



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

DECEMBER 11, 2024

CALENDAR

Sat, December 14: Christmas Banquet, 6 pm (see announcement/Community Life)
Sun, December 15: No Fellowship Meal
Mon, December 16: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Wed, December 18: Wild Church @ Shalom, 10 am (see announcement)
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
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, December 11: Abigail Deiter
Wed, December 11: Julie Sanders
Fri, December 13: Sam Bixler
Tue, December 17: Aliyah Wigginton



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14



CHRISTMAS DINNER 6 PM



All are welcome to a time of holiday fellowship and food Saturday at 6 pm. We welcome friends and family to join us . We will have some appetizers followed by dinner. Thank you for all of the help you have given in providing the requested food items. See you then.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9

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!

Children’s Classes

Hall Monitor:

- Dec. 15: Bob Love
- Jan. 5:
- Jan. 12:
- Jan. 19:
- Jan. 26:

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 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

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 (12/8), Brian continued 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 Sunday (12/15), Pastor Craig will bring the Advent message from 1 Samuel 8:1-22

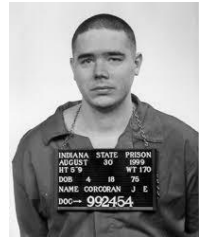
Next Sunday (12/22), Brian will wrap up "The Need for a Savior" Advent series by considering "The Need for a Liberator," which became especially apparent in the wake of the fall of Babylon. Jeremiah 42 and Luke 4 will serve as guiding texts.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: This week we are praying for **Belmont Neighborhood Fellowship**, which is a church in Elkhart, Indiana that meets in the Belmont Mennonite Church building in the evenings but is an independent congregation. They praise God for renewed energy in their worship, sermon dialogue, and fellowship and several congregants have been preaching for the first time, and they pray for wisdom for future discernment.
- Organization: We are also praying for **Peter and Delicia Bravo Wigginton**, who are missionaries from our congregation who work with the Mennonite churches in Ecuador. (Contact: Jeanne Smucker and Martha Yoder Maust)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As an update from my last message, the State of Indiana is scheduled to execute Joseph Corcoran in 7 days- the first execution in Indiana in 15 years. The Indiana Abolition Coalition is organizing a demonstration at the Statehouse tomorrow, Dec 12 at 2pm to march to Governor Holcomb's office to ask him to spare Joseph's life. Demonstrators are gathering in the North Atrium of the Statehouse. A group from Shalom are attending and we welcome more participants. Please contact myself or Brian for more information.



Thank you to those who called or wrote to the Governor. Calls and cards are still critically important! Feel free to use the links below to tell the Governor that Hoosiers do not sanction killing and he does not need to kill in our name.

[Contact the governor](#) today and [sign our petition](#).

~ Lydie Assefa

Saturday, December 14: Eastside Neighborhood Associate invites you to attend "Christmas In The Village" from 4 – 6 pm. See the attached flyer.

Thursday, December 12 and Friday, December 13 There is a chance to participate in [MCC Meat Canning](https://mcc.org/events/meat-canning-williamsburg) in Williamsburg, IN. For more information visit: <https://mcc.org/events/meat-canning-williamsburg>

Wednesday, December 18, [Wild Church](#) will meet at Shalom at 10 a.m. We will be thinking about winter so bring your winter stories. ~ Wilma Bailey



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.) Jim & Linda

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.

Dear Shalom,

Thank you for your participation in our budget meeting on 12/8 and for your commitment to the ministries of Shalom! Attached are minutes from our meeting and a copy of the final 2025 Shalom budget.



I want to acknowledge that I feel I did a poor job in leading our congregational meeting on Sunday in one very important way:

- **I was unprepared to count and record votes when amendments required congregational approval**
 - I should have had someone help me with hand counting, leading to more confidence that my counts were correct.
 - I did not even give Zoom attenders the opportunity to vote on amendments or the final budget.

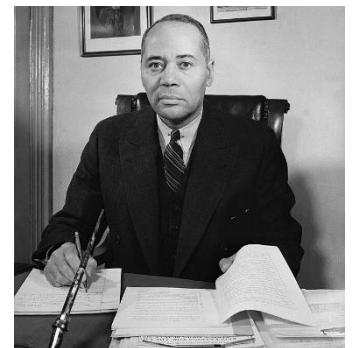
I regret that I cannot redo portions of our meeting. I trust that God had mercy and caused our decisions to match God's direction, in spite of the flawed process.

I apologize for my failure in that regard, and will seriously consider ways to do better in the future. In Christ, Bob Love

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1895, **Charles Hamilton Houston** enrolled in Amherst College at the age of 16 and was the only Black student in his class. He earned his bachelor's degree, magna cum laude in 1915. After teaching in Washington, D.C. for two years, Houston joined the then-segregated US Army as an officer. He left in April 1919, just before the Red Summer began.

"The hate and scorn showered on us Negro officers by our fellow Americans convinced me that there was no sense in my dying for a world ruled by them," he later wrote. "I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back."



Houston entered Harvard Law School at the tail end of the “Red Summer”, a violent period of nationwide racial and social unrest during which Black Americans lost hard-won legal and political gains while experiencing deadly white-on-black violence, especially against Black soldiers returning from World War I. The period also marked one of the first times in U.S. history in which Black communities fought back against such attacks.



When Houston entered Harvard Law School that fall as one of a handful of African Americans, he held the fervent belief that integration was key to the social, political, and economic success of Black Americans. Houston flourished at Harvard Law School, earning top grades and a coveted position on the editorial board of the Harvard Law Review, the first Black student to do so. He also won the respect of his fellow students, and many of his Black classmates saw him as a leader.

Houston’s experience of injustice at home and abroad prompted him upon his return to Washington to join his father’s law practice. Renamed Houston & Houston, it was one of the first Black law firms established in Washington, D.C. Houston fervently believed that it was incumbent upon Black lawyers to fight for Black people and Black communities because *“the average white lawyer especially in the South could not be relied upon to wage an uncompromising fight”* for the equal rights of African Americans.

Houston taught part-time at Howard Law School, and in 1929, and was appointed to serve as the law school’s vice-dean, though he fulfilled many of the responsibilities of dean. Houston transformed what was then an unaccredited part-time evening program into what Columbia University law professor Jack Greenberg once described as the “West Point of civil rights training.”

Houston left Howard in 1935 to serve as the NAACP’s first general counsel. He made it his mission to disprove the fallacy of separate but equal” and launched a campaign by Black lawyers around the nation to expose the glaring inequities that Black Americans faced in virtually all aspects of their lives, but particularly education.

Discrimination in education, Houston argued, *“is symbolic of all the more drastic discriminations which Negroes suffer in American life. And these apparent senseless discriminations in education against Negroes have a very definite objective on the part of the ruling whites, to curb the young [Blacks] and prepare them to accept an inferior position in American life without protest or struggle.”*

Houston, who has been called “the man who killed Jim Crow,” also won major cases affirming the civil rights of Black Americans in other areas. Of the eight cases that he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, he won seven. Thurgood Marshall was mentored by Houston.

We beg you to save young America
from the blight of race prejudice.
Do not bind the children within the
narrow circles of your own lives.

<https://legacyofslavery.harvard.edu/alumni/charles-hamilton-houston>View details

Sources:

Robert L. Carter et al., “In Tribute: Charles Hamilton Houston,” Harvard Law Review 111, no. 8 (1998): 2149–2179.

“Charles Hamilton Houston,” NAACP, accessed April 24, 2022, www.naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/charles-hamilton-houston.



BULLETIN BOARD

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.

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:

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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