



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

CALENDAR

- Thu, November 27: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom, 1 pm (see CLC)
- Thu, December 4: Shalom Sisters Lunch @ The Bosphorus Café, 11:30 am (see CLC)
- Thu, December 11: Mennonite Action pitch-in meal and training @ First Mennonite Church, 5:45-8:45 pm (see announcement)
- Sat, December 13: Christmas Dinner, 5:30 pm appetizers, 6 pm dinner (see CLC)
- Sun, December 14: Congregational Budget Meeting after Sunday School, 12 pm
- Sun, December 28: There will be no Sunday school on Dec.28 (the Sunday between Christmas and New Years).
- Sun, February 8: Game Night @ Shalom; details to come
- Sat, February 21: Arlington Woods Neighborhood gathering, 11 am – 3:30 pm
- Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp

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! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Thu, November 27: Isaac Lederach



Thanksgiving Day is tomorrow!. If you do not have plans for the day, you are invited to join us for a meal in the fellowship hall. Feel free to come even if you didn't sign up, or have food prepared. Turkey will be provided; feel free to bring friends and family. (Football game will be available.) We will plan to eat at 1:00 pm. ~ Linda S.



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at 11:30 a.m. on **December 4th** at The Bosphorus Istanbul Café, Indiana's and Indianapolis' first and only Turkish restaurant. The Bosphorus is located at 935 S East St. All women are welcome.

Our annual Christmas Dinner will be **Saturday, December 13**. Appetizers will be available starting at 5:30 pm with dinner following at 6. A sign-up sheet is posted for volunteers to bring lasagna (meat and vegetarian), and pies for dessert. Bread and salad will be provided. Everyone is welcome!



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Children's Education

We received a couple of responses to the urgent need. Thank you!

Plans aren't finalized yet but we will have a teacher(s) for December - February and possibly through Spring Quarter.

For the 2s-3s class, it would be great to have one more teacher to share dates with Abri in 2026.

Hall Monitor:

November 30: Linda S

December 7

December 14

December 21

December 28: No Sunday School

Adult Sunday School Classes:

1. Bible Study meets in the back of the sanctuary, with Zoom. Facilitated by Wilma Bailey
2. Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices meets in the fellowship hall. Led by Herb Troyer.

November 30: (Thanksgiving Weekend)

1. Lesson #14 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-58, p 80.
2. Wrap up.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Anabaptist Disabilities Network Barrier Free Grant

Kudos to Jim Showalter and Andrew Martin for installing bright tape on the edges of the platform steps and a hand support on the wall to improve safety for leaders and musicians during worship services! We have an accessible front entrance, main floor restroom, and elevator-like lift. Reserved signs on a pew minimize disruptive change and a few removeable chairs convert space into alternative seating. We use gluten free bread for communion. How else can we make our gathering spaces more inclusive? On a recent Sunday morning, I observed 5 different individuals using canes in the sanctuary. It was rainy that morning, and I remembered that an awning over the front entrance was discussed in the past to provide shelter for those who need assistance getting out of the car and/or to unload equipment such as a baby car seat or wheelchair. What have you wished was available in our church building? Please take (literally) two minutes to watch this inspiring video showing how other churches have used the Barrier Free grants from Anabaptist Disabilities Network:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/bzg8w4vkTXA> .

The Indianapolis Northview Church of the Brethren is one of the congregations featured! Then please tell me what changes you think would help make Shalom more accessible to all.

~ Joyce Troyer (troyers_hj@hotmail.com)

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (Chair), Angie Buller

VAT Representative: Andrew Martin; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler

Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Melissa Walsh Martin (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (11/23) Sabrina will bring the message. The title is "The Land is Mine." The scripture text is Genesis 32:3-8, 22-31.

This Sunday (11/30) This Sunday is the start of Advent. Monica Miller will be preaching from Isaiah 2:1-5 with a sermon titled "Hope Reforged"

Next Sunday (12/7) J.E. Misz will bring the message, "Metaphorically Speaking" from Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27; 22:1-5

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *IMMC Credentialed Leaders in Higher Education:*

David Boshart, Randy Detweiler, Paula Killough, James Krabill, David Miller, Grant Miller, Allan Rudy-Froese, Daniel Schipani, Jen Shenk, Teresa Sherrill, Bob Yoder. Please pray for wisdom and clarity, grace and courage for these leaders as they provide guidance, formation, and support to college and seminary students.

- **Organization:** *Hoosiers Concerned about Gun Violence* 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

Pastor Craig will be on vacation December 1-7.



Shalom Book Club: A few people have expressed interest in a Shalom Book Club where we can read books about theology, biblical studies, or other topics of relevance to the church. In the initial blurb for it, a fairly regular meeting schedule was proposed. If you would be interested in joining a book reading group but would prefer to meet only once a month, please reach out to Andrew Martin to gauge if there is more interest.

Jim Martin's 80th Birthday Party: **Saturday, December 6**, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
[RSVP at https://www.evite.com/event/01E5IVZJAYVVHMKUEPQWULXOTKORA/](https://www.evite.com/event/01E5IVZJAYVVHMKUEPQWULXOTKORA/)
Help us celebrate Jim Martin's milestone birthday! Join us for cake and ice cream, a light supper and lots of laughs together as we honor the man we all love and know as Jim, Mr. Martin, Dad, Grandpa, Brother, Uncle Jimmy...and maybe a few more!*

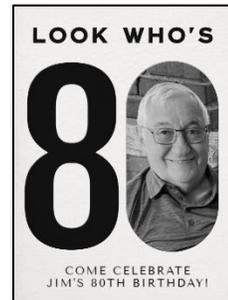
The party is come-and-go, and children are welcome.

Can't come in person? Join us by Zoom at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88482376422?pwd=PooTplaYSrcXZbYeffnApPffrmhSc1.1>

Meeting ID: 884 8237 6422, Passcode: 045635

*No gifts, please.



The Mennonite Action training tour is coming to Indianapolis!



Right now, the genocide in Gaza rages on as authoritarianism kidnaps our neighbors off streets in the U.S. So many of us are horrified and want to do something, but we don't know how. That's why we're bringing training, tools, and frameworks to help our communities respond in courage to our historical moment, "discerning the times" as we're called to do (Matthew 16:3).

And we're thrilled to share that Indianapolis is a stop on the To Build Our Courage tour. We want YOU, your friends, and your congregation to join us on **December 11th, 5:45-8:45pm**. More details to follow. We'll dive into trainings on noncooperation, grassroots organizing, and mutual aid, in addition to spending time worshiping in prayer and song. And we'll of course enjoy a meal together somewhere in there too.

Register at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevxFdQ_9S4ADB5qgmKDynmlaOwmhDdVXu7paYm1DRPWbaDw/viewform today, and invite a friend to join you. Whether you're brand new to Mennonite Action or have been with us since the beginning, this training is for YOU— and will leave you with a better understanding of how we can work together to resist a genocide and an authoritarian takeover.

We can't wait to see you there!

In Peace,

Mennonite Action

PERSON OF COLOR BIO NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

In the United States, there are 574 federally recognized Native American tribes, plus an estimated 400 more that are unrecognized, that speak nearly 200 different indigenous languages, making for an incredible diversity in culture and way of life.

Elsie Comanche Allen

September 22, 1899 – December 31, 1990

Elsie Comanche Allen was born on September 22, 1899, near Santa Rosa, CA. Her parents, George and Annie Comanche (Comanche is an Anglicized version of the Pomo name Gomachu), were wage laborers, who worked on farms owned by non-Native Americans, a job that was common for Pomo people in the early 20th century. Her father died when she was eight. Soon after, her mother remarried and moved the family to Hopland.



Elsie's first language was Pomo. It was the only language she spoke until she was 13, when she began learning English at an Indian boarding school in Covelo, California. She attended the Indian boarding school for less than year and then opted to attend a day school in which she felt more comfortable attending - it was here that Elsie became proficient in speaking English during her early teen years. She lived briefly in San Francisco at the age of 18, where she found housekeeping and hospital work jobs, and it was in San Francisco that Elsie met her husband, Arthur Allen.

In addition to being a skilled basketweaver, Allen made it a point to be active in her community. While balancing work and raising her children, Elsie was active in several Pomo and Hintil women's clubs, in which organizations aimed to improve the social and economic environment of Pomo communities. As a female chief of her community, Elsie made it a point to promote education, cultural preservation, and Native rights in the community. Because of her efforts, she was regarded as a cultural scholar by her community and was deemed "Pomo Sage" was granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

In addition to her activism regarding social, economic, and cultural advancements, Allen also organized fund-raisers and aided in the establishment of scholarships for Pomo students. Allen was once involved in a desegregation case regarding non-Native-owned businesses that would not allow Pomos and whites to sit together.

The Pomo people traditionally lived in the area around the Russian River in California. This area has an abundance of willows, sedges, and other plants that are traditionally used for basketweaving.

Although she learned to weave as a child, Allen was only able to weave full-time at the age of 62, when her children were all grown. During the 1950s and 1960s, interest in basketry among Pomo had waned, so Allen began teaching anyone interested in learning her technique. She taught her skill to both Natives and non-Natives as a means of preserving the art of basketweaving and the tradition associated with it.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elsie_Allen





Have something to give away? Need something? Skills needed or to share? Tools needed or to share?

Beverly Smith has some knitting needles that need a new home. The sizes were measured with a Susan Bates guide and are from left to right as follows: Long gold single point pair size 15; Green single point pair size 8; Orange double point pair size 10; blue double point pair size 5; Green double point pair size 4; and Green (plastic) double point set of 4 size 8. Let Beverly know if you would like these and she will deliver them to church the following Sunday.



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: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler

Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury