



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

CALENDAR

Sun, Sep 20: Fellowship Meal after Sunday School
Thu, Oct 1: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am
Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp, 9 am – 4 pm (CLC)
Wed, Oct 21: Wild Church, 10 am
Sat, Oct 24: Work Day at Shalom, 9–12 am, Lunch provided
Sun, Dec 6: Fellowship Meal to celebrate Craig's return

ADMINISTRATION

Carl Rhine (chair), Andrew Martin, Chris Deiter

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

Linda Showalter (Chair), Beverly Smith, Carol Weaver

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Thu, September 17: Carol Stocksdaile
Fri, September 18: Luke Bither
Fri, September 18: Karina
Fri September 18: Robert Coleman
Sun, September 20: Layla Bither
Mon, September 21: Joel Buller



What brings you JOY? Joy is the theme of our retreat coming up on **Saturday, October 3!** Following is a loose schedule:

9 am - Coffee/tea/juice & donuts (bring snacks to share if you wish)
9:45 am - music led by Andrew and Melissa
10 am - Pastor Hazel Owens will lead us in a meditation on Joy and lead us in small group reflections.
12 noon – Lunch (Sal's Pizza and salad)
Afternoon – free – bring games to share!

There is a sheet on the back sanctuary window for you to sign your name and number of people coming. This information is needed to know how to order food and arrange for childcare.

Small Groups at Shalom: see the listing on the bulletin board in the foyer. All groups are open to additional members.



There is interest in beginning an *Aging Consciously* discussion small group. This is not intended as a lecture series, or book study, although resource books may be used. There would hopefully be a variety of topics, with some reading, journaling, and personal reflection prior to our meeting. The group would be a safe space for personal sharing, joys, worries, and hopes. The goal that every participant (who is willing) has the opportunity to be heard, understood, and supported. No details have been decided yet, although it is desired to meet in homes. Let Linda know if you would be interested. (So far there are 3 individuals ... are there more?)

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman

My Coins Count collection is underway, so bring your change with you on Sunday. Next Sunday will be the last day to contribute.



Thank you for taking part in this year's MCC School Kit Challenge! Thanks to the work of people like you throughout the U.S. and Canada, we went well above our goal of 30,000 school kits for the 2026 challenge. Working together, you, your community and other devoted supporters packed **46,481 school kits!** Each of the 46,481 school kits you shared will be a gift and treasure for a student dreaming of a bright future — and for the loved ones, teachers and community members dreaming alongside them. Thank you for being part of this year's School Kit Challenge. We hope you'll join us again next year!

Hall Monitors are helpful for the children's classes. Let Laura or Linda know if you are willing to provide the service for a Sunday.

September 20: Linda Showalter

September 27: Joann Buerge

Adult Sunday School this week: Our anti-racism work on September 20 will be a celebration of African American spirituals. We will meet in the sanctuary.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

Becky Wigginton

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair), Angie Buller

VAT Representative: Andrew Martin

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday, 9/13, Phil brought the message based on Isaiah 55:3–5; Matthew 5:17–20

This Sunday, 9/20, Stan Agbodo will bring the message

Next Sunday, 9/27, Phil will bring the message based on Isaiah 55:6–9; Matthew 6:7–13

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Mennonite Fellowship of Bloomington is a Mennonite congregation based in the college town of Blooming, IN, which is part of our CAMFell cluster of churches.
- **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. Contacts: Brad & Sabrina
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helping Togo Children Attend School

Last Sunday Stan Koffi Agbodo asked us to pray for a miracle. After church I asked him to tell me more and found out that he has been paying school fees for thirty children who are orphans or who have inadequate parental support. School fees amount to \$200 per semester or \$400 per year for each child.

We are trying to help him raise \$6000 soon and a total of \$12,000 by January. If you would like to help, you can give a check or cash to Martha Yoder Maust. If you have questions, you may speak to Stan or me. ~Thank you, Frank Kandel 309-532-2859



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

Nepal flooding response: MCC is working with local partners to provide food, water purification tablets and other supplies, as well as psychosocial support, to survivors of deadly flooding and landslides. Donate to MCC's

response at mcc.org/nepal-flooding

Colombia earthquake: MCC is also providing emergency relief in Colombia following the 7.4-magnitude earthquake. Donate to MCC's response at mcc.org/colombia-earthquake

GATHERING FOR PRAYER, HUMAN DIGNITY, AND HOPE on Sunday, September 27th at

3pm outside Miami Correctional Facility: The Catholic community invites all people of good will--regardless of faith background--to gather for a public Mass outside Miami Correctional Facility in Bunker Hill, Indiana. This gathering will take place on the 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, an annual observance established by the Catholic Church to pray for migrants and refugees, reflect on their experiences, and renew our commitment to welcoming and accompanying people who are displaced or seeking safety.

We gather to pray for those who are detained, for their families, for immigrant communities, for law enforcement and corrections officers, for elected officials, and for all Hoosiers. We gather because our faith calls us to stand with people who are suffering and to bring prayer, charity, moral clarity, and pastoral presence into places where human dignity is at stake. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. (Please see the attachment.)

Why is it important to attend if you're not Catholic, you might ask? Here are a few reasons (offered by Stuart Mora, Quaker activist):

- *One in three Hoosier voters is Catholic.*
- *Many of the detainees, themselves, are Catholic.*
- *Governor Braun, the decision-maker on whether to continue ICE detention at Miami Correctional, is Catholic.*
- *You are invited. Come exactly as the person who you are with your own thoughts, beliefs, and ideas.*

Stuart writes: This is going to be a beautiful and powerful public witness. I hope you will make the effort to join us. ~ Sabrina

Faith in Place is having their Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit coming up on **September 28-29, 2026**, with Keynote Speaker Bill McKibben. Learn more and register here: <https://aes-summit.org>"



Crop Walk 2026 is here! We walk because they walk just to get clean water. Donations will help give a family support their need of food and water. Please click on this link to donate or register to walk! [2026 CROP Hunger Walk - Shalom Mennonite Church](#) Unfortunately it looks like the regular walkers will not be able to attend the Indianapolis walk this year, we will attend virtually and walk about 3 miles on your own time. If you do want to walk with others, it is scheduled for **Sunday Oct. 4th at 2pm** starting at the Indiana Interchurch Center. Any questions please ask Julie Sanders (Juliekins7182@hotmail.com)

VOTE! You can register to vote, check your voter registration, find out where to vote, and even see who's on the ballot at indianavoters.in.gov. The last day to register to vote in the upcoming November 3 elections is **October 5**, so don't delay. ~ Daniel



- Doug Tallamy, an entomologist who proposes creating a Homegrown National Park (meaning that if everyone plants some native plants in the backyard, it would create a park larger than any of the National Parks and would provide significant habitat for birds and other wildlife) will be speaking in Westfield on **October 17** as part of the annual meeting of the Indiana Native Plant Society.
- Mike Homoya, retired Indiana State plant biologist who wrote *Wake Up Woods*, will also be speaking and should have his latest book *Wake Up Wetlands* for sale.
- Dani Tippmann, a member of the Miami tribe, will be reviewing efforts to re-introduce wild rice into Indiana waters.

The public is invited to attend. Information can be found at indiananativeplants.org under events. <https://indiananativeplants.org/ac2026-preview/> The cost includes breakfast, lunch, and pre- conference activities. ~ Wilma

PERSON OF COLOR BIO



September 15 to October 15, Americans observe **National Hispanic Heritage Month**, a time to celebrate the heritage, history, traditions, and cultural diversity of Hispanic Americans whose heritage is rooted in Spain and 19 countries and territories: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

This heritage month is celebrated mid-September to mid-October to highlight the independence of several countries. September 15 is the day that five Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Spain: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. Mexico celebrates its independence on September 16 and Chile on September 18. Also, Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day, or *Día de la Raza*, in mid-October, falls within this 30-day period.

<https://www.nationalcouncilhepm.com/national-hispanic-heritage-month>

Hispanic and *Latino* are often used interchangeably though they actually mean two different things. *Hispanic* refers to people who speak Spanish or are descended from Spanish-speaking populations, while *Latino* refers to people who are from or descended from people from Latin America.

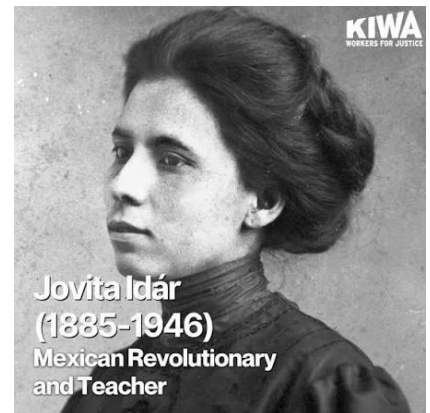
In today's United States, these terms are often thought of as racial categories and are often used to describe race, in the way that we also use White, Black, and Asian. However, the populations they describe are actually composed of various racial groups, so using them as racial categories is inaccurate. They work more accurately as descriptors of ethnicity, but even that is a stretch given the diversity of peoples they represent.

<https://www.masslegalservices.org/content/difference-between-hispanic-and-latino>

As the proverb goes, when you educate a woman, you educate a family. **Jovita Idár** believed that wholeheartedly. This famous Hispanic American began working at her father's newspaper *La Crónica*, and used the platform to speak out against racism and in support of women's and Mexican Americans' rights.

After writing an article condemning Woodrow Wilson's decision to send U.S. troops to the border, the Texas Rangers showed up at her door to shut down the paper. But she refused to let them in, literally putting her body between them and the door, and they left. Although the Rangers eventually succeeded in shutting down the paper, Idár continued to stand up for women and Mexican Americans her entire life. Idár died in San Antonio in 1946, but she lives on in spirit as one of the powerful and influential Hispanic women throughout history who have changed the world.

<https://www.rd.com/list/hispanic-americans-who-made-history/>



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

Apartment Sized Kupo Washer/Spin Dry FREE as is. Booklet and attachments with it. See Beverly



FREE Recumbent exercise bike. Electronic monitor may not work but pedals do work. Seat adjustment and resistance are functional. See Beverly.



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. It will run before and after the service.

Bulletin Information:

- Send announcements to [at lindashowalter52@gmail.com](mailto:lindashowalter52@gmail.com) by Thursday, 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.

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