



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

APRIL 23, 2025

CALENDAR

- Mon, April 28: Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association meeting, 5:30 pm
- Mon, April 28: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN
- Mon, May 5: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
- Sat, May 10: Arlington Woods Spring Clean up, 8am.
- Mon, May 12: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
- Sat, May 17: Celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism @ First Mennonite (see announcement)
- Mon, May 19: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN
 - *BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9 am – 3 pm

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Dan Rosenberger
Pastoral Represent
ative: Craig Oury

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Wed, April 23: Tania Goodloe

Sat, April 26: Mike Wigginton

Wed, April 30: Liam Sanders

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Summer is getting closer! Please think about how you could help with our Children's Ed programs during the Sunday school hour from June-August. More specific requests will be coming soon but you can share your ideas with Laura now.

On June 1, Shalom will hold the annual safety training during adult Sunday school. This training is meant for all Shalom adults even if you don't plan to volunteer on children's programs. Everyone has a role to play to protect children.

Children's Classes

Hall Monitor

April 27: Joann Buerge

May 4: Joann Buerge

May 11: Linda Showalter

May 18: Linda Showalter

May 25:

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:

Apr 27: Salt & Light: Session #5 (page 26) Luke 2:25-35; Confession of Faith, article 8;
Shalom Orientation Class

May 4: Technology & Our Discipleship led by Andrew Martin

May 11: Technology & Our Discipleship led by Andrew Martin

May 18: Antiracism Sunday

May 25: **No Sunday school**

June 1: Child Safety Training

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair beginning in September), 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 (4/20) was Easter! There was Easter breakfast at 8:30am, followed by the worship service at 10am, with an Easter egg hunt (but no Sunday school) afterwards. All were welcomed to join us as we heard the story of the resurrection from the perspective of the disciple whom Jesus loved.

This Week (4/27) Craig will be preaching from Acts 5.

Next Sunday (5/4) Brian will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington*. Contact Person: John Sauder
- **Organization:** *Mennonite Women USA* is a sisterhood of women following Jesus who engage the voices of all women, honoring our/their stories, practicing justice, and embracing healing. (Contact: CoraLyn Turentine)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have been approached by some Shalom neighbors about hosting a Spirit and Place event at our church. The theme this year is "Nature" and we propose activities linked to the Dagne Assefa park and woods. We have about 6 weeks before a proposal needs to be submitted. If we are chosen, the event would take place in November. If you would like to hear more or be involved, contact Becky Wigginton.



If anyone has seen a red, deep dish ceramic casserole pan with white enamel interior, please contact Sheila Abebe at 317-374-8412. It has been missing since the last carry-in in March.

Undoing Patriarchy:

MC USA's latest "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative calls for transformation.

How do we dismantle patriarchal norms in our churches and communities? MC USA's latest "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative – **Undoing Patriarchy** – invites congregations and individuals to explore this crucial question through learning, prayer, and action. Running through mid-May, this campaign equips MC USA members with the tools needed to work toward a more equitable church and society where all people are treated with dignity and respect, regardless of gender.

"Undoing patriarchy is about reclaiming the radical inclusivity we are called to live out as Christians. As we work to undo systems of exclusion we are living into our faith more fully as followers of Jesus," said Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA denominational minister for Peace and Justice.

"Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy" sets the stage for MC USA's Women's Summit, a powerful, one-day event on **July 8**, just before the Follow Jesus '25 national convention in

Greensboro, North Carolina. The initiative is rooted in scripture and draws from “[Laboring Toward Wholeness: A Training on Dismantling Patriarchy](#),” a curriculum developed by MC USA’s [Women in Leadership](#) ministry. This resource, first published in 2021, examines the history and impact of systemic patriarchy while challenging participants to respond with a Christ-centered, intersectional approach.

What to expect: Throughout this initiative, MC USA will offer thought-provoking blogs, compelling resources, and engaging webinars to help participants reflect on gender roles in the church and beyond. Expect deep discussions that will transform not only personal perspectives but also relationships, families and faith communities.

Highlights:

- **Webinar: April 24** | 2 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. PT – Get an exclusive sneak peek into the Women’s Summit! Join Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA’s denominational minister for peace and justice, along with Sarah Bixler and Joanne Gallardo, as they explore the power of storytelling, listening, and shared experiences in a panel discussion on “Beholding.”
- Webinar Recording: “Women in Leadership: Envisioning the Women’s Summit” – MC USA’s Women in Leadership steering committee discussed the evolution of women’s leadership in the Mennonite church, the need to empower women to live out their callings amid patriarchal systems, and the importance of creating intentional, intergenerational spaces to foster collective women. View it in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).
- Blogs from women leaders across the church, featuring voices such as Abby Endashaw, Ana Alicia Hinojosa and Cynthea Millsaps.
- A [prayer](#) for women by Karla Stoltzfus Detweiler.
- Opportunities for deeper engagement through the Women’s Summit and the Women in Leadership ministry.

Stay connected and engage: Want to be part of the conversation? Visit the “Learn, Pray, Join: Undoing Patriarchy” [webpage](#) for a full list of resources. Subscribe to [PeaceMail](#), MC USA’s weekly email newsletter, and follow MC USA on social media

— [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#) and [YouTube](#) — for ongoing updates. ~ Brad Yoder

What: **Dreamland** will be presented

When: **Saturday, April 26th at 7 PM**

Where: Downey Street Christian Church sanctuary theatre


Event is free of charge to those who register for a seat. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat now.

REACT Theatre Company and The Eastside Creation Care Network to present DREAMLAND, an original theatrical production that features Indianapolis area middle and high school youth performing in a powerful and thought-provoking play that is a call for hope in a world that seems doomed for climate catastrophe.

DREAMLAND, a partnership between REACT and Earth Charter Indiana, responds to the rise of Eco-anxiety in our youth today. This performance would be an excellent experience for youth field trips or youth church group activities. While this production is primarily targeted to youth, it sends a powerful message to attendees of all ages.

Find out more: <https://www.reactclasses.org/projects/dreamland>

Register for FREE tickets: [DREAMLAND, a REACT theatre production | DowneyAve Website](#)

 **Jason's Wind Ensemble** will play a State pre-lims Preview Concert at Lawrence Central High School on **Wednesday, April 30 at 7pm**. I've heard a few snippets of rehearsals and they sound great! He'll be on the bassoon for this concert.



ANABAPTISM at FIVE HUNDRED

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. For this to happen, we need volunteers, donors, and a general idea of how many people plan to attend. **So far, we have only received \$210 for this event, which is far short of our goal of \$2,000 that we need in order to bring in a guest speaker and provide a common meal.** Please consider donating by writing a check to Shalom with "the Anabaptist 500" written in the Memo line or giving through the newly added "Anabaptist 500" option on Shalom's online giving page, which you can find at [this link](#). Also, we are asking anyone who plans to attend to register at [this link](#) so that the planning team can know how to budget and prepare. It would be especially helpful for those who plan to bring children to let us know so that we can determine whether to provide childcare. We are also looking for volunteers to 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.



PERSON OF COLOR BIO

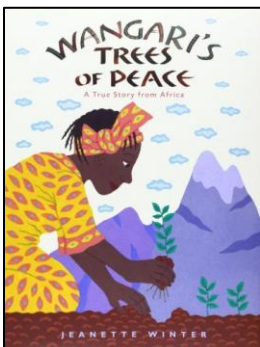
**WANGARI
MAATHAI**
THE WOMAN WHO GREENED THE WORLD!



Dr. Wangari Maathai claimed a number of "firsts" during her lifetime:

- She was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004
- the first person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in the name of environmental efforts, and
- the first woman from East and Central Africa to receive a doctorate.

In 2002, she was elected to the Kenyan parliament with 98% of the vote and served as the Assistant Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife. In 1977, She founded the Green Belt Movement, which introduced the idea of planting trees to help conserve the environment. The Green Belt Movement has been incredibly successful, having planted over 51 million trees to date.



There is a book in our library about Wangari planting trees:

"As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something, and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. And as they grow, so do her plans. . . .

This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change."



It's the little things citizens do.
That's what will make the difference.
My little thing is planting trees.

— Wangari Maathai —

AZ QUOTES



Need something? Have something to give away?

Herb has a bike to give away. Small 20 inch white and pink bike. Email or call or text. 317-407-6340.

Couch for sale! 36" x 87" footprint. Clean and in good condition. We'll transport if needed. \$100 ~ call or text Jim at 317-727-4922 or Linda at 317-691-3737.



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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Grace Rhine
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