



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JANUARY 29, 2025

CALENDAR

Sun, February 9: Game Night, 4:30 pm (see announcement under Community Life)
Sun, February 16: Fellowship Meal following Sunday School
Wed, February 19: Wild Church, 10 am
Thu, February 27: Community Life Commission Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm
Mon, March 3: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Mon, March 10: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN
Sun, March 16: Fellowship Meal following Sunday School
Mon, March 17: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
Wed, March 19: Wild Church, 10 am
Mon, March 24: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN
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

Celebrations!

Wed, January 29: Judy Rosenberger
Sat, February 1: Calvin Hochstetler
Sat, February 1: Zema Falk
Tue, February 4: Yesi Lederach

Sunday, Game Night, Sunday, February 9, 4:30 pm

Come for fun, fellowship and football! Sign up to share soup, bread/snacks or un-iced valentine cookies – or just just come! Bring favorite table games. There will be activities for the kids.

Community Life Commission is putting together a **care package** to send Marcela for Valentine's Day. If you'd like to participate, please bring some snacks and or a note letting her know that she is loved and missed. There is a box by the nursery for you to drop off those treats and notes by Sunday February 9. Below is a list of some of her favorites as well as foods to avoid due to allergies. Thanks, the CLC.



Marcela cannot have any gluten and has allergies to almonds. Gluten is found in wheat, barley, rye, soy sauce, BBQ sauce, and some spice mixes. Many snack foods have gluten but below are some that don't. Baked goods that use almond flour as an alternative to wheat don't work for her. Oats are iffy unless processed in a gluten free plant.

Flaming hot Cheetos
Rice Krispie treats (check for gluten)
Popcorn - microwave or bagged
Reese's peanut butter cups
Chocolate like Hershey's, dove, etc as long as they don't have cookie pieces or almonds
Peach rings (check for gluten)
Plain potato chips
Gluten free Oreos
Gluten free pretzels
Annie's brand GF Mac n cheese single serve cups
Scharr brand GF ciabatta rolls
Mott's or Welch brand fruit snacks (can check ingredients of other brands for wheat starch)

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Children's Classes

Hall Monitor:

Feb 2: Linda Showalter
Feb 9: Joann Buerge
Feb 16: Joann Buerge
Feb 23: Linda Showalter

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:

February 2 - Salt & Light session 10. Rain, Even for the Unrighteous, Matthew 5:38-48
February 9 - Salt & Light session 11. Becoming Great, Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14
February 16 - Caucus Sunday, Color of Compromise, Chapter 7
February 23 - Salt & Light session 13. A Treasured Life, Matthew 6:19-24

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

There was one vote that appeared in the spam folder of the email and the VAT wanted to let everyone know the updated results of Sunday's vote.

The results of Sunday's congregational vote on the "Proposed Shalom Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome" have been counted, and **the statement has passed with 94% of participants voting yes.** The breakdown of the vote follows:

- 59 people participated in the vote process
- 6 abstained from voting
- 3 voted no
- 50 voted yes

Thank you for your prayerful participation and discernment in this ongoing process and sorry for the missed vote.

Craig Oury for the VAT

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (1/26) Brian concluded the "Lessons from History" series by considering how the Mennonites made their way to the United States, northern Indiana, and eventually Indianapolis and how we have changed and grown along the way.

This week (2/2) Craig will bring the message from Luke 4:21-30.

Next Sunday (2/9) Albert Gay will bring the message.

On this week's Prayer List;

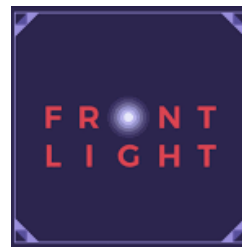
Church: Our church in focus today is **Fairhaven Mennonite Church**, which is a member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference that is located in Fort Wayne, Indiana and is the northernmost congregation in our regional network of CAMFell churches. They have asked us to pray that they will look for ways to be a supportive, "good news" community as they enter their 11th year without a pastor.

Organization: Our organization in focus this week is **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.
(Contact: Martha Yoder Maust)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Action has launched a podcast, "Front Light" (the name comes from Dr. Vincent Harding, who implored the Mennonite Church to be the "front light" to the world, instead of the "rear light.") This podcast, which will air about once a month, is hosted by Mennonite pastors Jonny Rashid and Joanna Lawrence Shenk. The first episode explains the title of the podcast, interviews Mennonite Action co-directors Nick Martin and Adam Ramer, addresses the temporary ceasefire, and highlights the Anabaptist Community Bible. [You can find the first episode here](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts.



Jonny Rashid



Joanna Lawrence Shenk

Save the date! Shalom and First Mennonite Church are jointly planning a celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism which will take place during the day on **Saturday, May 17** at First Mennonite. More details will be announced as they develop, but we would like to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this major anniversary milestone.

REFLECTION

January 2025 has been a month where we have had an opportunity to reflect on 500 years of Anabaptism. One highlight for me was a live streamed event from Harrisonburg, VA, which included hymns from different centuries. Those from the 16th Century were hymns written by individuals who were martyred for their faith.

The history of early Anabaptists had a significant influence in my personal faith journey. In my mid-20's as I heard the stories of their commitment to Christ and a refusal to go along with the state-sanctioned church, this was very impressive. While my personal genealogical connection with Swiss Anabaptists is thin, and something I only learned about later in life, I consider those early Swiss brethren to be an important part of my spiritual heritage.

Much focus has been placed on the events of Jan. 21, 1525, as it should be. (Fun fact: Jan. 21 was under the Julian calendar. It's equivalent date in the Gregorian calendar, which we use now is Jan. 31.)

But the Jan. 21 event of adult baptisms in Zurich is part of a stream of events which occurred before and after. Without going into much detail, Conrad Grebel and Felix Manz were students of the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli. They were part of a group that had a break with him as they wanted to follow Christ without the restraints imposed by the Zurich city council.

There are many great resources that go into detail about these events and about life in those times. There was a strong link between church and state. And Anabaptists were opposed and martyred by both Catholics and Protestants as the movement spread around Europe.

Suggested resources:

- Conrad Grebel, Son of Zurich by John L. Ruth
- The Secret of the Strength, by Peter Hoover
- Castles, Cathedrals and Caves, by Marcus Yoder
- Martyr's Mirror, by Thieleman J. van Braght

In Holmes County, Ohio, there is a huge circular painting, called BEHALT, at the Mennonite and

Amish Heritage Center. It covers centuries of Christian history, focusing on the Anabaptist movement. They have tours available to the public, about 30 minutes. But some Amish arrange special tours for their youth, lasting 90+ minutes, so that they can have a deeper understanding of their heritage. Learning about our spiritual (and for some, genealogical) heritage is important.

I suggest that at least one Sunday late each January be designated as an Anabaptist Heritage Sunday. It would allow everybody, especially youth, to hear the story of our heritage. We should understand what motivated early Anabaptists to suffer and die for Christ. And it should include one or more hymns written by an Anabaptist martyr. This is not just lessons in historical events. It is our history as Anabaptists.

~ Dan Rosenberger

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Daniel Grimes



I was born at the midpoint of the Montgomery bus boycott, which is often identified as the beginning of the modern U.S. civil rights movement. Thus, one could say that I am as old as the movement. However, the struggle for civil rights and recognition of the dignity of all of God's children goes back much further than 1956. I stand on the shoulders of a multitude of individuals who sacrificed and persevered, so that I can have access to much more than many of my ancestors could have ever imagined.

I often tell people that my two primary identities are being Black and being Mennonite. Both identities have formed me into the person that I am today, and, although it may not be obvious to many, the two intersect in so many ways.

I was raised to not be afraid of being different — that our family was not like the other families on our block in Philadelphia. I was told that we were set apart for God's work, so we shouldn't necessarily behave the way that others do. That sense of nonconformity also meant that you didn't just accept what others told you and the limits they may have placed upon you. My father actively participated in the civil rights movement and stood up for basic human rights as an act of not conforming to or accepting the rules that society had laid out. Similarly, the early Anabaptists refused to conform to the rules that their society had laid out for them. In both movements, nonconformity came at a price, but without their willingness to take risks and to "color outside the lines," my life would be very different.

Economic opportunities for Americans of African descent have always been limited, and the civil rights movement sought to address the factors causing this inequality. My ancestors were enslaved for generations. Even after emancipation, opportunities to obtain any semblance of the American dream were extremely limited. As a result, a wealth gap has always existed. According to the Children's Defense Fund, "in 2019, the median white family had almost eight times more wealth than the median Black family." The overall wealth gap in the U.S. continues to expand, and "the top 20 percent of households earn, on average, about 14 times more than households in the bottom 20 percent." I find this to be a disturbing fact, since wars are often begun when the impoverished at the bottom of the economic scale revolt against the wealthy members at the top. Thus, for me, seeking ways to ensure economic justice is an imperative if I'm to live out my peace theology.

I believe that being a peacemaker in the U.S. includes keeping an eye on the structures of civil society and the government. Politics at times can get messy, but to be set apart for God's kingdom work doesn't mean that we are to ignore the power the state has to do both good and evil. My father didn't march and protest in vain. The laws in this country that nailed the doors shut for my ancestors were loosened for me to squeeze in by the power of the state.

Nonconformity to the world's values and standing on the side of the marginalized isn't always practiced by the church. When we feel too comfortable and secure, we'd rather avoid the risk of standing up for

justice and remain in the comfort of following the patterns of the world. After all, nonconformity comes at a cost. For example, I am a graduate of Eastern Mennonite College (now University), but, in the 1940s, my mother, a plain-dressing farmer's daughter from rural Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was unable to attend due to the color of her skin. She attended Goshen College instead, but her time there was not without incident. Also, in many conservative Mennonite circles, Martin Luther King, Jr., was viewed as a troublemaker. Although there are some notable exceptions, to a large extent the Mennonite Church ignored the civil rights movement even though, at its core, it was grounded in the Christian theology of peace – not violence. What would have happened if the Mennonite Church had recognized how closely the values articulated by MLK and others lined up with Anabaptist theology and had embraced the movement? What if MLK's quote stating that "those who love peace must learn to organize as effectively as those who love war" had been followed?

My Anabaptist values help ground me in being able to work for peace and justice from a deeply rooted biblical perspective. This has allowed me to enter spaces formerly closed to people like me and provided me with the freedom to color outside the lines and to not always feel like I need to conform to the ways of the world. May that sense of nonconformity free us all to act and to act boldly.

Daniel Grimes and his wife, Brenda, are both graduates of Eastern Mennonite University and reside in Goshen, Indiana, where they attend Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship. They are the parents of four young adults, each of whom is a graduate of Goshen College. While at EMU, Daniel was the first Black student elected to the Student Senate. He is also the first Black person elected to the Goshen City Council and is the first Black person to serve as a vice president at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), where he is the vice president for Advancement and Enrollment.

This blog is shared in honor of Black History Month

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/black-history-and-the-connection-to-anabaptist-faith-values/>



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