



## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

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

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

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2024**

#### CALENDAR

Sun, September 29: Orange Shirt Day  
Mon, September 30: \*BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers  
Thu, October 3: Community Life Comm Zoom, 6 pm  
Sun, October 6: CROP Walk (see announcement)  
Mon, October 7: \*BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86<sup>th</sup> St, Indianapolis, IN  
Sat, October 12: Retreat @ Jameson Camp  
Mon, October 14: \*BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN  
Wed, October 16: Wild Church  
Sun, October 20: Carry-In Meal after Sunday School  
Mon, October 28: \*BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN  
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 86<sup>th</sup> St  
Mon, November 25: \*BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St.  
Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom  
Sat, December 14: Christmas Banquet  
Sun, December 15: No Carry-In Meal  
\*BRO = Brian's Roving Office, 9a – 3p

#### 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!*

- (Tue, September 24: Ernie Hodel and Tania Goodloe, 2014)
- Fri, September 27: Vivienne Bauman
- Sat, September 28: Lena Bauman
- Tue, October 1: Brittany Bither
- Tue, October 1: Martha Yoder Maust
- Tue, October 1: Mark Stocksdale
- Wed, October 2: Junia Martin



**Annual Retreat! “Shalom’s Family Tree”**

- Get your stories ready! Trace your family’s immigration history. Only 2 ½ weeks to go!
- Donuts and coffee/tea will be available at 9 am. You are encouraged to bring snacks for everyone to munch on throughout the day. The noon meal will (probably) be from Olive Garden, with a non-tomato/vegetarian option, salad and breadsticks.
  - Be thinking about family stories to share. These can be stories handed down for generations, or they can be from your own memories.
  - A sign-up sheet is on the back window so that the noon meal can be planned for. There is also a place to indicate your willingness to help with clean-up.
- Pick up a world map from the back of the sanctuary and note where your family came from. Sign and bring it to the retreat. (Search for your family at familysearch.org.)

**DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

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

**SCHOOL KITS:** Thank you for all your donations to the Mennonite Central Committee school kits. Notebooks (in multiples of 4) will help us complete more than 100 kits.

**Regular Children's Sunday School starts this Sunday, Sept 8**

**Lend a hand to Children's Education**

- Hall Monitor for September 29 - sit in the hallway to supervise kids that need to go to the bathroom or respond to any teacher needs

Hall Monitor

		6-Oct	Linda S	3-Nov	Joann
		13-Oct	Rose	10-Nov	Linda S
		20-Oct	Joann	17-Nov	Linda S
29-Sep		27-Oct	Joann	24-Nov	Linda S

- Refresh the toy bags for kids 6 and under

Reach out to Laura if you can help! [harms.laura@gmail.com](mailto:harms.laura@gmail.com) or 317-572-0017.

**Fall Sunday School Plans**

- 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

- September 29: Adultery, Divorce, and Oaths, 5:27-37
- October 6: Retaliation and Loving Enemies, 5:38-48
- October 13: Giving, praying, and fasting humbly, 6:1-18
- October 27: Treasures and masters/Do not worry 6:18-34
- 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.

- Sep. 29 Please read chapter 4.
- Oct. 6 Please read chapter 5.
- Oct. 13 Please read chapter 6.
- Oct. 27 Please read chapters 7 and 8.
- 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

The Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence (HCGV) Newsletter is attached and at this link.  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yfvEiJrwprP5ymAcu6c-hhN8t0r8gXpf/edit>

### 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

The Antiracism Steering Committee with input from the Caucuses, has developed an **Anti-harassment Policy Proposal** for consideration and possible adoption by the Shalom Mennonite Church. The Policy will be included for your review as an attachment in next week's Newsletter (October 2, 2024), in preparation for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. Announcement for the timing of the Congregational Meeting will also be published in next week's Newsletter. ~ Frank Kandel, Chairperson, VAT

### WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Brittany Bither (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker  
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

**Last Sunday (9/22)**, Craig continued the sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount and preached from Matthew 5:17-26

**This Sunday (9/29)**, Brian will continue the series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching about Jesus' teaching on adultery, divorce, and oaths in Matthew 5:27-37.  
(Wear orange for Orange Shirt Day!)

**Next Sunday (10/6)**, we will continue our study on the Sermon on the Mount as Brian engages Matthew 5:38-48, which is the passage in which Jesus promotes non-retaliation and enemy love.

#### **This week's prayer list:**

- **Church: Parkview Mennonite Church**, which is a small Mennonite congregation located in Muncie, Indiana that is part of our CAMFell cluster of churches.

- Organization: **Mennonite Women USA**, which is a sisterhood of women following Jesus who engage the voices of all women, honoring our/their stories, practicing justice, and embracing healing. (Contact: CoraLyn Turentine)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, September 29 is **Orange Shirt Day**, which is a time that has been set aside for remembering the harm committed against indigenous families in the United States and Canada when their children were forced to attend residential schools, where they were forced to abandon their cultural heritage and subjected to dangerous and often deadly living conditions. We encourage those who are able to express solidarity with indigenous people by wearing orange to church on that day.



Notice the new feature in this week's Journeying Together, printed below the announcements: "Featured Person of Color Bio." Each week we'll learn about a person of color's life and contributions. If you would like to submit an entry, send it to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com). Pictures will be added, or you can send some.

Brad Yoder has written a birthday letter for former President Jimmy Carter celebrating his decades of community service work, which is attached to this issue of Journeying Together. He invites others to join him in this celebration.



It's CROP WALK time!! And there is an actual walk set again this year! It has been virtual for so long now, 5 years! Date is set for Sunday Oct 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 2pm! Starting at Interfaith Center and walking about 3 miles through Butler University Campus. We walk because in other countries people are walking miles just to get clean water to drink. We ask for donations to support to stop hunger all over the world. You can register on line and ask for donations virtually. Looking forward to walking this year with everyone! Register or donate at the link below! Please join our Shalom Mennonite Church team when you register!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/indianapolisin>

AMBS is offering a free on-line talk titled "How to Challenge Christian Nationalism: Building Peace in an Age of Extremism" on October 8 from 7-8 p.m. Professor Drew Strait will be sharing information from his book Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism. The talk is free but registration is required.

[Register to receive the livestream link](#)

## FEATURED PEOPLE OF COLOR BIOS



Fannie Lou Townsend Hamer was born to a poor share-cropping family in Montgomery County, Mississippi in 1917. Children in black sharecropping families had to help harvest the cotton crop, so their school year would not start until November, and they did not receive much education. Fannie Lou left school at age 12 to work. She used the education she did have to become timekeeper, which meant that she kept track of each person's production for the plantation owner.

Fannie Lou married Perry Hamer in 1944. She was surgically sterilized without her consent, so the couple adopted two daughters.



In 1961 she attended a meeting led by civil rights activists and soon became an activist herself. She led a group of 17 who attempted to register to vote in Indianola. They were



unsuccessful, but she was fired from her job, and she and Perry had to leave their home and start over in Ruleville, Mississippi.

In 1963, on the way back from a voter registration program in South Carolina, Hamer and several other black women were arrested and beaten. Hamer suffered lifelong damage to her eye, kidneys, and leg.

In 1964 Hamer co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which challenged the white Mississippi Democratic Party at the party convention. She gave a powerful testimony at the convention detailing what she had suffered in attempting to vote. The convention did not seat the MFDP but did tell the MFDP that they would not be seated again in 4 years if they had not admitted any black persons.



In 1968, Hamer was one of the members of an integrated party. She helped organize the Freedom Summer, attempted to run for the House of Representatives, and traveled around the country giving speeches. Her speeches were perhaps so powerful because she spoke of her own experiences of the brutality of racism, and spoke in a very direct way. (Clips of some of her speeches are available on YouTube.)

In 1971 she helped organize the National Women's Political Caucus. Hamer's influence was not limited to her political activism. In 1971 she founded the Freedom Farm Cooperative, buying up land (funded by donors) that black farmers could farm cooperatively. She initiated 200 units of low-income housing. Sadly, her health began to fail and the FFC folded in the mid-70's. Hamer died in 1977 at the age of 58.

Sources:

1. Michals, Debra "Fannie Lou Hamer." National Women's History Museum. 2017. [www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/fannie-lou-hamer](http://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/fannie-lou-hamer). Accessed 4/10/2024
2. Bracey, Ernest. Fannie Lou Hamer: The Life of a Civil Rights Icon. Jefferson, NC:McFarland & Co, 2011



Submitted by Martha

## REFLECTION

1667

In 1667 the Virginia Assembly decided that baptism of an enslaved person did not affect their slave status. I believe that we can draw a straight line from that decision to much that plagues our church and our society today.

In England, a baptized person was a brother or sister in Christ and thus could not be enslaved. The Virginia Assembly, made up of white men, all of whom likely held land stolen from indigenous people as well as people kidnapped from West Africa, found this inconvenient and decided that free labor was more important than brotherhood in Christ. Their need to make a fortune overruled Leviticus 25:39, in which a brother cannot be enslaved.

Jesus said that the first commandment was to love God with all one's heart, soul, and mind, and the second commandment was to love our neighbor as ourselves. The Virginia Assembly essentially decided that the second commandment did not apply to people of African origin. Instead of loving the enslaved person as themselves, the enslavers could overwork, rape, torture, sell, and kill the persons who were under their power.

In order not to foment rebellion, a truncated gospel was preached to enslaved people. Jesus, they were told, had died to save their souls, but not to free them from their chains. They were to obey their masters and look forward to heaven.

I wonder if this is why a wide swath of white North American Christianity still believes that Jesus has come to save our souls and not to free the oppressed. Works of charity are practiced (such giving food to the poor and helping people displaced by natural disasters) but works of liberation are not seen as Christian.

Most African-American churches have not bought into this dichotomy. They have held together salvation of the soul and liberation of the body, for a much more holistic understanding of salvation. They have grounded themselves in the story of God who brought the Hebrew slaves out of bondage in Egypt and into a land where they could have their own vines and fig trees. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of seeing the Promised Land from the mountaintop, he was viewing the Civil Rights movement in the light of this powerful story of God liberating people from slavery and oppression.

The white church, however, has too often clung to economic and political power. When Jesus was tempted in the desert, “the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ‘All this I will give you,’ he said, ‘if you will bow down and worship me.’” (Matt. 4:8-9, NIV) Jesus refused and sent Satan away. Today, many Christians have instead answered, “Yes! We’ll take the power!” and have made unholy alliances with politicians.

I believe there’s a straight line from that 1667 decision right through to today’s white Christian desire for power. Rather than lose some profit, the Virginia Assembly gutted the good news, and today many Christians still believe that they are under no obligation to love their neighbors as they love themselves, or to do as they would be done by, or to protect the vulnerable, and certainly not to free the captives, but instead to lock up and deport the poor who have fled violence in their home countries. They have chosen power over service, and authority over washing another’s feet.

How do we break down this sinful tradition? We begin by sitting at the feet of Jesus as he says, “...do to others what you would have them do to you,...” What would we want done to us if we were hungry? Or if we didn’t have warm clothes for winter weather? What if we received an inferior education because the funding formula favored schools in wealthy neighborhoods? What would we want if we were disrespected even by those who intended to help us? What would we want if we had to flee our homes due to death threats?

Jesus had compassion on those who were suffering and told us that even a traditional enemy was our neighbor. May we who call ourselves Christians live so that the light of Jesus shines through us.  
~ Martha



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, Brian Bither, Craig Oury