



"The earth is what
we all have in
common."

-Wendell Berry

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

APRIL 15, 2026

CALENDAR

Sun, Apr 19: 3rd Sunday Carry-In after Sunday School (see announcements)

Thu, May 7: Shalom Sisters Lunch @ The Bosphorous, 11:30 am (see CLC)

Thu, May 7: Eastside Creation Care Network (see Outreach) will be touring Recycle Force,
816 N. Sherman Drive, 2:30 pm

Sat, October 3, 2026: 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: Craig Oury

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Wed, April 15: Krystal Johnson

Thu, April 16: Charles & Lorraine Harms, 1971

Sun, Apr 19: Taylor Cook

Mon, April 20: Carol Weaver

Mon, Apr 20: Nizeet Deiter



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at The Bosphorus, 935 S East St., Thursday, May 7th at 11:30 am. The Bosphorus is Indiana's and Indianapolis' first and only Turkish restaurant. All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:



May 7 at 2:30 pm, Eastside Creation Care Network will be touring Recycle Force, 816 N. Sherman Drive. RecycleForce is a 501(c)(3) committed to reducing crime through employment and job training while improving the environment through electronics recycling. Since 2006, RecycleForce has safely recycled more than 100 million pounds of electronic waste and recycles up to 97% of everything that comes through its doors.

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
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

We are grateful to share that the VAT has approved Pastor Craig's sabbatical plans for July 1 through December 1. Please see *the attached document* for additional details.

Regarding the interim pastor, we have sent the offer letter and are continuing conversations with our prospective interim pastor.

Please keep Pastor Craig in your prayers during this season, that his strength may be renewed and that he may rise on wings like eagles. Please also pray that God would guide us clearly as we continue moving forward in the process of securing an interim pastor.

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (4/12) Mike Wigginton brought the message.

This Sunday (4/19) Craig will bring the message from Luke 24:13-35.

Next Sunday (4/26) Craig will bring the message from Luke 24:36-44.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church: Waterford Mennonite Church** is a Mennonite church in Goshen, Indiana which is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference

- **Organization: Indiana AID** (Assistance to Immigrants in Detention) is a volunteer group that supports immigrants detained in the state of Indiana by visiting them, bearing witness to their experiences, and providing resources to them and their families. (Contact: Brian Bither)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



3RD SUNDAY CARRY-IN: This Sunday, April 19th after Sunday School - please bring dishes ready to set out on the tables.

Thank you for supporting our family as we walked with my mom, Jeanne Houser, through these past 16+ years. Your care, compassion, and words of encouragement have uplifted each of us. You can [read Jeanne's obituary here](#) and also get the link to her Celebration of Life this Saturday at 11:30 a.m. EST [via YouTube](#). Grateful for each of you at Shalom! ~ -Abri



Attached is a list of suggested readings from Arden Shank. Some are books and some are short articles or videos. ~ Martha



Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana has a podcast titled *Seminary Reacts*. The podcasts are available on YouTube or wherever. On the podcast, the host poses questions which have been sent in by listeners to seminary professors who share their thoughts on the topic. The first episode of this season dealt with the question of hell and Epstein. If there is no hell then there will never be justice for Epstein's victims. If there is a hell, then we can know that justice will be served if not in this world then the next. Malinda Berry responds to the question. ~ Wilma

For more than two years, the U.S. government has enabled and normalized genocide against Palestinians in Gaza with impunity, and yesterday morning, President Donald Trump made overtly genocidal threats “that a whole civilization” could die in order to achieve his military goals in Iran.

The U.S. and Israeli governments have already committed enormous harm in Iran, including war crimes. Even as a fragile ceasefire in Iran begins, Israel is continuing to bomb Lebanon, [dropping bombs in 100 locations in just 10 minutes today](#). Over the past month, U.S. and Israeli actions in the region have displaced millions of people from their homes. For years, the Christian Zionist lobby [paved the way for this moment](#). According to them, any violence, war, and destruction can be justified and even celebrated if it is seen to help usher in the end times. That's why Christian Zionists are cheering on the ethnic cleansing set to take place in Lebanon as a step toward “Greater Israel,” and hailing the war in Iran as the Battle of Armageddon. As Christians, we oppose genocide and ethnic cleansing against *any people*, and believe in a future for our world grounded in true and just peace—not false peace held up by domination, violence, and empire.

[Our April 15 Community Call, “Not Our End Times”](#) will focus on how Christian Zionism has fueled the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran and how we respond. Join us to hear from:

- Joy Metzler, a military defector and conscientious objector
- Izzy Mustafa, campaigns coordinator with Adalah Justice Project
- Tommy Airey, a leader with CFP-Detroit, and member of CFP's Theo-Politics Team.

[REGISTER today](#)



Hello IMMC (Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference) members and friends,

A highlight of my role as a conference minister is to join our congregations for worship. Recently I had the opportunity to worship with a small congregation who is pondering questions about their age and energy for leadership. Most of the folks in the congregation are covering multiple tasks, some folks are tired, and others can't take on more. Amid this reality, they named some of the blessings of being in community together.

- We are family.
- This is a safe space to share our gifts; we don't have to be perfect.
- We welcome everyone warmly, share with each other genuinely, and pray for one another.
- We journey together with hope ... led by the Spirit.
- I feel cared for and loved.

I'm deeply moved by the reality that this small congregation designates 15% of their offerings to First Fruits giving in support of the larger conference and denomination, plus they collect regularly for mission projects beyond their congregation. These signs of health and the blessings they named encouraged them to keep on keeping on, even as they streamline tasks and stop doing what isn't necessary.

As a conference leader, I had the opportunity to remind them they're not alone. Other congregations have faced similar questions, and conference is here to journey with them.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways that you, our IMMC community, contribute to the ministry of conference. Your partnership makes it possible for us to walk with member congregations through all seasons.

We know you believe this ministry of conference is worth doing. We need funds to continue the work. This fiscal year (July 2025 – June 2026), we increased our goal for individual donor contributions to \$58,000. The generosity of 10 new donors and the increased donations of ongoing donors have been so encouraging. Individual giving through March 2026 is double what it was at the end of March 2025!

Still, we have a ways to go. We invite you to continue your impact with a financial gifts.



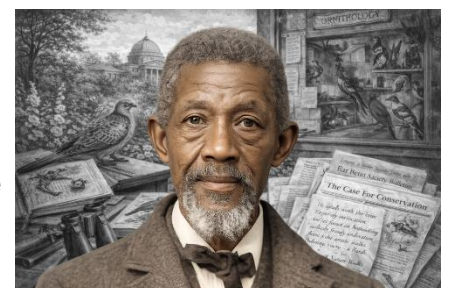
Thank you,
Sharon Witmer Yoder, Conference Co-Minister
sharon@im.mennonite.net

[Give Online or by Mail](#)

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Solomon Brown
1829-1906

Solomon G. Brown, poet, lecturer, and scientific technician, became the first African American employee at the Smithsonian Institution. He also played a significant role in the implementation of the first electric telegraph and was well versed in the study of natural history.



Born on February 14, 1829, in Washington D.C., Brown was the fourth of six children born to Isaac and Rachel Brown, both ex-slaves. When his father died in 1832, the Brown family was left homeless and heavily in debt. Due to this enormous setback, Solomon was unable to attain a formal education.

At the age of fifteen, he began working at the Washington, D.C. post office where he was assigned to assist Joseph Henry and Samuel F.B. Morse on the installation of the first Morse telegraph line in the nation. Despite his youth, Brown was one of the technicians who helped set up the telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Brown continued to work for Samuel F.B. Morse for the next seven years.

Beginning in 1852 when Joseph Henry became first secretary of the newly opened Smithsonian Institution, he hired Brown as a general laborer. By 1864, Brown was a museum assistant, and by 1869, he was the registrar in charges of transportation, registry and storage of animal specimens and materials received by the institution. He also assisted in preparing maps and drawings for virtually all Smithsonian lectures between 1870 and 1887. Brown worked under the first three secretaries of the institution. Correspondence between Brown and Spencer F. Baird (the secretary from 1878 to 1887) illustrate his importance in the operation of the museum.

While at the Smithsonian, Brown educated himself in the field of natural history. His association with the Smithsonian provided him with a plethora of information, which he passed on to scientific societies in Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia. In addition to his speaking engagements, Brown dedicated much of his time to poetry. He participated in readings throughout the Washington, D.C. area, and his poems were published in one of the leading African American newspapers of the day, the *Washington Bee*.

Brown was also an activist, volunteering in various civic and educational programs aimed at advancing African Americans. He was a trustee of Wilberforce University in Ohio and of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He founded the Pioneer Sabbath School in the city and was superintendent of the North Washington Mission Sunday School. In 1866, Brown was elected president of the National Union League, an important political organization for African Americans across the South. From 1871 to 1874, he served three consecutive one-year terms in the legislature of the District of Columbia.

On February 14, 1906, after 54 years of service at the Smithsonian Institute, Solomon Brown retired. He passed away in Washington, D.C. only a few months later on June 24, 1906.

<https://blackpast.org/african-american-history/brown-solomon-g-1829-1906/>



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:
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 Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler
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