



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

APRIL 29, 2026

CALENDAR

- Thu, May 7: Shalom Sisters Lunch @ The Bosphorus, 11:30 am (see CLC)
- Thu, May 7: Eastside Creation Care Network (see Outreach) Recycle Force tour, 816 N. Sherman Drive, 2:30 pm
- Sun, May 17: 3rd Sunday Carry-In after Sunday School (see CLC)
- 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)

Thursday, April 30: Liam Sanders
Sunday, May 3: Ernie Hodel



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.

In the kitchen and Fellowship Hall we have a lot of items -- tables and kitchen tools -- that Shalom congregant are welcome to borrow. We just ask that you sign them out and back in on a clip board under the phone in the kitchen. If it's something that is used regularly, like the refrigerator, talk with one of the fellowship team, Becky, Krystal or Carol W.

Our 3rd Sunday Carry-In in May will be on the 17th after Sunday School. That week is Herb and Joyce Troyer's 50th wedding Anniversary and we will celebrate with them During our carry-in with cake! The rest of us will focus on salads, breads or main dishes.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Summer and Fall plans for Children's Education:

Parents, Grandparents, Teachers, Future Volunteers, and Everyone - please provide any feedback on these tentative plans to Laura.

Summer: For many summer Sundays, the Discipling Commission would like to have intergenerational Sunday school with kids age 5+ participating alongside the adults. For the littler kids, ages 2-4, we'd like to have a teacher in the classroom in case the intergenerational activities are too advanced for them (or they'd just rather play!).

We need a teacher for ages 2-4 for the following dates:

June 7, 14, and 28

July 12, 19, and 26

August 2

Fall: We will start our Fall curriculum on August 23 rather than waiting until September this year. Since we usually don't offer classes on holidays like Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekend, we will bring lessons forward by 2 weeks and still have enough lessons for the quarter.

Classroom breakdown plans are as follows. Please reach out to Laura with any questions or wonderings, especially if your child is placed in a different class than you expected. The structure below is proposed as a starting place, not the final draft! I've left our lone "2 turning 3" year old, Nathan, off the list for now to think through what will work best for him.

PreK-K:

Irene Koop
Allison Sanders
Vivienne Bauman
Matthias Martin Walsh
Abigail Deiter
Zema Falk
Yeshi Lederach

Younger Elem (1st-3rd)

Luke Bither
Kara Hochstetler
Elise Hochstetler
Lena Bauman
Junia Martin Walsh
Layla Bither

Upper Elem (4th-6th)

Liam Sander
Calvin Hochstetler
Sydney Maust
Leo Maust
Lexie Bither

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.

All are welcome and it is very interesting. ~ Becky

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

As we continue this journey together, we give thanks to God, who is faithful and continues the good work He has begun among us.

The VAT wants to reiterate that Pastor Craig's sabbatical has been approved and will take place from **July 1 through December 1, 2026**. If you would like to learn more about the sabbatical plans, *please see the attachment*. We continue to pray that Pastor Craig's sabbatical will be a season of rest, renewal, and strength for him.

We are also thankful that Pastor Philip Schmidt has started the onboarding process to provide pastoral coverage during this season. His first Sunday with us will be **May 3**. He will have an overlap period from **May 3 through June 30**, followed by the sabbatical coverage period from **July 1 through December 1**.



Pastor Philip will commute from Elkhart County to Indianapolis, arriving on Saturdays and returning home on Mondays after the workday in Indianapolis. He will work remotely for the remainder of the week. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help host Pastor Philip while he is with us.

For your convenience, this announcement is also included in the attached PDF, along with a picture of Pastor Philip.

Shalom family, we are grateful for your continued prayers, care, and understanding during this season. ~ Nizeet

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (4/26) Craig brought the message from Luke 24:36-44.

This Sunday (5/3) Craig will bring the message.

Next Sunday (5/10) Craig will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *Ann Arbor Mennonite Church* is a small Mennonite church in Ann Arbor, Michigan which is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** *Mennonite Women USA* is a sisterhood of women following Jesus who engage the voices of all women, honoring our/their stories, practicing justice, and embracing healing. (Contact: CoraLyn Turentine)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Some things left on the shelf above the coat rack want to go home. If you know the true home for any items, please contact Carol Bixler before she finds a new home for them!



I would like to start an “Oldie but Goodie” picture slide on the Sharing our Lives power point. If you have a picture you’d like to contribute, forward it to my email (lindashowalter52@gmail). If you do not want you or any of your family included, let me know. FB is my friend for pictures 😊 so if you don’t want them displayed, let me know that, too. Linda



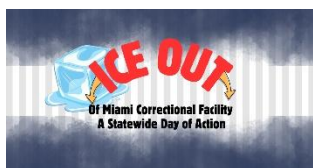
From Amigo Centre: The registration deadline for the Wild Church Retreat has been extended to **May 3rd (this Sunday).**

Wild Church Retreat, May 15-17

Experience the presence of God through observations of nature and sharing with others: witness the hope of the Creator in the delicate flowers; smell the aroma of new beginnings in the fresh pine air; and hear the wisdom of God through the voices of others.

This retreat, formerly Amigo Women's Retreat, is now open to all. For those interested, there will be time set aside for a women's cohort. Facilitated by Sharon Brugger Norton (pastor of Outdoor Sanctuary Wild Church) and Stan Harder.

Learn more at amigocentre.org/wildchurch



May 16th is a state-wide Day of Action to *End Ice Detention at Miami Correctional Facility.*

The Peace Church Coalition is holding an action at **Broad Ripple Art Center**, 12:00-1:00. The event will include **Music by Peaceful Voices** weaved within

Messages of Hope, Prayers, and Stories from our immigrant neighbors

Meet @ 11:45 in the parking lot near the Monon Trail <https://indyartcenter.org/> **If you are**

interested in joining, please email rhondabake@aol.com. If you are interested in joining the

singing group, contact Rhonda at rhondabake@aol.com. Rehearsals for this event will be at Northview Church of the Brethren 5555 East 46th Street, **May 10th** 12:30-2:00 and **May 14** 6:00-

7:30.

*** this will include a sign-making time.** (if you can't make it to rehearsal but want to sing, contact Rhonda Baker at rhondabake@aol.com). We will sing protest songs, hymns, and singing resistance songs. Here is a link to google doc with song lyrics, music, and recordings:

[Peaceful Voices - Google Drive](#)



Mennonite Action Hiring Executive Director

Mennonite Action co-founders Nick Martin and Adam Ramer are transitioning out of the

organization. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Mennonite Action grew from an idea to a movement organization with 5 staff and dozens of chapters across the United States. Nick and Adam feel that now is a good time to pass the mantle on to new staff leadership.

To keep this movement growing into the future, Mennonite Action has decided to hire an Executive Director. Please help us find great candidates by passing on the application to your networks. To view the application or to apply, you can visit mennoniteaction.org/executivedirector

~ Sabrina

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Anna Julia Cooper The Unsung Mother of Black Feminism



If you have a US passport today, you can flip to a particular page and read this quote:
“The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class -- it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity.”

This quote comes from Anna Julia Cooper, an early proponent of Black feminist – womanist - theory. More than a century after Cooper wrote those words, they found their way into an unlikely place: the pages of the United States passport.

In 2007, the State Department introduced a redesigned “American Icon” passport that included historical images and quotations printed on the visa pages. The goal was to showcase the ideals of American democracy and freedom to citizens traveling abroad. Designers selected quotations from a range of historical figures whose words spoke to liberty, equality, and human dignity.

Among those 13 quotations was Anna Julia Cooper’s line from her book, *A Voice from the South*. Cooper is one of the few Black intellectuals, and the only woman, whose words are printed in the booklet. The quote is fitting. Cooper’s insistence that freedom belongs to all people, not merely to one race or class, echoes the very ideals the United States claims to represent on the global stage.

Cooper was born into slavery in 1858 in Raleigh, North Carolina and lived to 105 years old. Like many enslaved people, Cooper was bi-racial. Her enslaver’s brother was likely her father, but her mother refused to confirm the assumption.

Anna had the opportunity to attain a formal education at an early age and took full advantage of this intellectual foundation. She excelled as a student at Saint Augustine’s Normal and Collegiate Institute in Raleigh. Upon graduation at age eighteen, she married a classmate, George Cooper, who had trained to be a minister. Their marriage lasted only two years

because George died. For the rest of her life, Anna remained single and committed her time and energy to education.

She enrolled in Oberlin College, well-known for its ties to abolitionism prior to the Civil War and for being one of the few colleges open to Black students at the time. Cooper went on to earn both her bachelor and master's degree from there in 1887. She then moved to Washington, DC, where she would spend the majority of her professional career.

She accepted a teaching position at the prestigious M Street High School (later Paul Laurence Dunbar High School). She later became principal of the school. Like Du Bois, Cooper promoted the idea that Black people can and should learn subjects like Latin, Greek, French, and philosophy just as she had.

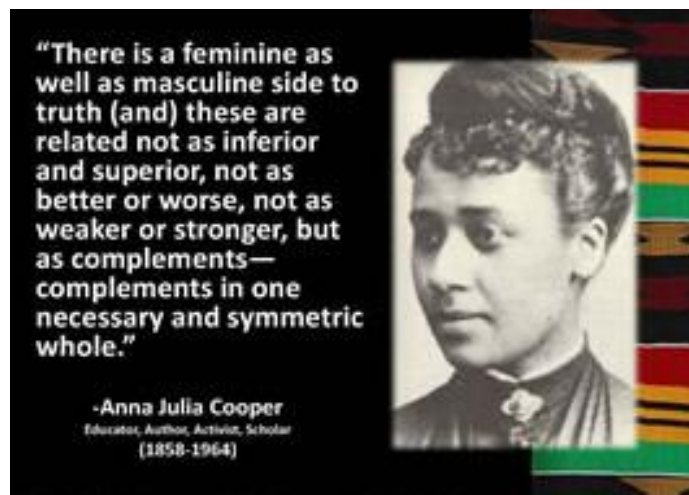
For more than a decade she engaged in doctoral research and finally graduated with a PhD from the Sorbonne in Paris in 1925 at the age of sixty-six years old. Cooper was just the fourth Black woman to earn a PhD.

In 1931, Cooper became the president of Frelinghuysen University in Washington, DC, a nontraditional school educating Black working-class adult learners that served as a forerunner of the modern community college model.

Cooper is best known for a series of essays she wrote that were collected into the volume *A Voice from the South*. The book, originally published in 1892, centers the educational and moral uplift of Black women as central to the Black community and the overall well-being of society. Her quote about freedom comes in a section where she is critiquing the women's movement for its racism against Black women.

She said the Women's Movement could be a movement of universal good "if its pioneers could only realize it." They should move beyond the racial prejudices that divided the rest of society and live up to the ideals of the movement. "It is important and fundamental that there be no chromatic or other aberration when the teacher is settling the point, 'Who is my neighbor?'" To pursue women's rights was to pursue human rights.

[W]hen race, color, sex, condition, are realized to be the accidents, not the substance of life, and consequently as not obscuring or modifying the inalienable title to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness...then woman's lesson is taught and woman's cause is won—not the white woman nor the black woman nor the red woman, but the cause of every man or woman who has writhed silently under a mighty wrong." She concludes that section with a prayer, "God hasten the day."





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

