



## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

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

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

**APRIL 2, 2025**

#### **CALENDAR**

- Sat, April 5: Fellowship hall reserved: Troyer's, 2 – 8:30 pm
- Mon, April 7: \*BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
- Mon, April 14: \*BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN
- Sun, April 20: Easter Breakfast 8:30 am
- Sun, April 20: Easter Worship at 10 am
- Sun, April 20: Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 am
- Mon, April 21: \*BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
- Mon, April 28: \*BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN
- Sat, May 10: Arlington Woods Spring Clean up, 8am.
- Sat, May 17: Celebration of 500 years of Anabaptism @ First Mennonite (see announcement)  
\*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!

Sat, April 5: Herb Troyer  
Wed, April 9: Carol Bixler  
Wed, April 9: Laura Harms  
Wed, April 9: Gabriella Turentine

Drinks are available in the basement fellowship hall between the worship service and Sunday School. Clean-up fellowship hall and kitchen, locking doors, and turning off lights this month: last names beginning with M – R. May: S - Z

## DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

### Children's Classes

#### Hall Monitor:

April 6: Linda Showalter  
April 13: Linda Showalter  
April 20:  
April 27:

#### 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:

Apr 6: Salt & Light: Session #3 (page 14) Luke 1:26-38; Confession of Faith Articles #3 & #18;  
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither  
Apr 13: Salt & Light: Session #4 (page 20) John 1:1-18; Confession of Faith Article #4;  
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither  
Apr 20: Easter- No Sunday school  
Apr 27: Salt & Light: Session #5 (pg 26) Luke 2:25-35; Confession of Faith Review Article #8;  
Shalom Orientation led by Brian Bither

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

VAT is proposing Jim Showalter as chair of the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team for a 2 year term beginning in September. Send affirmations, questions or feedback to Frank Kandel or Nizeet Deiter.

### WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

**Last Sunday (3/30)** Jesus returns to the topic of the Holy Spirit in John 15:26-16:33, and Brian preached about the possibility of continuing revelation that this teaching presents.

**This Week (4/6)** Craig continues the Lenten journey of Jesus' Farewell Discourse in John 17 where Jesus prays for believers to be united.



**Next Week (4/13)** is Palm Sunday, which we will celebrate by waving palm branches while we worship together. Brian will be preaching from John 2.

### This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *Kern Road Mennonite Church* is a Mennonite Church in South Bend, Indiana that is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** *Meserete Kristos Seminary* is a Mennonite seminary in Ethiopia that exists to equip men and women for the holistic transformation of the church and society. (Contact: Zenebe Abebe)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shalom will join millions of Christians around the world by celebrating Easter on Sunday, April 20. On this day, our schedule looks a little different than usual. There will be an Easter breakfast at 8:30 (all are welcome to attend), the main worship service will be at 10am, and then we will have an Easter egg hunt after the service.

For the Easter egg hunt, youth are invited to help hide eggs. If weather is nice, we'll use the playground and open areas around it. The basement hallways and Fellowship hall will be the backup area.



Amigo Centre is hosting a women's retreat May 9-11 with a Wild Church theme. Please contact Martha Yoder Maust [yodermaust@gmail.com](mailto:yodermaust@gmail.com) if you would like to carpool. More info at <https://www.amigocentre.org/womens-retreat.html>

The link for this anti-racism course was shared with Laura Harms by her Earlham College Dynamics of Racism professor, Bob Hunter (now retired). The course starts in May. There are

workshop sections for people of color and white folks that have started their anti-racism journey. Given the anti-racism work that has been done at Shalom, this could be a great additional opportunity to take a next step on that journey for those that are interested.

<https://www.gigionline.org/epigeneticsofwhitesupremacy>



On Saturday, May 17, Shalom and First Mennonite Churches will host a festival to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of the Anabaptist movement. 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. For this to happen, we need volunteers, donors, and a general idea of how many people plan to attend. So, while there will be no tickets required for admission, we are asking anyone who plans to attend to register at [this link](#) so that the planning team can know how to budget and prepare. It would be especially helpful for those who plan to bring children to let us know so that we can determine whether to provide childcare.

The festival will be held at First Mennonite Church, which is located at 4601 Knollton Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46228. Our goal is to raise about \$2,000 so that we can bring in outside speakers and provide a catered lunch. Any leftover money at the end of this fundraising campaign will be donated to Mennonite World Conference. If you would be willing to donate, you can do by clicking on the newly added "Anabaptist 500" option on Shalom's online giving page, which you can find at [this link](#), or you can write a check to the church on Sunday with "The Anabaptist 500" written in the memo line. We are also looking for volunteers to teach seminars, provide snacks, offer information and assistance to guests during the day, and act in a skit during the evening service. If you would be willing to help in any of these ways, please email Pastor Brian at [brian@shalommennonite.com](mailto:brian@shalommennonite.com) or Pastor Jonathan at [jonathan@indymenno.org](mailto:jonathan@indymenno.org).

Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Monday, March 31 to Sunday, April 6. If you have urgent needs that must be addressed before his return, please contact Pastor Craig at [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto:craig@shalommennonite.com).



### PERSON OF COLOR BIO

**Benjamin Banneker** was a largely self-educated astronomer, author, and scientist. This was a significant accomplishment for an African-American living during the American Revolution and the early history of the United States. Many people consider him to be the first African-American scientist.

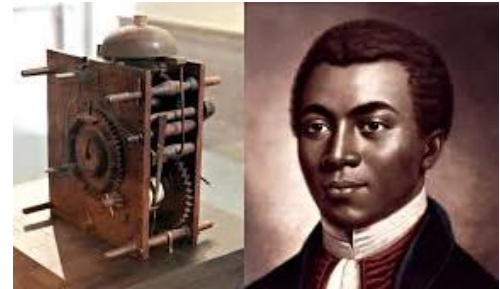
Benjamin Banneker was born in Baltimore County on November 9, 1731. Unlike most black children of his day in America, Benjamin was born a freeman and not enslaved. He grew up on his family's farm where he worked hard even as a child. He helped with the tobacco crops, chopped wood, and did all sorts of chores around the farm.

Sometime in the late 1600s a young English servant girl named Molly Welsh was accused of stealing milk. She was sent to America as an indentured servant. After serving her punishment, Molly bought a small farm and a couple of enslaved workers to help her work the land. She freed the enslaved workers and eventually fell in love with one of them, a man named Bannaka. Molly and Bannaka had four children. One of their daughters, Mary, married a freed enslaved man named Robert. In 1731, Mary and Robert had Benjamin. Because both of his

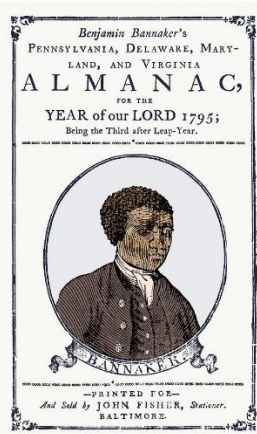
parents were free, so was Benjamin.

Growing up, Benjamin had little opportunity for school. He did attend a small Quaker school for a time where he discovered an interest in science and mathematics. Even when he couldn't attend school, Benjamin borrowed all the books he could so he could continue learning. He became known in the region as an intelligent young man who could fix machines and work out math problems.

Benjamin's legend continued to grow when he built his own clock. Clocks were very rare in America at the time. The story goes that Benjamin met a merchant with a watch. He made detailed drawings of the internal pieces of the watch and studied how it worked. Then, over several years, Benjamin built a larger version of the watch out of wood, constructing his own working clock.



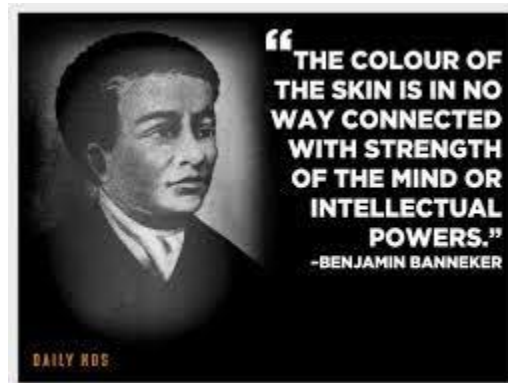
As Benjamin grew older, he began to take interest in the stars. He read books on astronomy and used math to calculate the movement of the stars. He even accurately predicted an eclipse of the sun. After the Revolutionary War, Benjamin began to use his skills as a surveyor. He got a job working on surveying and laying out Washington, D.C., the new capital city of the United States.



Starting in 1792, Benjamin began to publish his famous Almanac. It contained all sorts of information including astronomical data, weather predictions, tables, essays, commentaries, and tide tables. He published a new almanac each year for six years until 1797.

Benjamin hoped to see an end to slavery. He sent letters to Thomas Jefferson asking him to consider that all men were created equal, regardless of race. He used his almanac as an example of what a free black man could accomplish. Jefferson wrote him back, and agreed that the almanac was impressive, but did nothing to put an end to slavery.

Benjamin Banneker died on October 9, 1806. Although he didn't see an end to slavery in his lifetime, his life and accomplishments were used as an example by abolitionists to demonstrate what a free black man could do.



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](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.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:  
6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 [shalommennonite.com](http://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