



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JUNE 11, 2025

CALENDAR

Wed, Jun 18: Wild Church, 10 am (see announcement)

Thu, Jul 3: Shalom Sisters Lunch, @ Blueberry Hill on E. Washington, 11:30 am

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!

Thursday, June 12: Bill Albrecht

Saturday, June 14: Bob & Rose Love, 1980

Sunday, June 15: Frank & Linda Kandel, 1969

Tuesday, June 17: Bethany & Josh Martin, 2005

Wednesday, June 18: Jeanne Smucker & Brad Yoder, 2016

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Summer Children's Sunday School volunteer needs:

Many thanks to those who have responded to help with children's classes or supervision this summer. Looks like August 24 would be a great opportunity for anyone that wants to do a combined class with Pre-K through Elementary. The Pre-K/K class will be flexible on the intergenerational Sundays but the opportunity is still there if someone wants to try out teaching.

- 2-yr old class: Schedule is FULL!
- Pre-K/K:
 - June 22, 29 and July 13 - the kids may also attend the intergenerational class if no teachers are available
 - August 24
- Elementary:
 - August 24

Adult Sunday School Classes:

June 15: Caucus Sunday, chapter 10 of *The Color of Compromise*.

June 22: Food and Faith, intergenerational

June 29: Food and Faith, intergenerational

July 6: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 13: Food and Faith, intergenerational

July 20: Caucus Sunday

July 27: Reports from IN-MI and MCUSA conferences

August 3: Beginning of I Corinthians Bible study and another class, led by Herb Troyer

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair beginning in September), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

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

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

Last Sunday (6/8) Pastor Monica Miller visited and brought the message.

This week (6/15) we will hear from our Conference pastor, Joanne Gallardo, via video.

Next Sunday (6/22) Craig will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Parkview Mennonite Church*, Kokomo, IN

Pray that we can continue to be a witness and invite others to worship with us. Currently our average attendance is nine adults for worship. Messages for worship are being brought by retired pastors from the community and beyond.

- **Organization:** *Hoosiers Concerned About Guns* is a local, nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to ending the rising tide of gun violence and gun-related injuries and deaths. It brings Hoosiers together to seek solutions through education and the promotion of legislation at the local, state, and national levels. (Brad & Sabrina)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wild Church will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at Meltzer Woods Nature Preserve in Shelbyville, IN. Please bring a camp chair or a lawn chair. Meltzer Woods is a nature preserve not a park so there are no amenities. The address is 1522 S 600 E. Take I-74 E to IN 244 E, turn left onto S 600 E. Park in the lot on the east side of the Preserve.

Those of us in direct contact with the needs in Gaza are sending another appeal (attached) that we would appreciate being made available to your congregation.

Thank you, David Janzen

REFLECTION

Release

“The orangutan,” says Leo,
 “was running
 and crashing into the glass
 then backing up
 and crashing into the glass
 over and over and over.
 It seemed like he wanted to get out.”

I visited a friend in prison today.
 He, too, wanted to get out,
 but crashing into the glass
 would only prolong his sentence,
 so he’s gritting his teeth
 and trying not to snap.

Lord, bring release to the prisoners.

~ submitted by Martha Yoder Maust

IN HONOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC MONTH
PERSON OF COLOR BIO



**“Blackness never needed Christian rap,
but Christian rap is unimaginable without Blackness.**

... it is fitting to acknowledge that CHH [Christian hip hop] would never exist without Blackness—without the Black experience, Black resistance, Black hope, Black history, Black soul, Black spirituality, Black rhythm. It is primarily a Black genre, and any definition predicated apart from this reality is hopelessly misplaced. This genre isn't color blind. These rhyme schemes have melanin.”

According to **Ameen Hudson**, hip hop and Christian rap share an undeniable cultural heritage in the Black experience and the Black struggle. As Hudson points out, “hip hop was created by people of color, specifically by Black people; and our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters were in on that as well. Hip hop is a Black cultural product.”

“I think hip hop was a way in which we tended to actually champion and announce our dignity to the world,” Hudson states, “it was a way that we found identity; a way that we reclaimed our dignity, and the way that we expressed it to the world.”

According to Hudson, “hip hop had become a vehicle of messaging, it was a way in which people were constantly able to get across not only their dignity but to be able to teach people.” He goes on to say that hip hop serves as a way “to give messages to our own people in our own context.” And Hudson ties together the thread between hip hop and CHH by claiming that “the gospel is inherently a message.”

“We want to show people not just by preaching from the pulpit that Christ can come and meet them where they are, but we can also show people in the music that Christ *CAN* come and meet them where they are.”

Hudson reflects how he “heard the gospel in Southside St. Pete from another Florida dude who was from the streets.” He explains that “the dude that I heard the gospel from was an ex-dope dealer, a dude named Mynista.” Hudson described how KB preached the gospel to him, gave him Mynista’s album, and Hudson repented listening to the outro song. It was Mynista’s message of the gospel wrapped in his own Black language, Black messaging, and Black skin that ministered to Hudson.

Hudson points out, “we can’t divorce [the creation of hip hop] from the Black church, and then you can’t divorce the music and the style of the Black church from the Negro spirituals. You can’t divorce the Negro spirituals from the Black experience and from slavery — all of that has trickled down to this genre that we now call hip hop.”



Adapted from

<https://rapzilla.com/2022-02-unashamed-blackness-black-history-christian-rap/>



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:

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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