



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

MARCH 5, 2025

CALENDAR

- Fri, March 7: World Day of Prayer, 9:30 am refreshments, 10 am prayer service
- Sun, March 9: Daylight Saving starts
- 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

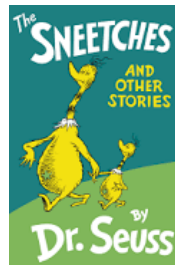
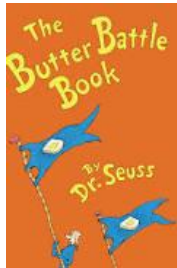
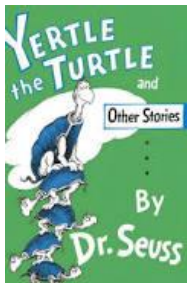
COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations!

Fri, March 7: kim Johnson
Sun, March 9; Rose Love
Sun, March 9: Ariana Wigginton

We're looking for copies of the following Dr. Seuss books for an activity in early April:
Yertle the Turtle, The Butter Battle Book, The Sneetches, Horton Hatches the Egg, The Lorax.
These can be used books in decent condition.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Children's Classes

Hall Monitor:

March 9: Rose Love
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:

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

Wilma Bailey has been affirmed as delegate to MCUSA and Martha Yoder Maust has been affirmed as delegate to Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

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 Bi

Last Sunday (3/2) Monica Miller brought the message from Philemon titled, "For When We Don't Know the Next Step but We Need to Move Our Feet".

This Week (3/9) we will enter the season of Lent by studying the Farewell Discourse - Jesus' final speech to his disciples before his death - which is recorded in John 13-17. Pastor Brian will introduce the series and reflect on what it means to trust in Jesus during uncertain times.

Next Sunday (3/16), Pastor Craig will continue the series on the Farewell Discourse by preaching from the second part of John 14.

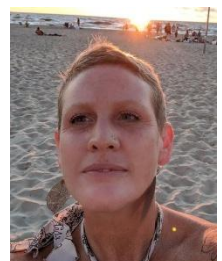
This week's Prayer List;

Church: Grand Marias Mennonite Church is a small Mennonite church in Grand Marais, Michigan, which is on the southern shore of Lake Superior, and is a member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.

Organization: *Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary* is the MCUSA affiliated seminary in North America, whose work in Anabaptist theological education is rooted in the saving power of the life, death, resurrection and ongoing ministry of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. (Contact: Wilma Bailey)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sonya Yoder-Beery, 53, daughter of Brad Yoder and Jeanne Smucker, died peacefully on Tuesday from metastatic breast cancer, surrounded by her family. Please remember in your prayers Sonya's husband Robin, and their daughters Ruth (19) and Hazel (soon to be 15), and sister Greta Yoder Slater and her husband Nick Slater and children Max and Eli, and sister Heidi Yoder. Visitation



will be at Central Christian Church, 701 N. Delaware, Indianapolis, on Saturday, March 8, 1-3PM, with Sonya's memorial service tentatively scheduled for May 3rd. Detailed information will be at the website of Flanner and Buchanan Funeral Center. ~ Brad

"I Made You Wonderful" World Day of Prayer, March 7. Coffee and light refreshments at 9:30 AM. Worship service at 10 AM. See attached poster.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84810169138?pwd=gnFrU0pfF4QJh4zjhhDOP02SkyrTee.1>

Resource:

John Paul Lederach's career as an international peacebuilder took him to Northern Ireland, Colombia, Nepal, Somalia, Tajikistan, and more. He now offers ***The Pocket Guide for Facing Down a Civil War: Surprising ideas from everyday people who shifted the cycles of violence***. This booklet is free and available

at <https://www.johnpaullederach.com/2024/07/pocket-guide/> Let's learn from this experienced scholar and writer about how to shift our own culture away from violence. ~ Martha

REFLECTION

Suffering in Solidarity

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly, bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast... Let them say, 'Spare your people, Lord.'" – Joel 2:15-17

Today is Ash Wednesday, a day when Christians are encouraged to humble themselves before God and begin a forty-day period of fasting and prayer as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter. I have often found this to be a meaningful season, as it gives me an opportunity to reflect on my ongoing need for spiritual growth and to experiment with less familiar spiritual disciplines. And when I do adopt a spiritual discipline for Lent, I generally try to follow Jesus' advice in Matthew 6 and keep it mostly to myself.

This is not a bad way to approach Lent, but it is an individualistic one. In its original context, many of the spiritual disciplines, such as fasting, were corporate activities that the Israelites did not hide from each other because they were invited to do it together. For example, Esther asks the entire Jewish community to fast and pray for her in Esther 4 while she prepares to ask Xerxes to spare the Jews. As a queen consort, Esther was in a unique position to make this appeal, but it was extremely dangerous, and there was little that anyone else in the Jewish community could do to alleviate this incredible burden from her. However, by fasting for Esther, the other Jews were able to express solidarity with her and even take on some of her angst in their own bodies. This offers a nice illustration of Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one part [of the body] suffers, every part suffers with it." Fasting didn't make their prayers any more acceptable or efficacious except insofar as it made the entire community more poignantly aware of what was happening.

We are living in a time where there is a tremendous amount of suffering in the world – from those who live in war zones that are often perpetuated by US policy to those who are locked up as detainees in inhumane jail cells to those who are demonized by political rhetoric and genuinely fear for their lives. We tend to feel empathy about each of these situations the first time we hear about them, and we may raise them up in our prayers or even do what we can to mitigate that suffering, but it is often difficult for us to sustain that over time unless we rely on disciplines like fasting to help us.

Meaningful fasts do not always have to be food related. One of the most poignant “fasts” that I ever experienced was a fast from changing clothes. When I was a college student, I participated in a “poverty week” experiment in which we were invited to wear the same clothes for 4-5 days without showering in order to become more aware of how limited access to clothing can impact our social interactions and self-esteem. That visceral experience left a lasting impression on me. I would invite all of us to try to think of some way that we can show solidarity with a disaffected group during this period of time.

Corporate fasting is a way to bring the suffering that occurs at the margins of society into the heart of a community. Let’s us open up our hearts this year and allow God to move in us and through us as a result. ~ Brian

WOMEN OF COLOR BIO

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.



I Made You Wonderful

Program written by the
World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands
Psalm 139:14

Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years deepening into the theme: “I Made You Wonderful,” based on Psalm 139:1-18. The 2025 program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

Our first Guiding Principle in the World Day of Prayer articulates that our starting point is Christian women. This has been an essential conviction of our movement over the last century. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this upcoming theme from WDP Cook Islands particularly relevant. The message that we, as women and girls, are “fearfully and wonderfully” made in the image of God reinforces our movement’s support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

The Worship Service invites us to notice aspects of our divinely created bodies that we often take for granted. The scripture reading from Psalm 139: 1-18 is woven together with stories of three women from the Cook islands. We come to understand that God knows us, is always with us, and made us unique and special. The service leads us to offer prayers of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator, followed by prayers of confession and longing. Finally, the prayers of intercession guide us to ask God for wisdom, courage and healing, that our world would come to treat all people as “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

The Country Background gives an abundance of information about the history of the Cook Islands, with a particular emphasis on the achievements of women.

Taking on the responsibility of being a writer country is always a rigorous journey, and we are grateful to our Cook Islands sisters for their hard work and patience.

<https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>



Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa are a Mother-Daughter artist team from the Cook Islands. They feel honored to have been able to share this piece of artwork, “Wonderfully Made”, in recognition of their love for their home, their faith and, and their heritage.



World Day of Prayer
International Committee

From Wikipedia: The **Cook Islands** is an island country in Polynesia, part of Oceania in the South Pacific Ocean. It consists of 15 islands whose total land area is approximately 91 sq mi. The Cook Islands' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers 756,771 sq mi of ocean. Avarua is its capital. The Cook Islands is self-governing while in free association with New Zealand.



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.

<p>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</p>
