



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

CALENDAR

- Sun, February 15: Carry-in Fellowship meal after Sunday School (see CLC)
- Sat, February 21: Arlington Woods Neighborhood gathering, 11 am – 3:30 pm (see Outreach)
- Sun March 15: Pizzas For Peace after Sunday School
- Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp (see CLC)

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Carl Rhine

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

- Wed, February 16: Anita Brubaker
- Sun, February 21: Barbara Abebe
- Sun, February 22: Brenda Smith
- Sun, February 22: Chris & Nizeet Deiter, 2020

For the **3rd Sunday carry-in**, as we're celebrating Black History Month let's focus our dishes on Black culture. Be it a local dish or a family favorite from Africa. We look forward to seeing what you bring. ~ Becky



Our annual retreat isn't until **October 3**, but it's been proven that planning needs to start early! CLC proposes the theme of "Joy" for this year's emphasis. We are asking for help in the planning and implementation of this. If you have interest, or ideas, please contact Linda S, Beverly, Bethany or Craig.



Community Life Commission is putting together a care package to send Marcela and Jason for Valentine's Day. If you'd like to participate, please bring some snacks and or a note letting them know that they are loved and missed. There is a box by the nursery for you to drop off those treats and notes **by Sunday February 15**.



Marcela cannot have any gluten and has allergies to almonds. Gluten is found in wheat, barley, rye, soy sauce, BBQ sauce, and some spice mixes. Many snack foods have gluten but below are some that don't. Baked goods that use almond flour as an alternative to wheat don't work for her. Oats are iffy unless processed in a gluten free plant. Here are some of her favorites:

Her #1 item: **Gluten Free Cheez-its** (just came on the market and are hard to find)

Flaming hot Cheetos

Popcorn - microwave or bagged

Reese's peanut butter cups

Chocolate like Hershey's, dove, etc as long as they don't have cookie pieces or almonds

Fruit snacks or gummies like Peach rings (check for gluten free label - some brands have gluten some are GF)

Plain potato chips

Gluten free pretzels

Annie's brand GF Mac n cheese single serve cups



Jason eats just about anything! Definitely no allergies to worry about. He seems to be really into Hi-chews, other gummy candies/jelly beans, nut mixes (especially pistachios), and ramen these days.

The next Shalom Sisters Lunch on March 5th will be at a Burmese restaurant on the south side of Indy. Details to follow.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Children's Education

A Teaching Assistant is needed for the 2nd-5th grade class starting in March. Carol Bither will do the planning and preparation. All you need to do is be ready to cultivate an engaging classroom setting each week. Please reach out to Laura or Carol.

Also, the 2s-3s class will need a sub for March 8.

Sunday school class for the adults will be as follows:

February 15 - Antiracism Sunday

February 22 - Discussion about Tithing and Offerings by Bob Love

Starting March 1 there will be 2 adult classes. The Standard Bible series with Mike Wigginton and the class on Zionism and Christian Zionism with Brad Yoder and Sabrina Falls.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

Arlington Woods Neighborhood gathering, Feb. 21st 11am - 3pm.

The gathering will be a come-and-go event and there will be a lunch catered by a local caterer. The entire neighborhood has been invited to get together to encourage more participation in the neighborhood association. Shalom is in the neighborhood and our members are welcome to attend. It would be nice to have some greeters.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (Chair), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Andrew Martin

Martha Yoder Maust has agreed to be Shalom's delegate to the IN-MI Mennonite Conference for the next 2 years. Please submit your comments and feedback to Pastor Craig or any member of the Gifts Discernment Team. Thanks, Jim

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Melissa Walsh Martin (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Last Sunday (2/8) Craig preached from Isaiah 58, looking at the meaning of fasting.

This Sunday (2/15) CoraLyn Turentine will bring the message.

Next Sunday (2/22) Wilma will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *New Hope Community Church* of Midland is a church in our conference located in central Michigan.
- **Organization:** *Morning Star Ministries* is a food pantry ministry run by Morning Star Church in Muncie, IN, which Shalom supports. In addition to food, they offer community meals and care to the people whom they serve. (Contact: Frank Kandel)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig will be on vacation February 9-15.

Mennonites Sing for Our Immigrant Neighbors

Last week, nearly 1,000 Mennonites and friends held prayerful demonstrations at local Target stores across the country, calling on Target to



end its cooperation with ICE. From North Carolina to San Francisco to Iowa, hymns and chants echoed throughout the aisles of Target stores. The actions were part of Mennonite Action's '[Sing Down the Doors at Target](#)' campaign following the lead of local Minnesota organizers who have called for solidarity actions to pressure the company, which is based in the Twin Cities, to publicly call for ICE to leave the state and prevent immigration agents from entering its stores without a signed judicial warrant.

The action in Goshen, IN was covered by WFYI, our local public radio station: <https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/indiana-mennonite-congregations-protest-target-ice-defunding>

In a recent email, Mennonite Action writes: "We are grateful for the public witness of the hundreds of people who are taking action in line with our values. This kind of bold, courageous action for the liberation of all God's children is a spark of light in the darkness around us. As people of faith, and as Mennonite Christians, we know we cannot be silent in the face of racist, supremacist authoritarian violence--from Palestine to Minneapolis.

Mennonite Action invites us to hear detailed report-backs from these "Sing Down the Doors" actions by joining their next Mass Call on February 26. Here's how to register: [please join us the last Thursday of February for our next Mass Call](#).

~ Sabrina



If the Mennonite Action singing events at Target inspire you (see elsewhere in this issue of JT), here's another singing opportunity:

We Sing, We Stand: An Outpouring of Love for Minneapolis, Sunday, February 15, Monument Circle (downtown Indy), at 6-7 pm. This event is led by **Indy Singing Resistance**, a community that makes music in peaceful protest and collective hope. In their words: We sing to counter injustice, honor our

shared humanity, and imagine a more just future. Rooted in freedom, love, and courage. All voices welcome." A small group will help lead songs and teach the lyrics. Come alone or bring others, bundle up, no singing experience required. For more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1429221935252644>

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Celebrating 100 Years of Black History Commemoration



Azie Taylor Morton

February 1, 1936 – December 7, 2003

Azie Taylor Morton was a teacher, politician, and the only African American to hold the position of Treasurer of the United States. Taylor was born to Fleta Hazel Taylor, who was deaf and mute, on February 1, 1936, in the small community of St. John Colony of Dale, Texas. Taylor did not know her father and was raised by her maternal grandparents on a small farm. During her adolescence, Taylor worked in the cotton fields.

Although she was not blind, deaf, or an orphan, she attended the Texas Blind, Deaf, and Orphan School during her high school years because there was no high school for African Americans in Dale. She graduated at the top of her class at age 16.

In 1952, Taylor enrolled in Huston-Tillotson University, an all-Black college in Austin, Texas. Four years later, she graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in commercial education. Taylor then attempted to enroll in the University of Texas's graduate program but was denied admission on the grounds that she had insufficient undergraduate courses.

Because of the state's segregationist policy barring the enrollment of Blacks in undergraduate programs, she was not able to complete the admission requirements.

Taylor instead took a job as a teacher in a state-sponsored school for delinquent girls. She held that position for a year and then was hired as Huston-Tillotson's assistant to the President. She remained at Huston-Tillotson for a few months until she was hired to work at the Texas AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations) state headquarters in Austin. In 1961, she was invited by President John F. Kennedy to work for the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity. She remained with the committee for 20 years, filling various positions. Taylor married James Homer Morton in 1965.

In 1977, Morton accepted President Jimmy Carter's invitation to serve as the 36th Treasurer of the U.S. She held the post from September 12th, 1977, until January 20th, 1981. (During her tenure as Treasurer, Morton's signature appeared on all Federal Reserve Notes.)



In addition, Morton was a member of the American Delegation to Rome, Italy, for the Enthronement of Pope John Paul II in 1978; Chair of the People-to-People Mission to the Soviet Union and China in 1986; and an Election Observer for Presidential elections in Haiti, Senegal, and the Dominican Republic. She also was a representative to the first African/African American Conference held in Africa.

After returning to Austin, Morton served on the Austin Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (HACA) from 1999 to 2001. In honor of her service, the HACA created the Azie Morton Scholarship Fund for low-income students at Huston-Tillotson.

Azie Taylor Morton experienced a massive stroke at her home in Austin, Texas, on December 6th, 2003. She died the following day from complications due to the stroke at the age of 67. Morton was survived by her two daughters.



<https://blackpast.org/african-american-history/morton-azie-taylor-1936-2003/>

On this day in **1990**, Nelson Mandela was released from a South African prison after being held for 27 years as a political prisoner.

On this day in **1961**, Robert Weaver was sworn in as administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. At the time, it was the highest federal post by an African American.

On this day in **1976**, Clifford Alexander Jr. was confirmed as the first African American

secretary of the United States Army.

<https://www.cbs42.com/news/local/this-day-in-history-black-history-month-edition-february-11th/>



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

ROUTINE INFORMATION

Send email to office@shalommennonite.com for the following:

- **Church calendar** (Grace Rhine)
- **To upload minutes** on the church website. (Carl Rhine)
- **Zoom** (Grace Rhine)
- **Announcements for Journeying Together**, by 5 pm on Wednesday (Linda Showalter)
- **New/update church directory, email address list, or telephone numbers**, managed by Sam Bixler (bixlersc@gmail.com)
- **Building Usage**: 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 the church office so your item can be added to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

“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 [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.

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:

6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 office@shalommennonite.com

Pastor: 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