



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 16, 2024

CALENDAR

Sun, October 20: Carry-In Meal after Sunday School. October's carry-in will be a "Heritage Carry-in". Bring a dish that has been passed down, what Grandma/pa always made for the family, or a dish that reminds you of where you have been or even a family favorite! Something you always asked for at home. Or maybe you are starting a new family dish. Bringing that!

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!

Today, Oct 16: Aubrey Lily
Thu, Oct 17: Justin Hochstetler
Sat, Oct 19: Mary Albrecht
Sat, Oct 19: Allison Sanders
Sun, Oct 20: Roslyn Crawford

In reviewing our budget for 2025, we were reminded that there is a line for “Transportation – possible need for transportation for non-drivers” in case anyone knows of a need.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Children's Sunday School

Hall Monitor

6-Oct	Linda S	3-Nov	Joann
13-Oct	Rose	10-Nov	Linda S
20-Oct	Joann	17-Nov	Linda S
27-Oct	Joann	24-Nov	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 and next Sunday for delivery to Morning Star Food Pantry in Muncie on Monday, October 28th. Frank Kandel For the Outreach Commission

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

In the spring of 2022, when we had outside consultants do an anti-racism audit of our congregation, one of their recommendations was that we have an anti-racial harassment policy, similar to our anti-sexual harassment policy. The Dismantling Racism Steering Committee reviewed some materials recommended by the consultants and drafted a statement. The statement was reviewed by the People of Color caucus, then by the white caucus, and some changes were made resulting from those reviews. The DRSC plans to bring the statement to a Meeting of the Congregation at 11:00 AM on October 20, 2024 in the fellowship hall, for final review and a vote. The statement is attached. Please read it in preparation for the meeting.

If you will not be present at the meeting on October 20, please email your vote to Frank Kandel by October 19.

We will move into discussing chapter 3 of *The Color of Compromise* after this meeting.
Martha Yoder Maust
Chair, DRSC

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (10/13), Brian will continue the series on the Sermon on the Mount by engaging Jesus' teaching about praying, fasting, and giving in Matthew 6:1-18.

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

Next Sunday (10/207), Craig will bring the message from Matthew 6:19-24

This week's prayer list:

- Church: Today, we are praying for Prairie Street Mennonite Church, which is one of the Elkhart churches in our Conference with a rich history that dates back to 1870. They have asked for prayers for their health, safety, and rest as they gather for a congregational retreat at the end of October and study the theme of covenant.
- Organization: We are also praying for Mennonite Missions Network, which is an MCUSA missions agency that exists to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. They envision every congregation and all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission—across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world. Pray for the Mennonite Mission Network, which is supporting a new interdenominational Justice and Peace Training Center in Ghana in partnership with 15 theological schools. The Center has just launched a French-language Masters in Conflict Transformation program. The first cohort has fifteen students from eight countries. Pray especially for the students who live in high-conflict countries and communities as they begin to apply what they are learning (Contact: Martha Yoder Maust)

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.

Election Day Communion Service. On Election Day (11/5), Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference (IMMC) will be hosting a virtual communion service so that - after Christians cast our ballots (or don't), we can come together to reaffirm our higher commitment to Christ and his church. The service will take place on Tuesday, November 5 at 7pm ET. It will be a *virtual* communion service, which means that you will need to register to get the Zoom link that will be released soon and bring your own bread and juice (or whatever substitutes you may have). IMMC has not yet set up the registration, but we will should have the link for it in next week's Journeying Together.

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.

MDS' October edition of *On the Level* is now available at <https://conta.cc/3A1Xft6>

Greetings in the name of Christ. Thank you for your donation to **Mennonite Central Committee** which will be used to help those who are suffering around the world.

Item(s): 91 School Kits

Our school kit challenge for 2024 has come to a close. To all who participated, thank you! You have shown God's love to children around the world through the gift of school kits.

We reached our goal and surpassed it! More than **27,681 school kits were collected during our challenge.** What a wonderful way to support the educational hopes of so many children. Thank you for coming together to make school kits a reality! -- Nadine Zook Miller MCC Great Lakes

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, meet Helen Rodriguez-Trias

Advocate Rodriguez-Trías fought for women and children to have increased access to healthcare and for the abolishment of forced sterilization. Through her career she broke many boundaries, and served as the American Public Health Association's first Latina president.



Helen Rodríguez Trías was born in 1929 in New York City to Puerto Rican parents. She grew up in both Puerto Rico and New York. In the United States, Rodríguez Trías faced discrimination at school because she was Latina. School administrators placed her in less advanced classes despite her good

grades and English fluency. Only when a teacher noticed her intelligence was she moved to higher-level classes.

Her education set her on a path to medicine. She recalled that being a doctor “combined the things I loved the most, science and people.” She became involved with the Puerto Rican independence movement. After graduating in 1960 from the University of Puerto Rico, she completed her residency in pediatrics at University Hospital in San Juan and then began teaching at the medical school there. She also established Puerto Rico’s first infant health clinic. The results of her work were immediate: within three years, infant mortality at the hospital had declined by fifty percent.

In 1970, Dr. Rodríguez Trías returned to New York and took a job heading the pediatrics department at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx. The 1970s were a turbulent time for the hospital, serving mostly Black and Latino patients. Community leaders and activists frequently criticized the hospital for public health violations, crumbling facilities, and negligent care. In 1970, a radical Puerto Rican civil rights organization called the Young Lords staged occupations of hospital buildings. They demanded better care for their community. During her tenure, Dr. Rodríguez Trías aimed to find points of agreement among the Young Lords and the other groups who had a stake in the hospital.

Dr. Rodríguez Trías’s work and personal experiences made her pay attention to the ways poverty, inequality, and racism led to poor health. During the 1970s, she brought that understanding to the growing women’s health movement. It fought for women’s reproductive rights and to end sexism in healthcare. Dr. Rodríguez Trías first joined the movement in October of 1970. With other women of color, she worked to move the mostly white women’s movement toward a broader conversation around social and economic justice. The “important issues,” she remembered, were “about equity...about getting economic power, about ending violence against women.”

Dr. Rodríguez Trías wanted women to be able to choose when and whether to have children, and to get the best possible care either way. She recognized that this looked different depending on a woman’s race and class. Middle-class white women often had to fight to get the birth control they needed. But many poor Latina and Black women had become victims of sterilization abuse. In Puerto Rico, government programs promoted sterilization as a simple and effective method of birth control. These programs were partly driven by concerns about “population control.” While many women chose the procedure, health authorities pressured many others—especially working-class and poor women—to agree to it or falsely told them that it was reversible. Similar programs targeted poorer Black women and girls in the American South. “While young white middle class women were denied their requests for sterilization, low income women of certain ethnicity were misled or coerced into them,” Dr. Rodríguez Trías explained. She argued that the women’s health movement needed to respond to all of this. To work on these problems, Dr. Rodríguez Trías founded the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse and the Committee for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse.

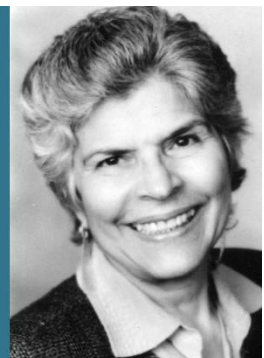
In the 1980s, Dr. Rodríguez Trías worked as medical director of New York State’s AIDS Institute, advocating for women and children with HIV. She co-founded the Women’s Caucus and the Hispanic Caucus of the American Public Health Association (APHA). She later became the first Latina director of the APHA.

President Bill Clinton awarded Dr. Rodríguez Trías the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2001. She died later that year in Santa Cruz, California of complications from cancer.

<https://www.nps.gov/people/dr-helen-rodr%C3%ADguez-tr%C3%ADas.htm>

“We cannot achieve a healthier us without achieving a healthier, more equitable health care system, and ultimately, a more equitable society.”

—Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trías



REFLECTION

On Swearing Oaths

Anabaptists have been making public statements for nearly 500 years. The earliest known Anabaptist statement was made in 1527 when a group of Swiss Anabaptists wrote the “Schleitheim Confession.” This confession identified seven ways in which the Anabaptists were breaking from their Protestant counterparts – starting with their insistence on Believer’s baptism (as opposed to infant baptism) in the first article and including their commitment to nonviolence in the sixth. Most of these still make sense to Anabaptist Christians today, but the seventh commitment – their commitment against swearing oaths – strikes many of us as odd.

Jesus taught his followers not to “swear oaths” in Matthew 5:33-37, and I noted in my sermon a few weeks ago that this calls us to a higher standard of truthfulness. Most of us avoid telling explicit lies and breaking promises, but Jesus tells us to be truthful all the time so that people can trust us when we say “yes” and “no.” But there is another reason that Jesus offers for avoiding oaths that I didn’t have time address in that sermon: it invokes forces that we cannot control. For example, Jesus says at one point, “And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.” Swearing an oath is a way of invoking a power greater than yourself to make your words stronger, so we should consider before we do that, do we want to be bound to such forces?

Perhaps the most straightforward example of this in our time is the pledge of allegiance. Many public schools begin by having students say the pledge of allegiance to the US flag every day, an act that seems reverent and patriotic. But what if the US government does something or commands us to do something that is morally wrong – such as bomb civilians in another country. When that happens, the pledge of allegiance binds us to a morally bad actor. This may seem like a theoretical question for those of us who don’t see war, but soldiers have to face these kinds of moral dilemmas in very real ways, and it might be worth considering this when we pay our taxes each year, which support the military apparatus.

The early Anabaptists soon found that their refusal to swear oaths was one of their most radical political commitments. Local governments found it very threatening that Anabaptists would not take oaths of loyalty to them, and Anabaptists were therefore excluded from public benefits and opportunities or killed outright. So as strange as this command seems, Jesus seems to have his finger on something very powerful here, and we would do well to consider ways in which we bind ourselves to larger forces in many areas of our lives, whether it’s explicitly through an oath or implicitly through our participation in and/or support of various institutions. ~ Brian



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