November 1622, Squanto succumbed to a fatal disease while visiting a Native-American settlement called Monomoy, near what is now modern day Pleasant Bay.

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/squanto>



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,
Brian Bither, Craig Oury