

Bonne Année

FELIZ Año Nuevo

Shanah Tovah

新年快乐  
xin nian kuai le



Gelukkig Nieuwjaar

2025  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

### JOURNEYING TOGETHER

*A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church*

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

**JANUARY 1, 2025**

#### CALENDAR

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!

Wed, January 1 – CoraLyn Turentine  
Fri, January 3 – Marcela Rosales Harms  
Sun, January 5 – Zenebe Abebe

### DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



**The last day for the Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9** will be next Sunday, January 12. Get those books read!

### 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:

January 5 – Salt & Light: Session #6 (page 32) Matt 28:16-20; Confession of Faith Articles 9-11  
January 12 – Salt & Light: Session #7 (page 38) John 15:9-17; Confession of Faith Article 18  
January 19 – 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday - Salt & Light: Session #8 (page 44) Luke 22:14-23;  
Confession of Faith Articles 12 & 13  
January 26 – Antiracism Sunday

### 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 (12/29)**, Pastor Craig brought the message on 5<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas, from Luke 2:22-40.

**This Sunday (1/5)**, Craig will bring the message from Luke 2:41-52, looking at the faith habits or customs of Mary and Joseph.

**Next Sunday (1/13)**, Brian will begin a mini-series called "Lessons from History," which will begin by offering a history of the early church and will consider how the complicated legacy of the Christian Emperor Constantine revealed the need to separate church and state.

**This week's prayer list:**

- Church: Rather than praying for a church, we have been invited to pray for the chaplains of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference: Neil Amstutz, CarolSue Borkholder, Felecia Calloni, Kelly Carson, Ruben Chupp, Shawn Gerber, Ursula Hess, Renee Kanagy, Anne Mitchell, Simon Mungai, Lee Pfahler, and Phillip Wiechart. May God encourage them and renew them as they continue to minister outside of church walls.
- Organization: Our organization in focus this week is **Anabaptist Disabilities Network**, which is an organization that connects and supports people who have disabilities, their families, and faith communities to create a culture of belonging for everyone (Contact: Joyce Troyer)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Tuesday, December 31 to Sunday, January 5. Please direct any pastoral concerns to Pastor Craig during that time.

**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](#).



### REFLECTION



President Jimmy Carter died this week at the age of 100, ending an amazing life of public service for the United States, and all of the human family. President and Rosalynn Carter created The Carter Center in 1982, which has been active around the Earth, fighting disease, monitoring democratic elections, and resolving serious conflicts. The Carters were also big supporters of Habitat for Humanity.

Every year beginning in 1982, Jimmy and Rosalynn led a one-week 'blitz build' for Habitat somewhere in the United States. I have also been very active with Habitat, and it was my goal to sometime build with the Carters. In 1989 I got my chance. I went through a detailed application process including a background check, and was selected as one of 140 people to **build six Habitat houses** with the Carters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, **in five days**. The Carters were each excellent carpenters, and they spent some time working with each of our six building crews. I helped to put on siding with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter! (They also signed copies of their books for each of my grandchildren.)

When the Indigenous community of Milwaukee put on a Powwow [Indigenous celebration] for all of the Habitat volunteers at Marquette University, the Carters insisted with their Secret Service agents that they ride on the school buses with the rest of us Habitat volunteers instead of going in their bullet-proof Secret Service limousines. Following is a copy of the letter I sent to President Carter each year on his October 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, including his 100<sup>th</sup> this year:

Dear President Carter:

I wish you a wonderful 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! I hope that in addition to all of the planned activities that there might be, that you will have some time to reflect and to savor many of the achievements that you have participated in over your lifetime.

You have touched the lives of so many people in such positive ways, including many about whom you are only tangentially aware. I am one of those people.



During June 11-17, 1989, you and Rosalynn led a Habitat for Humanity Workcamp in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I had the privilege of working with you as we built six homes together in five days. You and Rosalynn spent some time with each of the six work crews. While you were working with us, we were primarily installing doors and vinyl siding. It was clear that you and Rosalynn were each **serious carpenters**, and that your work with Habitat was more than a supportive public relations experience.

The Indigenous community of Milwaukee planned a celebratory Powwow at Marquette University for all of the Habitat volunteers, to express their gratitude for our work in their city. You and your Secret Service staff obviously had your own vehicles you could have used to get to the Powwow quickly and easily, but you and Rosalynn insisted on riding on the school buses **with the rest of us** Habitat volunteers. I will never forget that experience, and how it reflected your commitment to being with all of the Habitat volunteers, forgoing your privileged status as the former President.

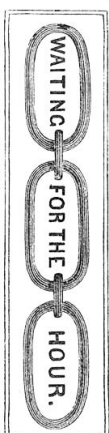
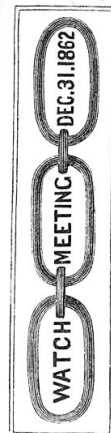
During my 39 years teaching sociology, social work, and criminal justice and coaching cross country and track and field at Manchester University in Indiana, I led 31 Habitat Spring Break Workcamps. Each of those groups heard stories about my opportunity to work with you and Rosalynn in Milwaukee. Many of them are now **Habitat leaders in their own right** across the US, and around the Earth. This is one small example of how your influence has been **multiplied millions of times** over the years to help to build our Earth. Thank you for sharing yourself so generously, for so many years!

Sincerely,

Brad Yoder, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Manchester University

## NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS IN BLACK HOMES ARE A CELEBRATION OF SURVIVAL

Whether it's the southern U.S., the coasts of Los Angeles, or West Africa and the Caribbean, gathering in celebration signals a time for us to remember, reflect and dream of a better tomorrow. Many families still gather in an observance that mirrors this gathering, the Watch Night services held in churches across the country. This is a sacred hour, born from a ritual that began on Dec. 31, 1862 — the night before the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect. Then, enslaved Black people across the South waited together, holding their breath for freedom that felt both near and impossible. It was a vigil for liberation.

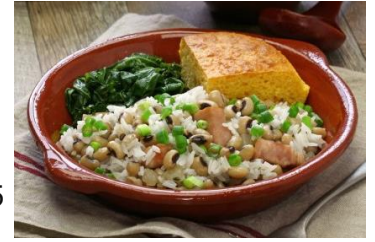


En't'd according to Act of Congress, A. D. 1863, by W. T. Carlton, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Mass.



Through centuries of struggle and migration, Black Americans carried traditions. Collard greens, peas, and cornbread traveled north on trains and west on highways during the Great Migration. They brought the flavors of home with them, folding the past into every kitchen they entered. And on New Year's Day, these foods still offer nourishment in more ways than one.

Hoppin' John, with its blend of rice and peas, evokes resourcefulness and community, a reminder of how Black people have always made much out of little. The greens, like folded dollar bills, signify wealth on the horizon, while cornbread represents gold. The black-eyed peas, small and humble, represent abundance and resilience. Some say you'll have the best chance at luck if you eat exactly 365 black-eyed peas, one for each day of the year. Others say you must add a coin to the pot of black-eyed peas; the person who gets the bowl with the coin is said to have the best luck.



In some households, it's also just as much about what you don't eat on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For example, there is a belief that you want to stay away from eating anything that moves backwards faster than it moves forward, like lobsters, crabs, shrimp, and crawfish. The focus is on moving forward.

Among the many sounds that fill the air as the clock strikes midnight, including fireworks or gunshots depending on where you call home, the clanging of pots and pans holds a special place in New Year's traditions. This practice is thought to have originated in the 16th and 17th centuries, influenced by African slaves in Cuba and the Caribbean who used one of their few belongings, cooking pots and pans, to create noise in celebration. The act was believed to ward off evil spirits, ensuring that the New Year would begin free of negative influences.

<https://capitalnews.org/black-eyed-peas-collard-greens-black-new-years/>

In the black community, New Year's Day used to be widely known as 'Hiring Day' or 'Heartbreak Day', because enslaved people spent New Year's Eve waiting, wondering if their owners were going to rent them out to someone else, thus potentially splitting up their families.





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)

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