



## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

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

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

**NOVEMBER 13, 2024**

#### CALENDAR

Sun, November 17: No Fellowship Meal  
Sun, November 17: Biblical Dialogue on Sexual Orientation @ Shalom, 4 pm (see announcement)  
Mon, November 18: \*BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St  
Wed, November 20: Wild Church, 10 am (see announcement)  
Mon, November 25: \*BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St.  
Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom (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  
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, January 14: Commission Chairs meeting, 6:30 pm  
Thu, January 16: Community Life Commission meeting, 6:00 pm  
\*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, Nov 13: Carl Rhine

Tue, Nov. 18: Charles Harms

**Thanksgiving is coming!** A carry-in meal is planned for Thanksgiving Day, November 28, in the fellowship hall for anyone who doesn't have plans and would like to come. Friends and family are welcome. A sign-up sheet is posted on the back sanctuary window – indicate how many people would come, and what you would like to contribute. Or, just come. Turkey will be provided.



### DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

### **Children's Sunday School**

December 1: Regular Children's Sunday School will not meet on December 1 but a children's activity will be offered so that parents can attend the planned adult Sunday school.

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

Hall Monitor needed for Nov 24.

### **Hall Monitor:**

Nov 10: Linda S

Dec. 1: Linda S

Nov 17: Linda S

Dec. 8: Linda S

Nov 24:

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:**

November 24: Last session of current classes: Sermon on the Mount meets upstairs;

"He Came Preaching Peace" meets downstairs

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

### 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 (11/10)**, Craig continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching from Matthew 7:1-12

**This Sunday (11/17)**, Brian will continue our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching on Matthew 7:13-23.

**Next Sunday (11/24)**, Sabrina Falls will preach the final message in our Sermon on the Mount series.

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

- Church: We are praying for **Waterford Mennonite Church**, which is in Goshen, Indiana and a part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- Organization: We are also praying for **Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence**, which is a local, nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to ending the rising tide of gun violence and gun-related injuries and deaths. It brings Hoosiers together to seek solutions through education and the promotion of legislation at the local, state, and national levels. (Brad Yoder & Sabrina Falls)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto: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.

On **Sunday, November 17 from 4pm to 6pm**, Shalom will host the first of our SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) dialogues, which are conversations in which we explore different ways

that Christians understand the Biblical teaching on these matters. This will involve one Christian leader who has a theologically conservative understanding (Tyler Hartford) and one Christian leader who has a theologically progressive understanding (Jewel Gingerich Longenecker) discussing the question, "How does the Bible inform your understanding of same-sex attraction?" It will also give congregants a chance to submit questions to the speakers.

Because of the sensitive nature of this conversation, we will not be providing a Zoom link, and we are going to ask all participants to sign the conversational covenant that is attached to this newsletter. (A physical copy will be provided at the actual meeting). We understand that some people believe that God's will is so clear on this that there is no purpose in discussing this question, and we would encourage those who have this mindset not to participate in this particular event. You are welcome at our church, but this meeting will not be beneficial for you. For everyone who is open to hearing different Biblical interpretations on this and who is willing to show respect to Christians with different views, we encourage you to attend.

**Wednesday, November 20**, at 10 a.m., *Wild Church* will meet at West Park near the playground Area. Address is 2700 West 116th Street, Carmel. Bring stories or reflections about doves.



**Mennonite Action Virtual Gathering:** Mennonite Action is holding an organizing call on **November 21st, 2024, 8pm ET/5pm PT.**

Last November, we gathered to pray, grieve, and organize on Mennonite Action's very first virtual mass call. Over 800 of us came together because we needed this community space to help process our shock, horror, and deep grief as the genocide in Gaza unfolded.

This year, in the wake of Trump's election, we will gather to recommit ourselves to this movement for peace, justice and liberation. We will gather to process our fear and our grief about the future for our own communities and for Palestine. And we will prepare to continue to take mass, public action together.

Join our next mass call to hear more about what we have planned. Don't miss one of our biggest calls ever on November 21 at 8 pm ET / 5 pm PT. You will receive important updates. Sign up now to commit--or recommit--yourself to our movement for peace, justice, and liberation for all God's children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sabrina. Hope to see you there!

[To sign up, visit mennoniteaction.org/call](https://mennoniteaction.org/call)

**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](#).



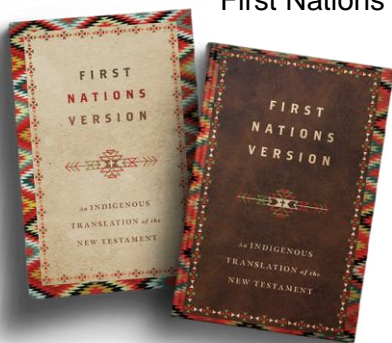
## FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Terry M. Wildman (Ojibwe and Yaqui) is the lead translator, general editor, and project manager of the *First Nations Version*. He serves as the director of spiritual growth and leadership development for Native InterVarsity. He is also the founder of Rain Ministries and has previously served as a pastor and worship leader. He and his wife, Darlene, live in Arizona.

“Boozhoo (hello), my name is Terry Wildman, the Chief Director of Rain Ministries. My wife Darlene and I live in Maricopa, AZ, on the traditional lands of the Pima and Tohono O’odham. Since 1998 we have been actively involved in the lives of Native Americans. We founded Rain Ministries in 2002 as an Arizona non-profit organization while living on the Hopi Indian Reservation in Northern Arizona.

The primary purpose of Rain Ministries is to encourage Indigenous Peoples to realize and fulfill the destiny the Creator has given them through his Son Jesus Christ, and to partner with them in developing culturally significant ways to express their worship of Creator and to make him known to others. Through Rain Ministries, we will also encourage and facilitate reconciliation between Christian churches and First Nations people.”



First Nations Version: An indigenous translation of the New Testament. Many First Nations tribes communicate with the cultural and linguistic thought patterns found in their original tongues. The First Nations Version recount the Creator’s Story – the Christian Scriptures – following the tradition of Native storytellers’ oral cultures. This way of speaking, with its simple yet profound beauty and rich cultural idioms, still resonates in the hearts of First Nations people. The FNC is a dynamic equivalence translation that captures the simplicity, clarity, and beauty of Native storytellers in English, while remaining faithful to the original language of the New Testament.

<https://www.ivpress.com/terry-m-wildman>

<https://firstnationsversion.com/about/>

<https://firstnationsversion.com/book/first-nations-version/>



Need something? Have something to give away?

From Beverly Smith: I have 3 items I would like to find new homes for.

- An apartment sized manual washer/spin dryer
- A recumbent exercise bike
- A Hoover vacuum.

I will wait two weeks for anyone to claim, then turn over to local charity thrift.

The washer works fine; Note: The washer does require manual filling and emptying, there is no automatic stop. Do not use the Wash function and the Drain or Spin Cycle at the same time. Be sure to place the "lid" over clothes in the spinner and do not fill to the top.

The bike works, but the electronic monitor may not. Check battery. There is a rubber mat included to go under the bike.

The vacuum works but may need some maintenance to perform better-a new belt?



### 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 worshiping 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