



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

CALENDAR

Mon, February 24: Arlington Woods Neighborhood Assoc, 6 pm
Thu, February 27: Community Life Commission Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm
Mon, March 3: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Fri, March 7: Sanctuary reserved: World Day of Prayer (see announcement)
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, 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

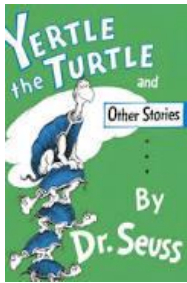
Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Fri, February 21: Barbara Abebe
Sat, February 22: Brenda Smith
Mon, February 24; Chris Deiter
Tue, February 25: Tyler Falk
Wed, February 26: Jeanne Smucker

We're looking for copies of the following Dr. Seuss books for an activity in early April. We'd like to have 16-20 copies (total, not each), one for each child under Jr. Hi age, plus a couple extra. These can be used books in decent condition.

Yertle the Turtle, The Butter Battle Book, The Sneetches, Horton Hatches the Egg, The Lorax.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Shalom Orientation Class: Are you new to Shalom, or newish? Have you returned to Shalom after many years of being away? Do you want to learn about Shalom's values, or how our church operates? Would you like to get more deeply plugged into the congregation?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these, then the upcoming "Shalom Orientation" class may be for you! Pastor Brian and Pastor Craig will offer a "Shalom Orientation" class starting on March 9. Brian is on sabbatical now, but you can still email him or Craig to let them know if you would like to attend. These sessions are designed for newcomers, but anyone is welcome to sit in. If you do plan to attend, we encourage you to try to come as often as possible between March 9 and Easter Sunday (April 20) to get the most out of it.

Children's Classes Hall Monitor:

Feb 23: Linda Showalter
March 2:
March 9:
March 16: Bob Love
March 23:
March 30:

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:

Feb 23: Salt & Light: Session #13 (page 74) Matt 6:19-24; Confession of Faith Article #21
Mar 2: Salt & Light: Session #9 (page 50) 1 Peter 2:1-10; Confession of Faith Review Articles #9 & #17
Mar 9: Salt & Light: Session #12 (page 68) Matt 18:15-35; Confession of Faith Article #14;
Shalom Orientation Class
Mar 16: Antiracism Sunday
Mar 23: Salt & Light: Session #1 (page 2) Col 1:15-23; Confession of Faith Articles #2 & #8;
Shalom Orientation Class
Mar 30: Salt & Light: Session #2 (page 8) Matt 22:34-40
Shalom Orientation Class
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 (2/16) Wilma Bailey brought the message on "There is a Balm in Gilead", using Luke 8:43:48.

This week (2/23) Craig will bring the message based on Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 titled, "Do not fret because of the wicked."

Next Sunday (3/02) Monica Miller will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

Church: Good News Community Chapel; Contact Person: Jan Esch

We ask for prayer for God's leading for our very small group. Since the recent passing on to the Lord of one of our members, we are down to four (speaker, piano, violin, prayer leader--no congregation!). However, we have also experienced God's grace in amazing ways and trust in His plans. Please pray that we would find ways to connect with our community, and praise God for His love and faithfulness to us.

Organization: Family Promise is a partnership of congregations and community organizations responding to the crisis of children and their families who are homeless. They work to eliminate homelessness in Greater Indianapolis. (Contact: Solomon Abebe)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to all those who reached out to us after the passing of my father. ~ Mike Wigginton and family

A newsletter from Peter and Delicia is attached.

Below is the link to the latest issue of Gospel Evangel, the quarterly newsletter of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. This issue features Indiana Aid!

<https://www.im.mennonite.net/news/gospelevangel/>

The Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association will be meeting **this Monday, 2/24**, at Shalom Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

On Friday, **February 28th**, 4:30-5:30, at 46th Street and Meridian Street, there will be a protest about the conflict in Gaza, sponsored by Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). Bring signs related to ending the conflict, releasing all hostages, humanitarian aid for Gaza, and ending the Israeli occupation.



On Tuesday, **March 4th**, 7-8:00PM, Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence is doing a Zoom Forum focusing on the Talking Guns Project. There will be a viewing of a video, followed by a discussion of the video by its producers. DeCaree Lewis is a Crispus Attucks High School Student, and Allison Luthe is his mentor.

"I Made You Wonderful" World Day of Prayer service at Shalom, **Friday, March 7**. Begins at 9:30 AM with light refreshments; 10:00 - Prayer service written by women of the Cook Islands. ~ Carol Bixler

REFLECTION

The soil tells a story Community members gathered August 7, 2020 at the northeast corner of the Grant County Courthouse square to remember events that took place August 7, 1930. On the 90th anniversary of the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abraham Smith, and the attempted lynching of James Cameron, members of the Marion Community Remembrance Project collected soil to be sent to the Equal Justice Initiative's (EJI) National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. Community Soil Collection Projects have proved incredibly impactful to those who have participated, and community partners who have completed soil collections express the deep meaning and emotional impact of these experiences. Pastor Andrew Morell who was present at the Marion, Indiana ceremony said, "The soil tells a story".

More than 4,400 black men and women were lynched in the U.S. from 1877 to 1950. EJI reports that at least 18 people were victims of racial terror lynching in Indiana. But it was not until March 29, 2022 that President Joe Biden signed into law The Emmett Till Anti-lynching Act making lynching a federal hate crime.

In 2015, EJI began working with communities across the country to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of racial terror by collecting soil from lynching sites. The soil collection serves as an opportunity for communities to remember and memorialize the victims of lynching and engage in conversation about racial violence in America. The process begins by forming a committed and diverse community coalition to submit a project proposal. Approved coalitions then work collaboratively with EJI staff to research victims' stories, identify potential locations for the soil collection, facilitate community education opportunities, and plan a meaningful soil collection ceremony. This project is also a great starting point for communities interested in erecting historical markers. Jars of collected soil are displayed in Montgomery, Alabama at the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, the Peace & Justice Memorial Center, and in the EJI office. Some communities choose to establish

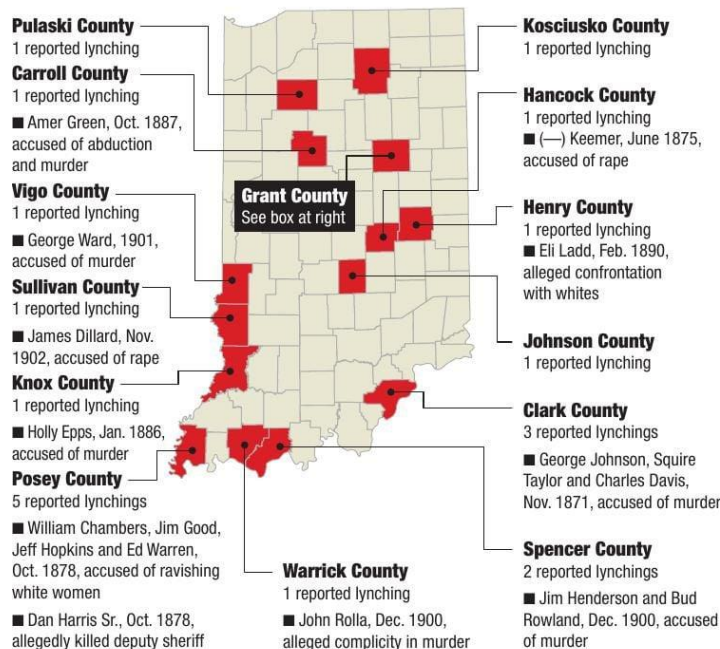
permanent local exhibits with the jars of soil. These exhibits express an ongoing commitment to confronting our history of racial injustice. EJI says that “soil acts as a living witness to racial violence”.



Ripples outward from Marion Indiana: Abel Meeropol taught English at a High School in the Bronx, New York. Meeropol was disturbed by systemic racism in America. After seeing a photo depicting the lynching of two Black teens in Indiana in 1930 he wrote the poem “Bitter Fruit”. Meeropol later turned the poem into song lyrics and set it to music. The song came to the famous blues singer Billie Holiday’s attention, but she was hesitant to sing the song because she didn’t want to politicize her performances. But positive audience response and frequent requests for “Strange Fruit” soon prompted Holiday to close her performances with the song. Despite strong resistance, especially from radio stations in the South who refused to play “Strange Fruit,” the song rose in the charts, eventually selling 1 million copies and became the best-selling record of Holiday’s career. In the December 31, 1999 issue, Time magazine named "Strange Fruit" the "Best Song of the Century". In 2002 the Library of Congress honored the song as one of 50 recordings chosen that year to add to the National Recording Registry. In 2010 the New Statesman listed it as one of the "Top 20 Political Songs". ~ Mike Wigginton

History of lynchings in Indiana

Data indicates that there have been 21 reported lynchings in Indiana’s history and one survivor of an attempted lynching.



Saved from lynching Grant County



On Aug. 7, 1930, **James Cameron Jr.**, Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith were lynched in Marion, initially charged with robbery, murder and rape. Shipp and Smith died, but, miraculously,

with the rope already around his neck, Cameron was saved. He was tried and convicted as an accessory to murder and spent five years in prison.

In the 1940s, Cameron founded three chapters of the NAACP and later served as Indiana’s State Director of the Office of Civil Liberties. In 1988, he founded America’s Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. Cameron is thought to be the only known survivor of a lynching attempt in the United States.

Sources: Information compiled from www.monroeworktoday.org, lynchinginamerica.eji.org and the Library of Congress

Kevin Burkett | (Logansport) Pharos-Tribune

https://www.kokomotribune.com/lynching-map/pdf_5003260c-461d-11e8-9447-07c8a35ecc39.html

AFRICAN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

Prathia Hall (1940–2002), civil rights activist, preacher, and professor, was a preacher's kid from Philadelphia who learned social gospel ministry from her father, the Rev. Berkeley Hall. While in college, she joined an ecumenical social justice organization, Fellowship House, where she learned nonviolent resistance. After graduating from Temple University, Hall went to the South to join the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in southwest Georgia.



Hall was one of the few female field workers in SNCC. Because of the immense danger of door-to-door voter registration, women typically worked either in “freedom schools” (educational programs to help potential voters pass registration tests) or as secretaries. Hall, however, was second-in-command of SNCC’s Southwest Georgia Project in Albany, Georgia. She recognized the profound wisdom of the people they encountered, deepening her understanding of freedom faith — not only as a theological concept but as an embodied commitment of trusting God amid danger and persisting anyway to fight for life. While SNCC workers had important information about voter registration and political rights, the people in the counties where SNCC worked had what Hall called the “wisdom of the ages,” the inherited freedom faith that empowered them to survive enslavement, Jim Crow laws, and systemic oppression.

During a 1962 prayer service at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Sasser, Georgia, after the burning of four Black churches in Terrell County affiliated with the movement, Hall used the phrase “I have a dream.” The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was at that service, and he secured Hall’s permission to use “I have a dream” in his own speeches as they later rode together to the airport. Having known her from Fellowship House while he was in seminary, King so esteemed Hall that he described her as “the one platform speaker I would prefer not to follow.”

By 1963, Hall led SNCC’s voter registration project in Selma, Alabama. By the end of the year, SNCC leader Jim Forman called her to Atlanta to run civil rights collaboration between six organizations to desegregate Atlanta. Hall confronted Atlanta mayor Ivan Allen on multiple occasions and was arrested in a Toddle House sit-in during Kenyan leader Jaramogi Oginga Odinga’s 1963 visit to the United States. Her case became a showdown between local and federal courts, making national headlines when she was released in March of 1964.

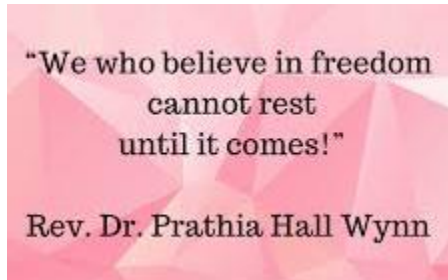
Hall went to the South, in part, to run from her call to preach, which by the 1970s, she could no longer escape. She was one of the first Black Baptist women ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA (1977), was the first woman accepted into the Baptist Minister Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity (1982), completed her M.Div. and Ph.D. (1997) degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary, and became a well-respected professor of Christian ethics, womanist theology, and Black religious history.



Throughout these endeavors, Hall not only continued commuting to Philadelphia to pastor Mt. Sharon Baptist Church, which her father founded and pastored, but she also preached across the country and worked in hybrid academic positions while finishing her degree. She held numerous faculty and administrative positions at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio (1989–1998), and she held the Martin Luther King Jr. Chair in Social Ethics at Boston University School of Theology (2000–2002).

Hall's pastoral career was shaped by her prophetic womanist homiletic. She centered women's narratives in the text and emphasized a liberating, Christocentric perspective. Rejecting patriarchy, she used the Biblical text to demonstrate equality, justice, and the necessity of Christian commitment to liberation. Her preaching demonstrated that salvation is not merely the deliverance from personal sin but necessitates dismantling systemic oppression, bridging personal faith and social justice, and calling Black churches to remember their heritage as mediators of the people's struggles for liberation and justice and to honor that heritage in their ministries. Hall's preaching insisted that anyone who claimed the Gospel must join in the work of liberation. Hall's womanism valued all people regardless of race, gender, or class, and she sought the equality and liberation of all people.

<https://christiancitizen.us/she-had-the-dream-the-freedom-faith-of-prathia-hall/>



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:

6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com

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