



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JULY 29, 2026

CALENDAR

Tue, Aug 4: National Night Out (NNO) at Washington Park 6 - 9PM (Outreach)
Thu, Aug 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (CLC)
Sat, Aug 15: Birthday party for Cheryl, 2-4 pm (Announcement)
Sun, Aug 16: **NO** 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal
Sun, Aug 30: Back-to-school Cookout, 5 – 8 pm (CLC)
Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Carl Rhine

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Thu, July 30: Amber Goodloe
Thu, July 30: Cheryl & Jim Martin, 1967
Sat, August 1: Abri & Justin Hochstetler, 2009
Mon, August 3: Charity & Matt Bauman, 2013
Mon, August 3: Matthias Martin



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet at Iozzo's Garden of Italy, 946 S. Meridian, 11:30 am on Thursday, August 6.

August 30, 5:00 - 8:00 Late Summer, Back to School Cookout. Bring a side dish and we will have meats and food to grill. Bring your lawn chairs and come at 4:30 to help set up and start the grills.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

The summer schedule for Sunday school is planned as follows:

August 2 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Melissa and Andrew

August 9 – Adults meet in the auditorium with Jeanne for Child safety

Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol

August 16 – Antiracism Sunday

Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol



There will be 2 adult Sunday school classes this fall. A book study using Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura will be facilitated by Andrew Martin. The second class will use the Salt and Light series and will be facilitated by Wilma Bailey. Please sign up for your preferred class on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary no later than August 2 so materials can be ordered. If you cannot physically sign up at the church, please send a text or email to Cheryl ASAP (913-375-6264 or 1cmm@att.net).

Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura

Conceived over thirty years of painting and creating in his studio, this book is world-renowned painter, Makoto Fujimura's broad and deep exploration of creativity and the spiritual aspects of "making." What he does in the studio is theological work as much as it is aesthetic work. In between pouring precious, pulverized minerals onto handmade paper to create the prismatic, refractive surfaces of his art, he comes into the quiet space in the studio, in a discipline of awareness, waiting, prayer, and praise.

Ranging from the Bible to T. S. Eliot, and from Mark Rothko to Japanese Kintsugi technique, he shows how unless we are making something, we cannot know the depth of God's being and God's grace permeating our lives. This poignant and beautiful book offers the perspective of, in Christian Wiman's words, "an accidental theologian," one who comes to spiritual questions always through the prism of art.

Salt and Light

The Fall 2026 Salt & Light theme is The Soul of a Nation written by Frank Ramirez. Follow God's people a generation and more after they were liberated from slavery in Egypt.



Shine Children's Ed curriculum changes

I'd like to highlight a key change has been introduced in the Shine curriculum we use for Children's Sunday School. Instead of an in-class workbook, each student will get either a storybook (targeted at ages 3-6) or a magazine (targeted at grades 1-5) that lives at home. The idea is that families can revisit the themes from the previous Sunday together during the week.

Teachers: instead of workbooks, your Teacher Kit will have worksheets to photocopy and use in class. ~ Laura

Teaching opportunity:

There is still an opening to co-teach the 1st-3rd grade class. Carol Bixler will teach about half the Sundays so we'll need a co-teacher that can cover September and December as well as a few other dates.



School Kits for MCC:: Shalom's children will participate in the MCC School Kit challenge, filling kits on August 9 and 16. Help MCC meet their goal by bringing in supplies.

Please bring the following items:

We have enough rulers, pencil sharpeners, and erasers so please prioritize the items left in this shorter list.

Contents (NEW items only)

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks
 - 8.5 in x 10.5 in; 70 sheets each (US)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

Tuesday, August 4 - National Night Out (NNO). Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association, and surrounding neighborhoods. NNO will be at Washington Park 6 - 9PM. See the attached poster.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

All Shalom participants are encouraged to **submit up to 3 nominations** for VAT Congregational Representative beginning Sept 1, 2026. Email to jim.indy@gmail.com -or- text to **317.727.4922** -or- my **mailbox** at church. A copy of the "Vision and Accountability Team Congregational Representative Selection for Years 2027-29" is attached.
Due by Sunday Aug 9. Thanks! - Jim Showalter

Carol Weaver will be joining the Congregational Life Commission on September 1 to serve with member Beverly Smith and chair Linda Showalter. Thank you, Bethany Martin for your past service.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday, 7/26, Sabrina brought the message on "Bearing Witness", from Hebrews 12:1-3.
This Sunday, 8/2, Phil will bring the message from Nehemiah 8:9-12. See attached poster.
Next Sunday, 8/9, Phil will bring the message from Matthew 25:31-46.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** LightHouse Fellowship Church (formerly named Grand Marias Mennonite Church) is a small church in Grand Marais, MI, on the southern shore of Lake Superior. It is a member of IN MI Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** Anabaptist Disabilities Network is an organization that connects and supports people who have disabilities, their families, and faith communities to create a culture of belong for everyone. Contact: Joyce Troyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is offering a new series of courses in *Ecotheology*. Some courses are taken entirely on-line. You will be sent weekly assignments that you do on your own. Others are on-line but you meet with an instructor and the other students in the class at set times. Other classes are hybrids where you meet in person on the AMBS campus occasionally and sometimes on-line. If you choose, you can work toward a certificate, an M.Div with a concentration in Ecotheology or an MA. with a focus on Ecotheology. For details go to the website for Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Wilma

INTERFAITH VIGIL AT MIAMI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, FRIDAY JULY 31 11:00 AM

The Peace Church Coalition has been invited to participate in an interfaith vigil at Miami Correctional Facility in support of the group traveling to Chicago for the [National March into Marquette Park](#).

On July 31st, 5 busses carrying 300 people will travel the National Freedom Trail routes from Jackson, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Charlotte, and New York City. They will stop at **Miami Correctional Facility** at 11 am for a Jumma (Muslim) prayer and interfaith vigil and call to END ICE Detention at Miami Correctional Facility. The final destination is Chicago for the August 1st [National March into Marquette Park](#). This is being organized nationally by [Powered By Faith](#) and locally by Indiana [Organizing Project](#). Press is invited to attend and cover the event but, for security reasons, is asked not to promote it in advance. ~ Sabrina

August 15 from 2-4 is a party to celebrate Cheryl's 80th birthday hosted by her children. Please respond to the evite you received several weeks ago. The invitation neglected to say that **children are invited and welcome**. And yes, there will be cake and ice cream for all!! If you have trouble accessing or responding to the evite, just send me a message. ~ Cheryl

PERSON OF COLOR BIO



Louise Cecelia Fleming, the first African American to graduate from the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was born January 28, 1862, to slave parents on a plantation near Hibernia in Clay County, Florida. Her father is unknown; she was raised by her mother, who served as a maid in the plantation house. As a child, she traveled along with her owners and her mother to Jacksonville, Florida, to attend Bethel Baptist Church, which in 1859 had a membership of 40 whites and 250 Black slaves. In 1865, immediately after the Civil War, the white and Black members of the church separated and formed their own congregations.

Lulu Fleming completed her basic education and trained to become a teacher. She first taught in public schools near St. Augustine, Florida. In 1880, a visiting Brooklyn, New York minister, impressed by her knowledge of scriptures and her teaching, encouraged her to attend Shaw University in North Carolina. Fleming graduated from Shaw as class valedictorian on May 27, 1885. One year later, she received a request from the Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society to be their first representative (teacher) in the Congo. Fleming accepted and became the first Black woman appointed to serve as a missionary-teacher.

She used her position to send Congolese students to Shaw University. The first of these students, Estey Carolina, arrived at Shaw in 1888 when she was 14. Fleming's work was interrupted in 1891 when she became severely ill and was forced to return to the United States.

Reflecting on her illness in Congo and aware of the limitations in medical care for her own treatment and the treatment of the general population, Fleming decided to enroll in The Women's Medical College in Philadelphia in 1891, becoming the first African American to attend the institution. While there, she received tuition assistance from the American Baptist Missionary Society and graduated in 1895.

Upon graduation, Dr. Fleming was appointed by the Women's Missionary Foreign Mission Society to serve as a medical missionary in the Upper Congo. She was first assigned to the Irebu mission station; when it closed in 1898, she was reassigned to the Bolengi Station. Fleming was unique in what now was the Belgian Congo in that she was the only black woman doctor in the vast colony, which was nearly one-third the size of the United States. Fleming was also known for the quality of the care she provided and for her training of dozens of young Congolese women and men in basic medical skills so that the people of the region had localized access to care.

Louise Cecilia Fleming worked in the Congo for four years before contracting African sleeping sickness. She returned to Philadelphia and died there on June 20, 1899. She was 37.



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

We have a gas grill and a rototiller we are no longer using. They are free to the first person(s) who want to come get them. One or both. Call Cheryl at 913-375-6264 or Jim at 913-375-6270 to arrange pick up.

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 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

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Pastor: Phil Schmidt (574) 500-4737, phil@shalommennonite.com

Vision & Accountability Team: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler