



## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

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

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

**OCTOBER 23, 2024**

#### CALENDAR

Mon, October 28: \*BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN  
Mon, November 4: \*BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave  
Tue, November 5: 7pm - Election Day Communion service (on Zoom)  
Sun, November 10: 12pm - Pizzas for Peace fundraiser  
Mon, November 11: \*BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers  
Sun, November 17: 4pm - Biblical Dialogue on Sexual Orientation  
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 8: Congregational budget meeting following Sunday School  
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!*

Sat, Oct 26: Sabrina Falls  
Sat, Oct 26: Micah Emmanuel Urquizo Maust

**DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

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

**Children's Sunday School**

Hall Monitor

Oct 27	Joann	Nov 3	Joann
		Nov 10	Linda S
		Nov 17	Linda S
		Nov 24	Linda S

**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 and Kim

- 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.

- 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

**Please** bring non-perishable food items to church this Sunday for delivery to **Morning Star Food Pantry** in Muncie on Monday, October 28th

**Please join us for an evening with our missionaries Peter Wigginton and Delicia Bravo Aguilar** and their family in Ecuador. Hear some of the highlights of their work, see pictures of Ecuador and listen to some family singing. Join Delicia and Peter on October 29th at 7pm.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://MCUSA.zoom.us/j/89791136550>

Meeting ID: 897 9113 6550

Family Promise is collecting donations to assist homeless families by providing winter garments. Below is a sign up link to provide these families with the clothing items needed at this time.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44A9AE2EA5F4C70-52420137-fallwinter>

Below is the second link to sign up.

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM**

Angie Buller

VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

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

**Attached** are the minutes of the most recent Congregational Meeting.

**WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

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

**Last Sunday (10/20)**, Wilma Bailey continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching about the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:7-15

**This Sunday (10/27)**, Pastor Craig will continue the series on the Sermon on the Mount preaching from Matthew 6:19-24

**Next Sunday (11/3)**, Pastor Brian will continue the sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount.

**This week's prayer list:**

- Instead of praying for a specific church today, we want to pray for our Conference leaders; our pastors, Joanna Gallardo and Sharon Yoder, our moderator, Steve Slagel, the members of the Missional Leadership team, and all of the other volunteers who make life together possible.
- Organization: Our organization in focus is **Morning Star Ministries**, which is a food pantry ministry run by Morning Star Church in Muncie, IN, which Shalom supports. In addition to food, they offer community meals and care to the people whom they serve. (Contact: Frank Kandel)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Brian** will be on vacation from Saturday, October 19 to Saturday, October 26. Please direct pastoral concerns to Pastor Craig during that time.

**Pastor Craig** will be on vacation from Tuesday, October 29 to Monday, November 4. Please direct pastoral concerns to Pastor Brian.

**Election Day Communion**, Tuesday, November 5 is election day in the United States, and many of us feel very strongly about how or whether Christians should vote during this election cycle. However, our deeper commitment as Christians is to Christ, and we are therefore inviting you to join us for a virtual communion service at 7pm that evening (11/5) in which we will remind ourselves of this by partaking of the body and blood of Christ together. This will be a virtual communion service, which means that you will need to [register here](#) to get the Zoom link and bring your own bread and juice (or whatever substitutes you may have). Feel free to share this registration link with anyone who wants to participate.

**Pizzas for Peace**. On Sunday, November 10, several of us are going to be reviving an old and much cherished Shalom tradition: the pizzas for peace fundraiser. Shalom members will be making homemade pizzas and serving them for free at church after the Sunday school hour. Although there is no cost to eat pizza, we will be encouraging people to donate the money that they might otherwise have

spent on lunch to Indiana AID. Furthermore, we will be using Everence funds to match the donations, so come and invite others to have some delicious homemade pizza and make a difference in the lives of others.

**Biblical Dialogue on Sexual Orientation.** Several months ago, the Vision & Accountability Team solicited feedback from the congregation on how they would like to proceed on our discernment over sexual orientation and gender identity. Several people expressed a desire to hear people explore Scriptural understandings on these issues and explain what various Biblical passages mean, so we decided to plan a series of Sunday evening services in which those who want to explore this are free to come and prepare for a robust discussion. Pastor Brian has identified two outside speakers who are planning to come and lead the first conversation over the question, "What does God expect Christians who experience same-sex attraction to do with those feelings?" on Sunday, November 17 at 4pm at Shalom. Mark the date now if you would like to participate - more details will be coming in the near future.

**Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program in Bangladesh** October Newsletter is attached.

**Mennonite Arts Weekend:** Early-bird registration is open for the 2025 Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 7-9. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Find the list of presenters, registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org>

**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](#).

### FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, meet Sophie Cruz.

When she was 5 years old, Sophie Cruz (born 16 October 2009) had as much spunk as a seasoned activist, working for change by reaching one of the most powerful leaders: the Pope.



As the daughter of undocumented immigrants, Cruz notably gave Pope Francis a letter during his 2015 visit to the White House, outlining her fears of deportation and the devaluing of immigrant contributions around the globe.



The little girl hand-delivered the letter -- along with a hug -- to the Pope, writing: "I want to tell you that my heart is very sad, because I'm scared that one day ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] is going to deport my parents. I have a right to live with my parents. I have a right to be happy."

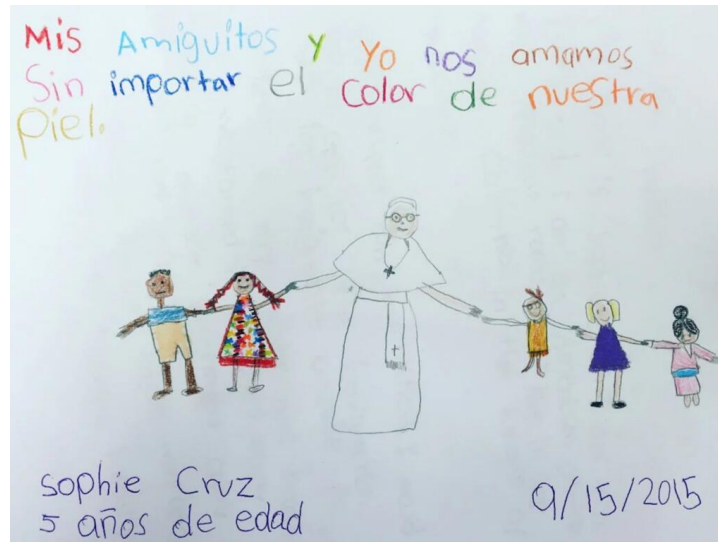
Cruz has gone on to be a voice for the children of undocumented immigrants around the globe. Recognized for her great activism, "the following year, [Sophie] was invited to speak at the Washington Women's March. At this point, she was just 6 years old and speaking in front of tens of thousands of people. She began with this touching moment, 'We are here together, making a chain of love to protect our families. Let us fight with love, faith, and courage so that our families will not be destroyed.'"

Sophie not only delivered her speech in both English and Spanish, she brought the crowd to tears. She went on to say, "I also want to tell the children not to be afraid because we are not alone. There are still many people that have their hearts filled with love..." She's even taken the migrants' rights message to



the White House and Supreme Court hearings, and has become the face of DAPA to consider protections for parents.

“My friends and I love each other no matter our skin color.”



### REFLECTION

Not very long ago I saw something on social media that really grabbed my attention and ever since I saw it, I've found myself thinking about it often. So, I thought I'd share it in this arena. What I saw appeared in the October 14, 1984 issue of *Pentecostal Evangel*. This is not a periodical that I have read before, but this one topic has really made me think, it is titled, "Ten Guidelines for Christian Voters." Each election in my adult life I have felt continually more uncomfortable with the ways politics try to convince followers of Jesus that their responsibility as followers of Jesus is to vote for them. And the ways that some Christians trust politicians to inform them to be faithful instead of what the church has to say about being faithful to God.

Below is the list from *Pentecostal Evangel*. I'd be interested in hearing from any of you what you think about this list. What should be removed and or what should be added? -- Craig

1. Do not confuse patriotism, national pride and Western culture with Christian faith and practice.
2. Do not confuse secular political activity with the purpose of the church, nor campaigning with witnessing and preaching.
3. Do not make slanderous or false accusations against your opponents, but maintain your integrity. Do not consider a brother or sister who is of like precious faith an adversary if he or she holds a different political view.
4. At all times endeavor to verify information before accepting it as true or before repeating it to others.
5. At all times endeavor to know and understand the candidate's positions and evaluate him or her on that basis, on the basis of his or her ability to perform the duties and functions of the office, and his or her integrity.
6. At all times endeavor to know and understand the issues; do not excuse yourself from this duty by saying, "God will show me whom to vote for."

7. At all times compare a candidate's position with Scripture but only where the Scripture addresses the issue; do not force Scripture to address issues that the Author did not intend it to address.
8. Neither vote nor work for a candidate merely because he or she professes to be of the Christian faith.
9. Do not neglect your family, worship, prayer or Bible study.
10. At all times uphold your leaders in prayer.



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.

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