



HELLO
September

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

CALENDAR

Sat, Sep 12: Eastside Creation Care meeting, 8:30 am (Outreach)
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)
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)

Mon, September 14: Nathan Deiter



What brings you JOY? Joy is the theme of our retreat coming up on **Saturday, October 3!** Pastor Hazel Owens will lead us in a meditation on Joy and lead us in small group reflections. There will be lots of time for fellowship and play as well.

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:

1. A Zoom Group meets the 1st Sunday of the month at 6:30. More members could be added.
2. A Sharing & Prayer Group meets every other Sunday at 6 pm at Shalom. They are open to more people.

3. A Study Group meets the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month at the Martin Walsh home, 7 pm. It is open to more members.
4. The Breakfast Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7 am at Illinois St. Emporium on Illinois Street. Anyone is welcome to attend.

There is interest in beginning an *Aging Consciously* discussion 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.

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, and continue until the Michiana Relief Sale (September 25-26).



Hall Monitors are helpful for the children's classes.

September 13: Joann Buerge

September 20: Linda Showalter

September 27:

Adult Sunday School classes:

- A book study using Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura will be facilitated by Andrew Martin and will meet in the fellowship hall.
- The second class will use the Salt and Light series, facilitated by Wilma Bailey, and will meet in the back of the sanctuary.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

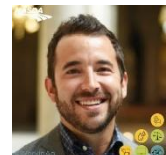
Becky Wigginton

Our next ECCN (Eastside Creation Care Network) meeting will be **Sept. 12 at Shalom Mennonite Church**, 6100 E 32nd Street, with a light breakfast from 8:30 - 9 followed by a meeting from 9 - 11.

Please invite your friends and family to join us to hear Kevin Allison from Marion County Soil & Water share his expertise on Community gardens!

Kevin will discuss:

- Location
- Soil considerations (soil type, past use, historical imagery, contamination (testing))
- Water access and considerations for cost
- Raised beds vs. in ground growing
- Whole garden management vs. Individual plot management
- Example of Bethany Community Gardens - divide community into task forces that are responsible for specific beds or operations.
- Example of Mayor's Gardens - individual plot rental
- Bylaws examples



- What happens when someone stops gardening their plot? Weed management is critical.
- Access to tools and tarps?
- Access to mulch and a way to deliver mulch to site - Ensure there is a place to dump yards of material.

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

As we prepare for Pastor Craig's return and begin discerning Shalom's pastoral structure for next year, the VAT invites you to reflect on and share your **top five priorities for the pastoral tasks that are most important to you and to the congregation.**

For the next two Sundays, there will be space in the fellowship area to provide feedback. **For this exercise, please think at a high level about the pastoral tasks and qualities that are most important for Shalom, without focusing yet on whether those needs are best carried by one pastor or more than one pastor, or on how they might complement Pastor Craig's strengths.** We will later consider this feedback together with previous pastoral task information and Craig's input as an initial step in discerning a future pastoral structure that serves Shalom well and supports Craig in his ministry.

Attached to *Journeying Together* is a list of pastoral tasks created by Mennonite Church USA. These tasks are used to help identify pastoral priorities and strengths, and we thought they could be helpful as we consider our needs and hopes as a congregation.

We invite you to identify your **top five pastoral tasks** and place a sticker next to each of those **five tasks** on the chart paper in the fellowship area. If you attend virtually or will be absent during the next two Sundays, please email your top five priorities to Nizeet at deiteraquilar@gmail.com.

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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



The worship materials for our current worship series, "God's Shalom for Our Common Home," include suggested activities for tending to creation. Feel free to check them out in the attachment!

Last Sunday, 9/6, Phil brought the message based on Isaiah 55:1–2 and Matthew 7:7–12

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

Next Sunday, 9/20, Phil will bring the message based on Isaiah 55:6–9; Matthew 6:7–13

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** The Mara Christian Church is made up of Chin Burmese refugees who speak the Mara language. The leaders of this church entered a relationship with IN-MI Conference.

- **Organization:** Family Promise is a partnership of congregations and community organizations responding to the crisis of children and their families who are homeless. They work to eliminate homelessness in Greater Indianapolis. Contact: Solomon Abebe
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Mirror Indy kid correspondents, Caden and Evie, (Sabrina and David's grandchildren) wanted to know why their favorite neighborhood park has been closed for so long. They went to Canterbury Park and interviewed their city-county councilor, the Indy Parks director and a construction worker. You can [watch their investigation on YouTube](#).

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 and lunch and pre- conference activities. ~ Wilma





PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Katherine Johnson was born in 1918 in West Virginia and was the youngest of 4 children. Her mom was a teacher, and her dad was a lumberman. The town that she lived in did not offer schooling for children of color past the eighth grade, but Johnson showed such a high aptitude for math that her parents decided to enroll her in a high school in Institute, West Virginia at the age of 10. By the age of 14, she had graduated high school and by 18 she had a degree in mathematics and French from West Virginia State.

During her time in college, she took every math course that was offered and even had additional math courses added just for her by one of her mentors, W.W. Schieffelin Claytor. After graduating she became a teacher at a black public school in Marion Virginia. She soon left her teaching job to pursue a graduate degree when she was selected as one of three African Americans to integrate West Virginia's graduate school after the Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada, a case that declared that any public higher education institution that offered enrollment to white students must also offer enrollment to black students. At the end of the first semester, however, she became pregnant and choose to leave the university to begin a family with her husband. She had 3 daughters before returning to her work.

In June of 1953, Johnson was offered a position at NACA as a “computer”. She stood out from the other computers due to her curiosity. She was constantly asking questions and wanted to learn as much as she could about NACA (now known as NASA) and her position. Eventually, she began attending meetings - at the time she was the only woman in these rooms - and a bit later she became a team member who worked on different projects for NASA. She worked for NASA for more than 30 years before retiring in 1986.

As a NASA employee, Johnson figured out the paths for spacecrafts to orbit Earth and a bit later her calculations were used to help send astronauts to the Moon and back. Even today her work “remains at the core of human space travel”. Her calculations were also “crucial to the success of the Apollo lunar program”.

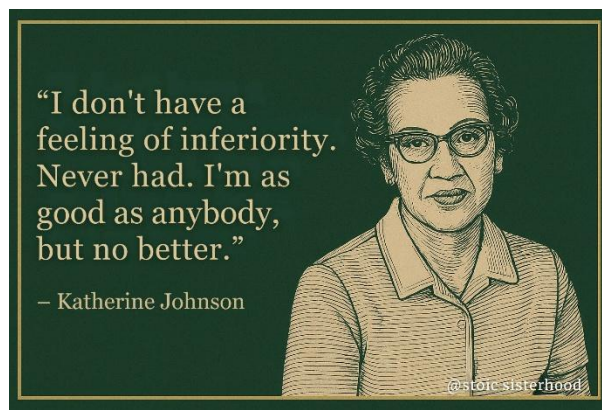
In 2015 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama and the next year she was celebrated in the book “Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly. Johnson’s handwritten calculations are also said to have been more widely trusted than those that were performed by computers, in fact, John Glenn refused to launch into space without having Johnson double-check the calculations.



As a woman of color in a field that was very white male-dominated, Johnson often found herself being undervalued. Her position of “computer” was not that much higher ranked than a secretary or janitor even though she spent her days checking the work of her superiors - engineers.

For most of her career, she was overlooked and overshadowed until President Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Despite this, Johnson recalls that she didn’t feel much discrimination. Of course, there were instances where she was discriminated against, but she says that she didn’t let those occurrences affect or demotivate her. When there was a space she was “meant” to stay out of she became relentless and eventually was granted the same privileges as her white male counterparts.

Edited from <https://cst.princeton.edu/people/katherine-johnson>



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 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.

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