



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

AUGUST 26, 2026

CALENDAR

Sun, Aug 30: Back-to-school Cookout, 5 – 8 pm (CLC)
 Thu, Sep 4: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (CLC)
 Sat, Sep 12: Eastside Creation Care meeting (Outreach)
 Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp, 9 am – 4 pm
 Sat, Oct 24: (moved from the 17th) Work Day at Shalom, 9–12 am, Lunch provided
 Sun, Dec 6: Fellowship Meal to celebrate Craig's return

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Carl Rhine

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Today, August 26: Craig Oury
 Fri, August 28: Solomon Abebe
 Fri, August 28: Grace Rhine
 Mon, August 31: Melissa Walsh



RETREAT is coming up on **Saturday, October 3!** 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.

August 30, 5:00 - 8:00: Late Summer, Back to School Cookout. Bring a side dish and we will have meats and food to grill. Bring your lawn chairs and come at 4:30 to help set up and start the grills.



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be **Thursday, September 4th** at 11:30 am, meeting at Pho Saigon, a Vietnamese restaurant. It is located at 4760 W 38th St.



Small Groups at Shalom:

Twenty-nine out of approximately 50 people are signed up in 4 small groups. Themes, times and location are different for each group.

- A Zoom group meets the 1st Sunday of the month at 6:30. More members could be added.
- A Sharing & Prayer meets every other Sunday at 6 pm at Shalom. They are open to more people.
- A Study Group meets the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month at the Martin Walsh home, 7 pm.
- The Breakfast Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7 am at Illinois St. Emporium on Illinois Street. Anyone is welcome to attend.

This time of year is a good time to look at small groups. It's a time when interested people can join a group, people wanting a change can move to a different group, or someone who has an idea for a theme can start a new group.

How could we make small groups more amenable to families with young children that need to be home by a certain time?

We are spread out in all directions in the Indianapolis area. Are there ways to address distances traveled?

If you're interested in joining a group, would be interested in starting a new one, or would like to change groups, talk to Linda S.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

My Coins Count collection is underway (so bring your change with you on Sunday) and continuing until the Michiana Relief Sale (September 25-26).



Hall Monitors are helpful for the children's classes.

August 30: Melissa Walsh

September 6: Joann Buerge

September 13: Linda Showalter

September 20:

September 27:

Shine has provided some videos that outline the Shine Curriculum. Please watch if you want to know more about the Shine teaching approach:

https://shinecurriculum.com/resources/teachertraining/?utm_source=Shine&utm_campaign=2646b8c075-

EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_05_02_06_46_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_492456bd8a-586294385&mc_cid=2646b8c075&mc_eid=6d5faf2715

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 basement classroom #1.
- 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

(chair), Becky Wigginton

Pastoral Representative:

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

Thank you all for participating in the VAT nomination process. As a result, Charity Bauman has agreed to serve another three-year term on the VAT. ~ Jim

The full Organization Chart for 2026-27 (beginning in September) is attached and is posted on the foyer bulletin board.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

Pastoral Representative:

As we prepare for Pastor Craig's return and our pastoral structure next year, the VAT invites you to reflect on and share your top priorities for our pastoral role(s). This Sunday, Aug 30, through Sunday, Sept. 13, there will be space in the fellowship area to give feedback on the pastoral tasks important to you and the congregation. Posted downstairs (on Sunday) and attached to the Journeying Together is a list of pastoral tasks created by MCUSA. These are used to identify pastoral strengths and we thought could be helpful in determining our needs

and desires as a congregation. We invite you to identify your top five pastoral tasks, considering what is important to you and for Shalom, and add stickers next to each of those five tasks on the chart paper. If you attend virtually or will be absent the next three Sundays, please share those top five priorities with Nizeet at deiteraquilar@gmail.com. Thank you for your thoughtful reflection and participation as we complete this first step of identifying the future pastoral structure for Shalom.

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday, 8/23, Phil brought the message based on Deuteronomy 6:4–9

This Sunday, 8/30, Phil will bring the message based on John 4:19–26

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

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Kern Road Mennonite Church is in South Bend.
- **Organization:** Morning Star Ministries is a food pantry ministry run by Morning Star Church in Muncie, which Shalom supports. In addition to food, they offer community meals and care to the people whom they serve. Contact: Frank Kandel
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUPPORT OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS: END ICE DETENTION AT MIAMI CORRECTIONAL FACILITY -- STATEWIDE WEEKEND OF WITNESS AUGUST 28-30

The **PEACE CHURCH COALITION WITNESS TO END ICE DETENTION** is part of the **STATEWIDE WEEKEND OF WITNESS** calling for an end to ICE detention at Miami Correctional Facility and all places of detention of our immigrant neighbors. The Peace Church Coalition (PCC) will gather on **Saturday, August 29, 3:00 - 4:00 pm**, at **65th St & Monon Trail (at small pavilion across from Broad Ripple Brew Pub)** to raise our voices in solidarity with our immigrant neighbors with music, prayer, and immigrants' stories. (The PCC includes Mennonites, Brethren, and Friends/Quakers). Please invite your friends and family--all are welcome to participate. See attachment.

Feel free to **join one of many witnesses occurring at various locations and times** during the **weekend of August 28-30**. Here is a list: <https://www.indivisiblecentralindiana.org/event-details/end-ice-detention-statewide-weekend-of-action>

PERSON OF COLOR BIO (A WEEK LATE)

On or about **August 20, 1619**, “20 and odd” Angolans, kidnapped by the Portuguese, arrive in the British colony of Virginia and were then bought by English colonists. The exact date is not definitively known, but this date has been chosen by many to mark the arrival of the enslaved Africans in the New World—beginning two and a half centuries of slavery in North America.

Founded at Jamestown in 1607, the Virginia Colony was home to about 700 people by 1619. The first enslaved Africans to arrive in Virginia disembarked at Point Comfort, in what is today known as Fort Monroe. Most of their names, as well as the exact number who remained at Point Comfort have been lost to history, but much is known about their journey.



They were originally kidnapped by Portuguese colonial forces, who sent captured members of the native Kongo and Ndongo kingdoms on a forced march to the port of Luanda, the capital of modern-day Angola. From there, they were ordered on the ship *San Juan Bautista*, which set sail for Veracruz in the colony of New Spain. As was quite common, about 150 of the 350 captives aboard the ship died during the crossing. Then, as it approached its destination, the ship was attacked by two privateer ships, the *White Lion* and the *Treasurer*. Crews from the two ships kidnapped up to 60 of the *Bautista*'s enslaved people. It was the *White Lion* which docked at Virginia Colony's Point Comfort and traded some of the prisoners for food on August 20, 1619.

Scholars note that the arrivals were technically sold as indentured servants. Indentured servants agreed, or in many cases were forced, to work with no pay for a set amount of time, often to pay off a debt and could legally expect to become free at the end of the contract. Many Europeans who arrived in the Americas came as indentured servants. Despite this classification—and records which indicate that some of them did eventually obtain their freedom—it is clear that the Africans arriving at Point Comfort in 1619 were forced into servitude and that they fit the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' definition of enslaved peoples.

The arrival at Point Comfort marked a new chapter in the history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which began in the early 1500s and continued into the mid-1800s. The trade uprooted roughly 12 million Africans, depositing roughly 5 million in Brazil and over 3 million in the Caribbean. Though the number of Africans brought to mainland North America was relatively small—roughly 400,000—their labor and that of their descendants was crucial to the economies of the British colonies and, later, the United States.

Two of the Africans who arrived aboard the *White Lion*, Antonio and Isabella, became “servants” of Captain William Tucker, commander of Point Comfort. Their son William is the first known African child to have been born in America, and under the law of the time he was born a freeman. In the coming decades, however, slavery became codified.

Servants of African origin were oftentimes forced to continue working after the end of their contract, and in 1640 a Virginia court sentenced rebellious servant John Punch to a lifetime of slavery. With fewer white indentured servants arriving from England, a racial caste system developed, and African servants were increasingly held for life. In 1662, a Virginia court ruled that children born to enslaved mothers were the property of the mother's owner.

As cash crops like tobacco, cotton and sugar became pillars of the colonial economy, slavery became its engine. Though the slave trade was outlawed in 1807, chattel slavery and the plantation economy it made possible flourished in the South. The 1860 census found that there were 3,953,760 enslaved people in the United States, making up roughly 13 percent of the total population.

The conflict between abolitionists and those who wanted to preserve and spread slavery was a major catalyst in the outbreak of the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln formally freed enslaved people in the South with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, although it was not until the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865 that slavery was formally abolished in the United States.

In the end, 246 brutal years of slavery had an incalculable effect on American society. It would take another century after the Civil War for racial segregation to be declared unconstitutional, but the end of state-sanctioned racism was by no means the end of racism and discrimination in America.

Because it became a crucial part of the culture and economy of early America after its introduction in Jamestown, slavery is often referred to as the nation's "original sin."

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/august-20/first-african-slave-ship-arrives-jamestown-colony>



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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Vision & Accountability Team: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler