



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

NOVEMBER 20, 2024

CALENDAR

Mon, November 25: *BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St.
Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom, 1 pm (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 (see announcement)
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!

Sun, November 24: Angie Buller
Wed, November 27: Issac Lederach

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; we'll aim to eat at 1 pm .



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



Christmas Reading Program for ages 5 – 9.

Any 5 – 9-year-old can have one of these cute nativities from Peru by reading 5 Christmas books during Advent, December 1 - 29!

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 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:

Nov 24: Joann
Dec. 1: Linda S
Dec. 8: Linda S
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 Hearers and Doers 7:24-29 and SOM conclusions; meets upstairs;
- "He Came Preaching Peace" chapter 12; 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 (11/17), Brian continued our series on the Sermon on the Mount by preaching on Matthew 7:13-23.

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

Next Sunday (12/1), is the first Sunday of Advent. Brian will deliver the sermon.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: The church that we are praying for this week is **Wildwood Mennonite Church**, is a congregation in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which is an active member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- Organization: Our organization in focus is **Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary**, which is the MCUSA affiliated seminary in North America, whose work in Anabaptist theological education is rooted in the saving power of the life, death, resurrection and ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. (Contact: Wilma Bailey)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig is attending the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Pastor's Retreat at Camp Amigo Friday-Sunday afternoon.



On **December 8, 2024, right after Sunday School**, we will meet in the sanctuary for our annual **Shalom Budget Revision and Approval meeting**. Please plan to participate in this important time of decision-making for the congregation.

Attached is the Proposed 2025 Shalom Budget, provided by our Commission Chairs. I will place some paper copies by the mailboxes.

As you know, we had some difficulty meeting our 2024 spending commitments. I will provide an updated report of offerings and expenses at the end of November and at the Dec. 8 meeting.

The proposed 2025 spending plan represents a \$14,419 (6.1%) increase from 2024 budget. Please be in prayer for God's guidance as we approve our spending commitments.
In Christ, Bob Love, Treasurer

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. 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.



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)

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



Secretary Deb Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a 35th generation New Mexican*.

Secretary Haaland grew up in a military family; her father was a 30-year combat Marine who was awarded the Silver Star Medal for saving six lives in Vietnam, and her mother was a Navy veteran who served as a federal employee for 25 years at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As a military child, she attended 13 public schools before graduating from Highland High School in Albuquerque.

As a single mother, Secretary Haaland volunteered at her child's pre-school to afford early childhood education. Like many parents, she had to rely on food


stamps at times, lived paycheck-to-paycheck, and struggled to put herself through college. At the age of 28, Haaland enrolled at the University of New Mexico (UNM) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in English and later earned her J.D. from UNM Law School. Secretary Haaland and her child, who also graduated from the University of New Mexico, are still paying off student loans.

Secretary Haaland ran her own small business producing and canning Pueblo Salsa, served as a tribal administrator at San Felipe Pueblo, and became the first woman elected to the Laguna Development Corporation Board of Directors, overseeing business operations of the second largest tribal gaming enterprise in New Mexico. She successfully advocated for the Laguna Development Corporation to create policies and commitments to environmentally friendly business practices.

Throughout her career in public service, Secretary Haaland has broken barriers and opened the doors of opportunity for future generations.

After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Secretary Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party. She is one of the first Native American women to serve in Congress. In Congress, she focused on environmental justice, climate change, missing and murdered indigenous women, and family-friendly policies.

<https://www.doi.gov/secretary-deb-haaland>



"Native American history is American history, and it's only by recognizing that history that we can build a future that is equitable and inclusive."

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland

Swing Left

* The Pueblo people have lived on the land that is now the state of New Mexico since the 1200s and Haaland identifies herself as a 35th-generation New Mexican. Her mother, Mary Toya, a Native American woman, served in the United States Navy and also worked in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
~ Wikipedia



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:

6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 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