



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JUNE 4, 2025

CALENDAR

Thu, Jun 5: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (see announcement under CLC)

Wed, Jun 18: Wild Church, 10 am (see announcement)

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Dan Rosenberger
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations!

Wed, Jun 4: Peter & Delicia Bravo Wigginton, 2011

Sat, Jun 7: Dan Rosenberger

Mon, Jun 9: Carol & Mark Stocksdale, 1989

Tue, Jun 10: Cam Cook

Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at La Casa Grande Mexican Grill, 6935 Lake Plaza Drive. To beat the lunch rush, we'll meet at 11:30. (75th & Binford area)



We'll wait a couple more weeks for people to sign up for the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati, then set a date and get a group discount.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Summer Children's Sunday School volunteer needs:

The biggest need right now is for the Pre-K/K class for June 8. Please let Laura know if you can help.

There are 10 slots open to spend some time with our kids this summer.

- 2-yr old class:
 - August 10
- Pre-K/K:
 - June 8, 22, and 29
 - July 13 and 27
 - August 24
- Elementary:
 - July 27
 - Aug 24

Adult Sunday School Classes:

June 8: The intergenerational Sunday school class will be meeting in the fellowship hall. Rod Maust & Joann Buerge will be sharing stories of Faith & Food. We will have some food samples and activities.

June 15: Caucus Sunday

June 22: Food and Faith, intergenerational

June 29: Food and Faith, intergenerational

July 6: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 13: Food and Faith, intergenerational

July 20: Caucus Sunday

July 27: Reports from IN-MI and MCUSA conferences

August 3: Beginning of I Corinthians Bible study and another class, led by Herb Troyer

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair beginning in September), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Frank Kandel (Chair), Nizeet Deiter (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Grace Rhine
Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Brittany Bither (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (6/1) Craig brought the message from Acts 1.

This week (6/8) Pastor Monica will be visiting and bringing the message.

Next Sunday (6/15) we will hear from our Conference pastor via video

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *North Goshen Mennonite Church* is a church in our conference located in Goshen, Indiana.
- **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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig will be on vacation June 2 - June 8. If there are any emergencies during this time please contact the VAT chair, Frank Kandel.

Echoes of Injustice: From Manzanar to Modern-Day Mass Deportations is a 12-minute documentary by Dr. Jemar Tisby comparing the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War 2 to the mass deportations of immigrants being carried out today. Watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4BbMuYSbFc>

Brad Yoder's testimony to Senator Todd Young's staff on Monday is attached.



Wild Church will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at Meltzer Woods Nature Preserve in Shelbyville, IN. The address is 1522 S 600 E. Take I-74 E to IN 244 E, turn left onto S 600 E. Park in the lot on the east side of the Preserve.

REFLECTION

IN HONOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC MONTH PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Mahalia Jackson

October 26, 1911 — January 27, 1972

Mahalia Jackson was born to Charity Clark and Johnny Jackson, a stevedore and weekend barber. Clark and Jackson were unmarried, a common arrangement among black women in New Orleans at the



time. He lived elsewhere, never joining Charity as a parent. Both sets of Mahalia's grandparents were born into slavery, Charity's older sister, Mahala "Duke" Paul, was her daughter's namesake, sharing the spelling without the "i". Duke hosted Charity and their five other sisters and children in her leaky three-room shotgun house in New Orleans.

The Clarks were devout Baptists attending nearby Plymouth Rock Baptist Church. Sabbath was strictly followed. As members of the church, they were expected to attend services, participate in activities there, and follow a code of conduct: no jazz, no card games, and no "high life": drinking or visiting bars or juke joints. Dancing was only allowed in the church when one was moved by the spirit. The adult choir at Plymouth Rock sang traditional Protestant hymns, typically written by Isaac Watts and his contemporaries. Jackson enjoyed the music sung by the congregation more. These songs would be lined out: called out from the pulpit, with the congregation singing it back. They had a stronger rhythm, accentuated with clapping and foot-tapping, which Jackson later said gave her "the bounce" that carried with her decades later.

Next door to Duke's house was a small Pentecostal church that Jackson never attended but stood outside during services and listened raptly. Music here was louder and more exuberant. The congregation included "jubilees" or uptempo spirituals in their singing. Jackson later remembered, "These people had no choir or no organ. They used the drum, the cymbal, the tambourine, and the steel triangle. Everybody in there sang, and they clapped and stomped their feet, and sang with their whole bodies. They had a beat, a rhythm we held on to from slavery days, and their music was so strong and expressive. It used to bring tears to my eyes."

Jackson moved with her Aunt Hannah to Chicago; this occurred during the Great Migration, a massive movement of black Southerners to Northern cities. Between 1910 and 1970, hundreds of thousands of rural Southern blacks moved to Chicago, transforming a neighborhood in the South Side into Bronzeville, a black city within a city which was mostly self-sufficient, prosperous, and teeming in the 1920s. This movement caused white flight with whites moving to suburbs, leaving established white churches and synagogues with dwindling members. Their mortgages were taken over by black congregations in good position to settle in Bronzeville. Members of these churches were, in Jackson's term, "society Negroes" who were well educated and eager to prove their successful assimilation into white American society. Musical services tended to be formal, presenting solemnly delivered hymns written by Isaac Watts and other European composers. Shouting and clapping were generally not allowed as they were viewed as undignified. Special programs and musicals tended to feature sophisticated choral arrangements to prove the quality of the choir.

This difference between the styles in Northern urban churches and the South was vividly illustrated when the Johnson Singers (a vocal group formed by the pastor's sons, Prince, Wilbur, and Robert Johnson, and Louise Lemon: Chicago's first black gospel group) appeared at a church one evening and Jackson stood out to sing solo, scandalizing the pastor with her exuberant shouts. He accused her of blasphemy, bringing "twisting jazz" into the church. Jackson was momentarily shocked before retorting, "This is the way we *sing* down South!" The minister was not alone in his apprehension. She was often so involved in singing she was mostly unaware how she moved her body. To hide her movements, pastors urged her to wear loose fitting robes which she often lifted a few inches from the ground, and they accused her of employing "snake hips" while dancing when the spirit moved her. Enduring another indignity, Jackson scraped together four dollars (equivalent to \$73 in 2024) to pay a talented black operatic tenor for a professional assessment of her voice. She was dismayed when the professor chastised her: "You've got to learn to stop hollering. It will take time to build up your

voice. The way you sing is not a credit to the Negro race. You've got to learn to sing songs so that white people can understand them.”

Soon Jackson found the mentor she was seeking. Thomas A. Dorsey, a seasoned blues musician trying to transition to gospel music, trained Jackson for two months, persuading her to sing slower songs to maximize their emotional effect. Dorsey had a motive: he needed a singer to help sell his sheet music. He recruited Jackson to stand on Chicago street corners with him and sing his songs, hoping to sell them for ten cents a page. It was not the financial success Dorsey hoped for, but their collaboration resulted in the unintentional conception of gospel blues solo singing in Chicago.

There is much more to Mahalia Jackson's story. Read more at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahalia_Jackson



Need something? Have something to give away?

ROUTINE INFORMATION

“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 Linda Showalter 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.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER is compiled by Linda Showalter each week. Send information to office@shalommennonite.com by 5 pm on Wednesday.

SAM BIXLER manages our church directory, email address list, and telephone numbers. You can email changes or additions to the office at office@shalommennonite.com or bixlersc@gmail.com.

CRAIG OURY is managing our Zoom calendar, church calendar, and uploads minutes on the church website. If you need to schedule a meeting using the church zoom account or have minutes to upload, you can email the office at office@shalommennonite.com or craig@shalommennonite.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 Craig at office@shalommennonite.com so he can add your item to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

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.

<p>Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church: 6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 shalommennonite.com Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181 Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine Pastors Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
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