



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

MARCH 26, 2025

CALENDAR

Sun, March 30: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, 4 pm

March 31 – April 6: Pastor Brian on vacation

Sat, April 5: Fellowship hall reserved: Troyer's, 2 – 8:30 pm

Mon, April 7: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers

Mon, April 14: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN

Mon, April 21: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN

Mon, April 28: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN

Sat, May 10: Arlington Woods Spring Clean up, 8am.

Sat, May 17: Celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism @ First Mennonite (see announcement)

*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9 am – 3 pm

Sat, April 5: Fellowship hall reserved: Troyer's, 2 – 8:30 pm
Sat, May 17: Celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism @ First Mennonite
*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9 am – 3 pm

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, March 26: Kim & Krystal Johnson, 2005
Sat, March 29: Charity Bauman
Sat, March 29: Andrew Martin
Tue, April 1: Becky wigginton

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

There will be an Easter egg hunt for children following the Easter service. Youth are invited to help hide eggs. If weather is nice, we'll use the playground and open areas around it. The basement hallways and Fellowship hall will be the backup area.

Children's Classes

Hall Monitor:

March 30:
April 6:
April 13:
April 20:
April 27:

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:

Mar 30: Salt & Light: Session #2 (page 8) Matt 22:34-40;
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither
Apr 6: Salt & Light: Session #3 (page 14) Luke 1:26-38; Confession of Faith Articles #3 & #18;
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither
Apr 13: Salt & Light: Session #4 (page 20) John 1:1-18; Confession of Faith Article #4;
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither
Apr 20: Easter- No Sunday school
Apr 27: Salt & Light: Session #5 (pg 26) Luke 2:25-35; Confession of Faith Review Article #8;
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither

Mennonite Confession of Faith articles:
<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/who-are-mennonites/what-we-believe/confession-of-faith/>

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 (3/23) Brian continued our study of the Farewell Discourse by looking at Jesus' invitation to abide in him and bear fruit from John 15:1-25.

This Week (3/30) Jesus returns to the topic of the Holy Spirit in John 15:26-16:33, and Brian will preach about the possibility of continuing revelation that this teaching presents.

This week's Prayer List;

Church: Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship is a home-based church in Kalamazoo, Michigan that is a part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Organization: *Peter and Delicia Bravo Wigginton* are missionaries from our congregation who work with the Mennonite churches in Ecuador. (Contact: Jeanne Smucker and Martha Yoder Maust)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Longoria has a new phone number, it is 317-884-7399



Gary Martin, Shalom's transitional pastor, passed away March 21. His obituary can be found at <https://www.yoderculfuneralhome.com/obituary/gary-martin>

Violence has been increasing drastically in Ecuador, and churches there are struggling to know how to respond. Here is a letter that several groups of

Anabaptist/Mennonite churches in Ecuador have composed together, as a plea to the wider church. Please read the letter and add your prayers to theirs. <https://wiggipe.wordpress.com/2025/03/25/prayer-letter-from-the-ecuador-peace-team/>



The Anabaptist 500 – On Saturday, May 17, Shalom and First Mennonite Churches will host a festival to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. Beginning at 9am, we will join together for worship, education, fellowship, and service with seminars, food, and opportunities that we would *like* to offer free of charge. The festival will be held at First Mennonite Church, which is located at 4601 Knollton Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46228. You will not need a ticket to participate in the event, but we will send out a registration form shortly so that we can know about how many people to expect.

In order to make this event free and open to all, we need to raise about \$2,000, mostly to cover outside speakers and provide a catered lunch. If you would be willing to donate, you can do by [clicking on the newly added "Anabaptist 500" option on Shalom's online giving page, which you can find at this link, or you can write a check to the church on Sunday with "The Anabaptist 500" written in the memo line.](#) Any leftover money at the end of this fundraising campaign will be donated to Mennonite World Conference. We are also looking for volunteers to teach seminars, provide snacks, offer information and assistance to guests during the day, and act in a skit during the evening service. If you would be willing to help in any of these ways, please email Pastor Brian at brian@shalommennonite.com or Pastor Jonathan at jonathan@indymenno.org.

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, March 31 to Sunday, April 6. If you have urgent needs that must be addressed before his return, please contact Pastor Craig at craig@shalommennonite.com.

For those who know Mel Swartzentruber, a card shower is being planned for His 95th birthday on April 2. His address is 1200 E. Patridge, Apt. 27, Metamora, IL 61548.

Our time with Mennonite Disaster Service in Newton, Texas, is coming to an end. Much was accomplished before we arrived; in the month of March ramps were built, flooring laid, painting, new kitchen cabinets installed, various repairs done, relationships built, both with clients and each other as a team. We will be home some time next week – not sure of our plans, but will be back in church next Sunday. ~ Jim and Linda

WOMAN OF COLOR BIO

Selma Hortense Burke was born on December 31, 1900 in Mooresville, NC, 7th of 10 children. Her father, Neal Burke, was a Methodist minister who also worked on the railroads and cruise ships. Burke's interest in art began at an early age, sculpting small objects and animals with white clay from a nearby riverbed. "One day, I was mixing the clay and I saw the imprint of my hands. I found that I could make something... something that I alone had created."



Burke's father encouraged her artistic pursuits. She often used the objects he brought back from his ocean travels as the models for her sculptures. Burke's mother, Mary Jackson, on the other hand, encouraged her to follow the more practical career path of nursing. Burke graduated from the Slater Industrial and Slater Normal School (later Winston-Salem State University) in 1922. She went on to Saint Agnes Training School for Nurses in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she graduated as a registered nurse in 1924. After that, she completed further

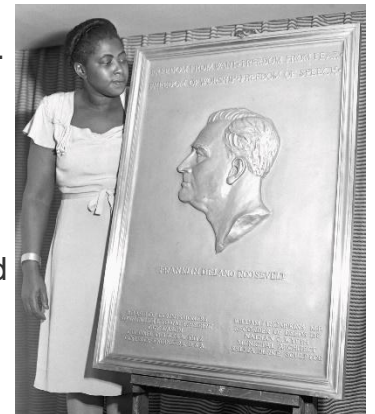
nursing training in Philadelphia. She married her childhood friend Durant Woodward, but she was widowed when he died not long after their wedding.

Burke moved to New York City in the late 1920s where she worked as the private nurse for Amelia Waring, an heiress to the Otis Elevator empire. Waring helped Burke gain exposure to the arts and culture scenes in New York. Burke began socializing with the artists and writers associated with the Harlem Renaissance. Burke left nursing and turned her focus to sculpture.

She studied art at Sarah Lawrence College, modeling to pay for her classes. Burke twice traveled to Europe to hone her technique, where she studied under artists such as Henri Matisse and Aristide Maillol in Paris. But with the threat of Nazism rising in Europe, Burke returned to the United States. She taught art to youth in New York City, where influential sculptor Augusta Savage was her mentor. In 1940, Burke opened the Selma Burke School of Sculpture. The next year, Burke earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia University (where she had received a scholarship) and held her first solo exhibit in a New York gallery.

Following the entry of the United States into World War II, Burke enlisted in the Navy, becoming one of the first African-American women to sign up. Her assignment was to drive a truck at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. She injured her back on the job and while recuperating, she won a nationwide contest for the commission of a bronze relief portrait of President Franklin Roosevelt. Burke felt that photographs of Roosevelt were inadequate for her needs and requested a sitting with the President so she could draw him. Roosevelt agreed and Burke sketched Roosevelt over two days in February 1944.

Roosevelt passed away in April 1945. His successor, President Truman, unveiled Burke's relief portrait in September of 1945. Though she endorsed it, Eleanor Roosevelt reportedly did not like the portrait at first, as it depicted her husband as a younger man. Burke responded that she intended the image to represent Roosevelt as Americans had long known him, not as he appeared in his final years. In addition to the bronze portrait, Burke's profile of Roosevelt is widely acknowledged as the basis for his image on the U.S. dime. The dime's image is officially attributed to U.S. Mint Chief Engraver John Sinnock, but many, including Burke, claim that Sinnock borrowed from Burke's depiction.



Burke married architect Herman Kobbe in 1949 and the two moved to an artists' colony in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Kobbe passed away in 1955, but Burke remained in Pennsylvania for the rest of her life. Burke continued to emphasize arts education, running the Selma Burke Art Center in Pittsburgh from 1968-1981. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter awarded Burke with a Women's Caucus for Art Lifetime Achievement award.



Burke completed her final sculpture in 1980: a nine-foot bronze statue of Martin Luther King Jr. that stands in Marshall Park in Charlotte, North Carolina. She passed away in 1995 in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Her sculptures are still on display at institutions such as Winston-Salem State University, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Mooresville Public Library in her North Carolina hometown.

Edited from <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/selma-burke>



Burke with her sculpture of

There is one quote from Ms. Burke which sums up her philosophy in a nutshell; “Art didn’t start black or white, it just started ... There have been too many labels in this world: Negro, Colored, Black, African-American ... Why do we label people with everything except Children of God?”



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 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