



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 15, 2025

CALENDAR

- Sun, October 19: Fellowship Meal following Sunday School
Mon, October 20 *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN
Mon, October 27 *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Mon, October 27: Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association meeting in the Fellowship room,
5:30 pm
Thu, November 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am. (see CLC)
Sat, November 15: Shalom will be hosting "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path"
as part of The Spirit & Place Festival. See Announcement
Sun, December 14: Congregational Budget Meeting, 12 pm
Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp
*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9am - 3pm

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! (Wędnęsday – Wędnęsday)

Wed, October 15: Josh Martin
Wed, October 15: Cam & Taylor Cook, 2022
Fri, October 17: Justin Hochstetler
Sun, October 19: Mary Albrecht
Sun, October 19: Allison Sanders

Many cultures observe celebrations that remember ancestors who have passed away. Since we've been highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to do a version of Mexico's *Day of the Dead* (*Dia De Los Muertos*).

Everyone is invited to share pictures or small mementos of a loved one who has passed away. A table will be set up in the fellowship hall beginning **October 19** so we can enjoy it longer. (Day of the Dead falls on Sat, November 1 and Sun, November 2.)

Day of the Dead is a rare holiday for celebrating death and life. It is unlike any holiday where mourning is exchanged for celebration.



CLC is looking for someone or a group of people who would be interested in organizing a Trunk or Treat event later in October. Let me know if you might be interested! Linda S

Next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street on **November 6 at 11:30 am**. All women are welcome.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Update on the current children's reading program:

It's been tricky keeping up with this program! More details have fallen into place – after children read 5 books from Shalom's library, they can pick a prize out of the bubble gum machine! Choose a bracelet with a message, a gold Peace Dove pin, or your choice of 2 patterns of Dove ornament made out of a CD, so it sparkles in the sun!

There are papers in the library for each child to keep track of how many books they've read – color in a book for each one read. Let's get back on track to reading! ~ Linda S

Children's Education

Looking ahead: New teachers will be needed soon.

- Lead teacher or 2 co-teachers for the Elementary class (grades 2-5). The next quarter starts in December.
- Co-teacher needed for 2s-3s class to share dates with Abri in 2026.

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.

October 19:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

October 26:

1. Lesson #10 - 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, p 56.
2. For-Give: Giving to others, pp 103- 107 pp 54-55. Tools of Creation Kingdom of God, Now

November 2:

1. Lesson #11 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, p 62.
2. What If: In Christ we put on the New, pp 119 – 123 pp 56-57

November 9:

1. Lesson #12 - 1 Corinthians 12-14, p 68.
2. Reality Check: Allowing ourselves to Fail, pp 125 – 129 pp 58 – 59

November 16:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

November 23:

1. Lesson #13 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-34, p 74.
2. Ultimate Freedom: Acting out of Love, pp 131 – 137 pp 60-61

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

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (Chair), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Andrew Martin; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Please continue to pray for the discernment process for the chair and member of the Outreach Commission.

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 (10/12) Craig continued a series on the Sabbath looking at Jesus healing on the Sabbath in John 5:1-18

This Sunday (10/19) Wilma will bring the message on “Where is Your Safe Place”, using Psalm 91.

Next Sunday (10/29) Craig will bring the message.

This week’s Prayer List:

Church: *East Goshen Mennonite Church*, Goshen, IN. Pastor: Naomi Yoder-Hess

We are giving thanks for God providing the energy and gifts we’ve needed through the church transitions of the past year. The Holy Spirit is bringing newness and opportunity in the midst of change. We ask for your prayers in the process to call a new long-term member of the pastoral team.

Organization: *Mennonite Women USA* is a sisterhood of women following Jesus who engage the voices of all women, honoring our/their stories, practicing justice, and embracing healing. (Contact: CoraLyn Turentine)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

More information about "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path" on November 15 from 3 – 6 pm: Be sure and check out and register below. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. Contact Becky and or Wilma for more information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-nature-walk-down-a-peace-path-tickets-1743599475969?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile>

We at Shalom, as an active anti-racist congregation, are committed to "seek education about the history and impact of racism". October 13th this week was commemorated in many states as Indigenous Peoples' Day, as was declared by President Biden in 2021. President Trump chose to issue an executive order on October 9th, eliminating Indigenous Peoples' Day, and restoring "Columbus Day". Historian Heather Cox Richardson discussed the historical context of this debate in the attached article. I encourage you to read it, and to reflect on how our understanding of history shapes how we live out our faith. ~ Brad Yoder



Would you like to take a much deeper dive into the US Civil Rights struggle? Mennonite Mission Network organizes Just Peace Pilgrimages, one of which is the United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage. These trips typically last about 8 days, but if a group applies together MMN will tailor-make the schedule. More information at

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/united-states-civil-rights-pilgrimage/>

More interested in Just Peace at our southern border? MMN also has a Christ at the Borders Pilgrimage in Arizona:

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/christ-at-the-borders-pilgrimage/>

~ Martha Yoder Maust

No Kings Rally, Sat October 18, Noon-2:00 pm, Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington St, Indy: This is an opportunity for people around the country to take nonviolent action, speak out, and show our love and solidarity in the face of the authoritarian regime governing our nation and wholeheartedly enabled by our state administration. It will feature speakers, community organizations, and tabling opportunities to connect us with resources. If you would like companionship...



Join the Peace Church Coalition*: we will meet at 11:30 AM at the One America Building, on the northeast corner of Ohio and Capitol, and walk together to the rally. Bring peaceful signs. If you don't have signs...

Attend a sign-making gathering the evening before the rally: **October 17th at 7:00 pm** at **Northview Church of the Brethren**, 5555 East 46th Street. RSVP to rhondabake@aol.com. Please bring materials to share.

*The Peace Church Coalition, once (until the pandemic) an active network of peace churches including Shalom, First Mennonite, First Friends, Northview Church of the Brethren, and more, is reactivating. This rally is one way for us to resume our joint witness and actions for peace, nonviolence, and justice.



Abolish Capital Punishment In Indiana. We have a window of opportunity--and a sacred duty--to respond to the governor's call for a public debate about the death penalty in Indiana. Please see the attachments concerning a letter-writing campaign (and sample letters) to the governor. For more info, contact Sabrina Falls.

p.s. We are encouraged to **wear something with the color yellow** (e.g. hat,

shirt, bandana) as a sign of joy and a reminder that fear cannot win when we choose to live with joy. We choose joy in the face of oppression--our spirits cannot be broken.



Nonviolence International (NI), [a partner organization of Mennonite Action], continues to be alarmed about harmful uses of technology in Palestine. Join us on Sunday, October 19 for a powerful online round table, *The Israel Occupation Tech Lab*, part of the [Voices from the Holy Land Film Salon](#) series. Together, we'll explore how the occupation has turned Palestine into a testing ground for technologies of domination which have globally abetted the decay of privacy and other civil rights. Panelists will discuss the global reach of these tools, their impact on human rights, and the urgent need to imagine collective alternatives rooted in justice and freedom.

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3:00pm ET / 12:00pm PT / 10:00pm

Jerusalem. [Register: free to join and get access to the videos.](#)

Watch the trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1119210833>.

You'll hear from an inspiring lineup of panelists:

- Helga Tawil-Souri: Palestinian-American scholar and Associate Professor, NYU,
- Omar Zahzah: Assistant Professor, Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies, San Francisco State University,
- Mohammad Natsheh: Palestinian human rights activist in the South Hebron Hills,
- Rafif Jouejati: Host; Syrian-American human rights activist, chair of Nonviolence International's board,
- Bianca Peracchi: Moderator; Brazilian human rights activist, Nonviolence International.

Watch the films for free at your convenience - then join us for the live panel and Q&A session. Together, we'll ask the tough questions:

- 1) How do you see these tools shaping everyday life under the Palestinian occupation?
- 2) How do digital systems and databases, used to track and control Palestinians, pose a threat to human rights?, and
- 3) How can people resist or challenge the spread of these "battle-tested" technologies sold across borders?

Spread the word, share the trailer, and RSVP today [here](#).

Steadfastly, Sami Awad, Co-Director, Nonviolence International ~ Brad Yoder

"Parkview at 80"

Come celebrate 80 years of Parkview 1945-2025 on **Sunday, October 26, 2025**

9:30-11 am Worship

11:15-12:15 Sharing Memories

12:15 Meal

Please RSVP to parkviewkokomo@gmail.com for number attending the meal by Wednesday, October 15, 2025

REFLECTION

" A Case for Membership"

As a pastor, I have tried to be careful not to assert my opinion too forcefully on controversial issues. By "controversial issues," I mean subjects about which it is known that different people at Shalom have opposing – and very strongly held - views. But I sometimes worry that I have erred too much on the side of caution, and so I am taking this writing opportunity to share my thoughts more openly than I have up to this point – knowing that you all are welcome to "take them or leave them." In doing this, I must again make the disclaimer that my opinion should not be taken as the official Shalom position but just as mine alone. Last week, I broached the topic

of children and communion. This week, I am going to bring up a subject that I feel even more strongly about: membership.

Shalom does not currently have a membership policy. There is no list that identifies which people are members of the church and no real restrictions on who can vote or serve in leadership roles. There are some people who feel rather strongly that this is how it ought to be. They note that membership inherently creates an us-versus-them dynamic, which in turn can produce a false sense of superiority, an overemphasis on rules and doctrines, an atmosphere of judgmentalism, and gatekeepers who use the power of membership to assert their authority. All of these things are legitimate concerns. I know many churches that are plagued by these dynamics, and the Mennonite Church specifically has a painful history of ostracizing and shunning people through the membership medium.

But I would insist that there are equally significant dangers in not having membership. Without membership, it's not clear what a community tolerates or doesn't tolerate, or even what it stands for. This creates a dynamic in which the loudest and strongest-willed people end up making unspoken rules and setting the agenda. Membership creates accountability, and without accountability is an essential feature of a healthy community. Honestly, Shalom has been lucky that our most outspoken and influential people have also tended to be highly ethical and very self-aware. But it wouldn't take much for this to change, and then we would be in trouble.

So how do we choose between these two bad options of judgment-laden membership process and having an unaccountable community dynamic? We shouldn't. We should look for a third way. And I am really drawn to the model proposed by Mennonite scholar Paul Hiebert of approaching membership in center-set rather than bounded-set (or "fuzzy") terms.

Center-set membership focuses on what we believe and affirm, not what we avoid and oppose. It creates a set of values to which we can appeal when we are working through conflict rather than a set of rules that we must follow, whether they make sense to us or not. And Shalom already has a set of values that has been with the church from the very beginning: the Founding Covenant. I was extremely inspired by this covenant when I first came to Shalom, and I know that others have been as well. Rather than simply hanging it on the wall as a poem from the past, I would encourage Shalom to take advantage of this tool and invite people to make this covenant together regularly as a way of affirming our faith and values, and to consider anyone who is able to covenant with us a "member." This, after all, is arguably the core issue behind the Anabaptist movement – the importance of voluntarily expressing one's commitment to Christ and the church – and I would hate to see us lose it. ~ Brian

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

OCTOBER IS ALSO FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Filipino Americans are the second-largest Asian American group in the nation and the third-largest ethnic group in California, after Latinas/os and African Americans.

The celebration of Filipino American History Month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States, which occurred on October 18, 1587, when "Luzones Indios" came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed at what is now Morro Bay, California. During this time the Philippines were part of New Spain.

<https://www.veritext.com/filipino-american-history-month/>



Born in San Nicolas in the Philippines, on October 25, 1913, to a family with six children, **Modesto "Larry" Dulay Itliong's** story is one of resilience, empowerment, and a relentless pursuit of fairness

for marginalized communities. Itliong's journey toward activism began early.

In 1929, at just 15 years old and with no more than a sixth-grade education, he migrated to the United States in search of a better life, dreaming of continuing his education and becoming a lawyer.

However, upon arrival, Itliong was met with the harsh realities of discrimination and exploitation. The economic difficulties of the Great Depression brought along a climate of racial violence and anti-immigrant rhetoric, especially against the many Filipino immigrants who came to the United States in the 20th century. Soon the promise of opportunity quickly gave way to low-paying, back-breaking jobs in Alaska's salmon canneries, California's vineyards, and Washington's farms. These experiences exposed Itliong to the poor conditions of seasonal farm laborers and inspired a lifetime of organizing.

Still a teenager, in 1930, Itliong led his first protest, mobilizing around 1,500 farmworkers in lettuce fields in Monroe, Washington to walk out on strike. After that, he quickly rose as a leader in the fight against unjust wages, poor working conditions, and racial discrimination. By 1933, he was organizing strikes in California's Salinas Valley that were part of the growing agricultural movement of the 1930s.

After serving in World War II for the U.S. Army from 1936 to 1943, Itliong became an American citizen and settled in Stockton, California's Little Manilla community. In the following decades, he resumed his activism. Itliong was single-minded in the fight for fair wages and safe working conditions. His leadership marked a significant turning point in American labor history.

One of Itliong's most notable achievements came in 1965 when he organized the Delano Grape Strike, a milestone in labor history. Itliong and the AWOC (Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee) led thousands of Filipino farm workers to strike against grape growers in Delano, California, who paid substandard wages and provided intolerable working and living conditions. Recognizing the power of collective action, Itliong reached out to Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, leaders of the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which consisted largely of Mexican workers.

This collaboration between Filipino and Mexican laborers—two distinct communities connected in the United States by discrimination — represented a groundbreaking moment in the struggle for labor rights. Their joint effort led to the creation of the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1967 which turned the Delano Grape Strike into a powerful movement that captured nationwide attention through boycotts and demonstrations, eventually leading to significant reforms in labor practices.

In 1971, Itliong resigned from the UFW due to internal tensions but continued his work as an organizer, including defending farm workers in Brazil and Chile. Itliong understood that the fight for labor rights was also a fight for racial equity. As a Filipino immigrant, he experienced the deep roots of racism firsthand and used this understanding to unite workers across racial and ethnic lines. His leadership was not just about securing better wages – it was about addressing the systemic inequalities and affirming the dignity and humanity of those who were routinely marginalized.

Edited from <https://indepthnh.org/2024/11/20/larry-itliong-the-father-of-the-west-coast-labor-movement/>



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

Herb has a source for free 50-gallon rain barrels. They are blue in color. This appears to be an unlimited source of barrels. Inform your friends and anyone else. They are rinsed three times with alkaline water to get all the chemicals out. Email or call Herb



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 worshiping 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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Vision & Accountability Team: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin
Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler

