



## ***JOURNEYING TOGETHER***

### ***A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church***

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

**MAY 7, 2025**

### **CALENDAR**

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

Wed, May 21: Wild Church, 10 am

\*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, May 7: Lydie Assefa & Tyler Falk, 2011



*Shalom Sisters!* Would you be interested in a time of fellowship, food and conversation? Would anyone like to share lunch one day a month with sisters from the congregation (and/or friends you bring along)? This would be very informal - you would not be obligated to come every month if something comes up. Or you just don't feel like it.

We're assuming restaurant venues, not in our homes. Because we are so spread out, we would take turns selecting where we would eat and make reservations if needed. That way we all have to drive further at some point! You will all receive an email very soon! (If you don't get one, please let Linda S know at [lindashowalter52@gmail.com](mailto:lindashowalter52@gmail.com)).



CLC had a great suggestion for our fall "retreat" (which cannot be at Jameson Camp this year due to scheduling conflicts). The Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, OH, has been highly recommended to us. We're finding it difficult to know how to logistically organize it, with the distance and meals. The price of admission takes a huge bite out of our entire budget for a retreat.

However, some are still interested in making the trip. If you would be interested in going and are willing to pay your own way, help with transportation, and take care of your own meals, we could see if there would be enough interest to make group arrangements.

#### **Hours:**

Monday - Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday - Sunday - 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### **Tickets**

We encourage both Members and guests to purchase tickets in advance online. Tickets sales are card only (cash sales not available).

#### **General Admission**

Adults: (age 13+) \$16.50

Seniors (60+): \$14

Children ages 3-12: \$11.50

Children under 3: Free

#### **Group Rate – 15 people, 2 weeks in advance**

\$14

\$12

\$ 8

Free

Please let one of the commission members know if this is something you would like to participate in! We'll set a date after people have had a chance to indicate interest. A sign-up sheet will be on the back window of the sanctuary. Linda S, Beverly, Bethany, Craig

### **DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

#### **Summer Children's Sunday School volunteer needs:**

Check your calendars! We've filled a number of teaching slots for summer. Below you can see what dates are still open:

- 2-yr old class: Just 2 spots!
  - June 29
  - August 10
- Pre-K/K: C'mon guys – this is a FUN class!
  - June 1, 8, 22, and 29
  - July 13 and 27
  - August 24
- Elementary: You can teach just once a month and fill all the open slots for this class!
  - June 1

- July 27
- Aug 24

If June 15 and/or July 20 are the only dates you can help – let Laura know and she'd be happy to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher or switch her dates to cover one of the other open slots.

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**

May 11: Linda S

May 18: Linda S

May 25: Linda S

#### **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:**

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



Morning Star Church in south Muncie is in need of non-perishable food items for their Saturday morning FOOD PANTRY outreach. Please bring your contributions to church next Sunday.

Thank you,  
Frank and Robert for the Outreach Commission

### **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**

**Last Sunday (5/4)** Brian preached about the Biblical basis for the dangerous and violent ideology of Christian nationalism, and argued that the Bible actually ends up embracing the opposite vision - one that welcomes peoples of all different nations and identities together - which some people call Christian *internationalism*.

**This Week (5/11)** Craig will bring the message.


**Next Week (5/18)** Randy Detweiler from AMBS will bring the message.

### **This week's Prayer List**

- **Church: Morning Star** is a Mennonite Church based in Muncie, IN that runs a weekly food pantry and community meal that Shalom supports.
- **Organization: Faith in Place** is a network of people of diverse faiths and spiritualities seek to lead the environmental movement by advancing environmental and racial justice, and providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities. (Contact: Brad Yoder and Becky Wigginton)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wild Church is scheduled as usual for the third Wednesday in May, the 21st at 10 a.m. The topic will be Irises.

On **Saturday, May 17**, Shalom and First Mennonite Churches will host a festival to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement.  **ANABAPTISM at FIVE HUNDRED**  
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. **We are pleased to report that we have raised enough funds to cover the expenses for the event. Thank you to everyone who donated!** That being said, it would still be helpful for us to have the most accurate count of the number of people who plan to attend possible, so if you would like to come and haven't done so, we'd encourage you to go to [this link](#) to register. If you have any questions, email Pastor Brian at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com).

## **REFLECTION**

### **God and the Rulers of the World**

Lately I have been contemplating the state of our country and our world as have many of you, most likely. I have also been reading through the Bible and have read up through Job. It suddenly dawned on me how often the scriptures say something like, "And God put it in the mind of..... who was king" or something similar. An example is Ezra 1:1 "...the Lord stirred the heart of King Cyrus...." In Exodus, when God sent the plagues, each time God "hardened Pharaoh's heart" so he would not let the children of Israel leave Egypt. In Daniel 4 we read about King Nebuchadnezzar who was spoken to by God both in a dream and in a voice from heaven (4:31-32). These kings were not Israelite kings. However, in some cases, the actions taken by God were because the Israelite people had forgotten God and were being punished. In other instances, the actions were because the Israelites had repented and were being brought back to their homeland. There are other instances where God spoke to Israelite kings through prophets. There are many other examples in both Old and New Testaments.



As I pondered on these thoughts, I began to understand how God often manipulates the world in ways that seem unlikely to us. And then I realized, if God could do that in ancient times, why not now? Is it possible for God to change the way of thinking of ungodly leaders? I think that is possible based on the previous examples. Maybe Pope Francis' death at this time is for a greater purpose. Francis' wonderful life is being made public for all to see. Might it stir the hearts and minds of those ungodly leaders who listen to it? And, so, I have begun to pray daily for God to put His thoughts in the minds of the political leaders of our country and the world. I believe that God has "got this" and can put His plan in place in any way He chooses. Why not in unlikely ways? I will continue to pray this prayer until I am persuaded otherwise. ~ Cheryl Martin



## PERSON OF COLOR BIO

**Ann Cole Lowe** (December 14, 1898 – February 25, 1981) was an American fashion designer. Best known for designing the ivory silk taffeta dress worn by Jacqueline Bouvier when she married John F. Kennedy in 1953, she was the first African American to become a noted fashion designer. Lowe's designs were popular among upper class women for five decades from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Lowe was born in rural Clayton, Alabama in 1898. She was the great granddaughter of an enslaved woman and an Alabama plantation owner. Ann attended school in Alabama until she dropped out at the age of 14. Lowe's interest in fashion, sewing and designing came from her mother Janey and grandmother Georgia, both of whom were seamstresses. They ran a dressmaking business that was often frequented by the first families of Montgomery and other members of high society. Lowe's mother died when Lowe was 16 years old. At this time, Lowe took over the family business.

Lowe was married twice and had two children. She married her first husband, Lee Cohen, in 1912. They had a son, Arthur Lee, who later worked as Lowe's business partner until his death from a car accident in 1958. Arthur Lee would go on to become Lowe's business partner until his death. Lowe later adopted a daughter, Ruth Alexander.

In 1917, Lowe and her son moved to New York City, where she enrolled at S. T. Taylor Design School. As the school was segregated, Lowe was required to attend classes in a room alone (in a cloak room adjacent to the classroom). However, segregation did not stop her, and she still managed to rise above her peers in school. Her work was often shown to her white peers in recognition of her outstanding artistry, and she was eligible for graduation after attending school for only half a year. After graduating in 1919, Lowe and her son moved to Tampa, Florida, and the following year she opened her first dress salon. The salon catered to members of high society and quickly became a success. Having saved \$20,000 from her earnings, Lowe returned to New York City. In 1946, she designed the dress that Olivia de Havilland wore to accept an Academy Award for Best Actress, although the name on the dress was Sonia Rosenberg. During the 1950s and 1960s, she worked on commission for high-end stores.

As she was not getting credit for her work, Lowe and her son opened a second salon, Ann Lowe's Gowns. Her one-of-a-kind designs made from the finest fabrics were an immediate success and attracted many wealthy, high-society clients. Her signature designs were what helped her eventually become recognized for her work. Throughout her career, Lowe was known for being highly selective in choosing her clientele. She later described herself as "an awful snob", adding: "I love my clothes and I'm particular about who wears them. I am not

interested in sewing for cafe society or social climbers. I do not cater to Mary and Sue. I sew for the families of the Social Register."

In 1947, Janet Lee Auchincloss commissioned Lowe to create debutante gowns for her daughters Jacqueline and Caroline Lee Bouvier. In 1953 she returned and hired Lowe to design a wedding dress for her daughter, the future First Lady Jacqueline Bouvier, and the dresses for her bridal attendants for her September wedding to then-Senator John F. Kennedy. During the creation of this infamous dress, Lowe's studio flooded just 10 days before the wedding. She and her team worked tirelessly to recreate the dress. Lowe never mentioned this incident to the family and she had to pay for any additional costs. While the Bouvier-Kennedy wedding was a highly publicized event, Lowe did not receive public credit for her work until after the assassination of John F. Kennedy.



Throughout her career, Lowe continued to work for wealthy clientele who often talked her out of charging hundreds of dollars for her designs. After paying her staff, she often failed to make a profit on her designs. Lowe later admitted that at the height of her career, she was virtually broke. In 1961, she received the Couturier of the Year award but in 1962, she lost her salon in New York City after failing to pay taxes. That same year, her right eye was removed due to glaucoma. While she was recuperating, an anonymous friend paid Lowe's debts that enabled her to work again. In 1963, she declared bankruptcy. In 1968, she opened a new store, Ann Lowe Originals, on Madison Avenue. She retired in 1972.

In the last five years of her life, Lowe lived with her daughter Ruth in Queens. She died at her daughter's home on February 25, 1981, at the age of 82, after an extended illness. A collection of five of Ann Lowe's designs are held at the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Three are on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. Several others were included in an exhibition on Black fashion at the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan in December 2016.

~ Submitted by Beverly Smith

### Jacqueline Kennedy's **Wedding Dress**



Her sheer tenacity and undeniable contributions to the fashion industry **paved the way for modern, Black-made fashion.**

1. Thurman, Judith (18 March 2021). "[Ann Lowe's Barrier-Breaking Mid-Century Couture](#)". *The New Yorker*. Retrieved 2021-05-04.

2. Reed Miller, Rosemary E. (2002). *Threads of time : the fabric of history : profiles of African American dressmakers, 1850-to the present*. Washington, DC: Toast & Strawberries. p. 33. [ISBN 978-0-9709731-0-8](#). [OCLC 197076138](#).
3. ^ Whitlock, Lauren. "Remembering Ann Lowe, the Black Designer Who Shaped Socialite Fashion." *University Wire*, Feb 25, 2021.
4. ^ Alleyne, Allyssia. "The Untold Story of Ann Lowe, the Black Designer Behind Jackie Kennedy's Wedding Dress." *CNN Wire Service*, Dec 23, 2020.
5. Gray, Lizabeth (February 3, 1998). ["Let's Talk About: Black History Month"](#). *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. pp. G–6. Retrieved December 11, 2014.
6. Timothy M., Phelps (March 1, 1981). ["Ann Lowe 82, Designed Gowns for Exclusive Clientele In Society"](#). *The New York Times*. Retrieved December 11, 2014.
7. Henderson, Marissa. "Ann Lowe: America's Overlooked Fashion Icon Finally Found." *Royal Road*, vol. 3, 2019, pp. 77–90.
8. Reed Miller, Rosemary E. (2002). *Threads of time : the fabric of history : profiles of African American dressmakers, 1850-to the present*. Washington, DC: Toast & Strawberries. p. 34. [ISBN 978-0-9709731-0-8](#). [OCLC 197076138](#).
9. Terrell, Ellen. "African American Fashion Designers – from the Lincolns to the Kennedys and Beyond." Library of Congress, 2020,



Need something? Have something to give away?

I have a hoover rug shampoo machine that is clean and ready to use. When turned it on, the brushes turned. It has a hose for cleaning furniture or pillows. I have not used it personally, but I am assuming everything works on it. Contact Herb Troyer if interested.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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.

<p>Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 <a href="http://shalommennonite.com">shalommennonite.com</a> Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181 Vision &amp; Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine Pastors Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
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