



Anabaptism
at 500

LOOKING BACK,
LIVING FORWARD

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JANUARY 22, 2025

CALENDAR

Sun, January 26: Congregational meeting following Sunday School (see announcement under VAT)
Mon, January 27: *BRO @ Downtown Panera, 430 N Mass Ave
Sun, February 9: Game Night, 4:30 pm (see announcement under Community Life)
Thu, February 27: Community Life Commission Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm
Sat, May 17: Celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism @ First Mennonite
*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!

Mon, January 27: Matt Bauman
Wed, January 29: Judy Rosenberger

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

We hear there's a major football game on Sunday, February 9! There is a large TV in our fellowship hall that could show that game. There could be table games for those not interested in football. And, what if a simple soup/bread meal was added? And, since Valentine's Day is the following Friday, what if there were valentine cookies for the kids to decorate? 



There's a sign-up sheet on the back window for soup, bread/cheese/snacks, un-iced valentine cookies.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

New books for children/youth in our library:

Martin Luther King Jr.
Counting Kindness: Ten Ways to Welcome Refugee Children
I am an Antiracist Superhero
The Secret Garden of George Washington Carver
I Have a Dream – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The Creation, by James Welton Johnson
Ruby Bridges: This is Your Time
Be Strong
Uniquely You
You Can Shine So Bright!
All Are Neighbors
Room for Everyone
Cupig (a Valentine's Day story)



Donated:

Weslandia
Immigrants
When Jessie Came Across the Sea
Encyclopedia of the North American Indian



And, for adults:

Once Upon a Wardrobe, by Patti Callahan (fiction)
Donated: So you want to talk about race, by Ijeoma Oluo



Children's Classes

Hall Monitor:
Jan. 26: Linda Showalter
Feb 2:
Feb 9:
Feb 16:
Feb 23:

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:

January 26 - Caucus Sunday, Color of Compromise, chapter 6

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

This Sunday, **January 26, 2025 a brief Congregational Meeting will be held at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall** to vote on the proposed Shalom Mennonite Church Statement of Welcome (attached). Members will have the opportunity to vote in person by paper ballot or on Zoom through "chat." Absentee voting is available **for those not participating Sunday** by emailing your "yes" or "no" vote of affirmation to Grace Rhine at marygrace_RN@hotmail.com **prior to 8:00 a.m. January 26th**. A 75% "yes" affirmation vote is required to approve the proposed Statement of Welcome. Frank Kandel for the VAT

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (1/19) was the 500-year anniversary of Anabaptism! We celebrated our theological heritage as Brian continued the "Lessons from History" series with a focus on the sixteenth century Anabaptist movement.

This Sunday (1/26), Brian will conclude 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.

Next Sunday (2/2), Craig will be bringing the message.

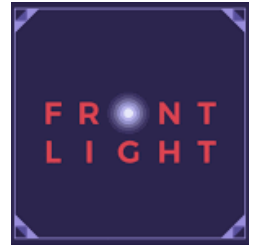
On this week's Prayer List;

Church: This week we are praying for East Goshen Mennonite Church, which is a Mennonite church on the east side of Goshen, Indiana that is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. They invite us to pray with them as they look back at 500 years Anabaptism this year and consider what is next, and they

Organization: We are also praying for Faith in Place, which 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. (Contacts: Brad Yoder and Becky Wigginton)

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

Mennonite Arts WEEKEND

Join us at Mennonite Arts Weekend, **February 7-9, 2025**, in Cincinnati, Ohio. This weekend celebrates the creativity and discipline of Anabaptist Mennonite artists. Presentations by musicians, visual artists, writers, and craftspeople start on Friday evening and conclude with Sunday morning worship. Activities and workshops designed specifically for Pre-K children through high school are planned throughout the weekend. A nursery will be available. Find the list of presenters and registration and location information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org>.

Save the date of April 5 to join us in celebrating Herb Troyer's retirement and 70th birthday. April 4 will be his last day of professional work, and April 5 is his birthday. You are invited to come **4:30 - 6:30** to enjoy supper and dessert in Shalom's fellowship hall. Instead of gifts, please bring memories of Herb to share. A few of you will remember when he first came to Indianapolis as a VSer in 1974!



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

The People of Shalom

Romans 8:28 (NRSV) We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

This week I have interviewed Chris Deiter, thank you Chris for being a willing participant. Please enjoy getting to know some things about Chris.

Where did you grow up? I grew up on the near north side of Indy. My parents bought our house in 1965, and they lived there until 2006. It had one bathroom for the 12 of us.

What was your first car? It was a 1988 white Buick Regal. I ended up totaling it, and somehow my second car was also a 1988 white Buick Regal. Not quite sure how that happened!

What is one of your favorite Scriptures? Why? Life often leads me to Romans 8:28. It gives me peace knowing that even in the most hopeless and helpless situations, God can work things out for good.

What is one of your favorite hymns? Why? Be Not Afraid. It reminds me that we are at our most courageous when we feel weakest because God "goes before us always".

Share an early memory you have of going to church. One of my early memories of going to church is walking to and from church down the alley with my family. It was a simple but special time that I really enjoyed.

Is there a funny story you have about attending any church? Growing up, our church always had coffee and donuts after mass. My brothers and I would often sneak out a few minutes early just to grab the best donuts.

How long have you been coming to Shalom Mennonite Church? Since 2017. Thanks Nizeet!

One thing that you like about Shalom MC? Definitely the people. Shalom truly feels like family.

What is something that we may not know about Chris? I enjoy home improvement projects. At the moment, I'm working on converting a porch into a sun-room.

Thanks again to Chris for participating and I hope you enjoyed learning some things about him. --
Craig

PERSONS OF COLOR BIO

James and Rowena Lark

In 1946, James Henry Lark became the first Black person ordained to ministry in the Mennonite Church. He and wife, Rowena, were visionary church planters in cities across the country, but their Mennonite story began in rural eastern Pennsylvania.



They lived on a farm near the Rocky Ridge Mennonite Mission east of Quakertown, Bucks County, PA. James recalled that one wintery morning in the early 1930s, mission workers, Linford Hackman and Abram Landis, stopped by his house and asked him to go with them “up the mountain” to help two elderly men who were snowed in. James and Rowena’s children were already attending the Mennonite Sunday School.

The Larks were impressed with how the Mennonites helped with real needs—bringing food, chopping wood, cleaning, and laundry. Rowena remembered: “It was the literal fulfillment of scripture that caused me to join Rocky Ridge Mission. As I saw these faithful Christians coming eight or more miles from their homes and gathering up in their cars Italians, Poles, Dutch, American Negroes, and Germans, to take them to the house of the Lord, I was made to feel that here is a group of Christians who are really making their religion practical.”

When Virginia Mennonite Conference segregated their churches by race in 1940, the Larks moved north to Chicago, where they were welcomed by the Mennonite community. James was soon ordained, and in 1954, he was ordained bishop.

According to their friend and coworker Le Roy Bechler, “James and Rowena Lark carried a vision of the church as a Spirit-directed community that excludes no one.” Despite challenges and complacency from white Mennonites, they believed that the Mennonite church had the capacity for including people of color, and they worked as self-described “tugboaters” toward that end. Their vision continues to bear fruit as the church today works to become more inclusive and diverse.



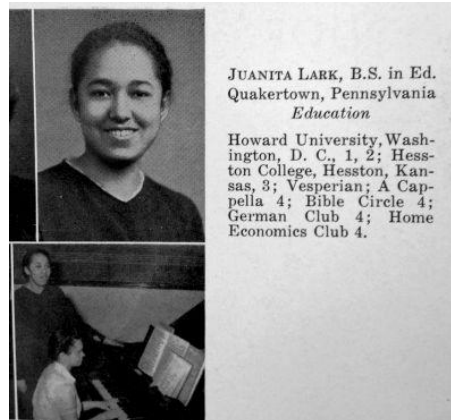
“James Lark was a man who was fifty years ahead of his time in vision and concern for the growth of the Mennonite Church in urban areas. During his long ministry he always challenged his fellow Mennonites by asking, “What is your plan; what is your program?” The life and legacy of James and Rowena Lark stand as an example of what God can do if people are open to the Spirit’s leading. Alex Lark, their youngest son (in

photo) said of his parents, "Here was a case of functional discipleship."

~ Hubert Brown, Mennonite Yearbook 1981

<https://mosaicmennonites.org/2021/02/11/following-christ-and-modeling-for-others-james-rowena-lark/>

James and Rowena's daughter, Juanita: Goshen College dedicated the *Juanita Lark Welcome Center* in honor of Juanita Jewell Lark, the college's first African American graduate in 1943. She was the second of six children of James H. and Rowena Lark.



Black History in the Mennonite Church:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/african-american-mennonite-history-timeline/>



Need something? Have something to give away?

Does anyone know what happened to the 2 white, round tablecloths used for the communion tables?

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 lindahowalter52@gmail.com by noon on Saturday. It will run before and after the service.

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

- Send announcements to Linda Showalter at lindahowalter52@gmail.com by Friday, 10 am.
- **Bulletins** are now attached with the Zoom link for those who are worshiping 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