



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

CALENDAR

Thu, February 5: Shalom Sisters Lunch @ Incredible India, 11:30 am (see CLC)
Sun, February 8: Game Night @ Shalom; 4pm (see CLC)
Sun, February 15: Carry-in Fellowship meal after Sunday School
Sat, February 21: Arlington Woods Neighborhood gathering, 11 am – 3:30 pm
Sun March 15: Pizzas For Peace after Sunday School
Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp (see CLC)

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, February 4: Yeshi Lederach

Sun, February 8: Barbara Longoria

Could we have a card shower for Barbara? She'd be delighted to hear from us!
Her address is 2339 S State Rd, 135 Apt 102 Greenwood, IN 46143.



LOCATION CHANGED: Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet on **February 5** at Incredible India, 7525 E 96th St, at 11:30 am.



Game Night on Sunday, February 8 in the fellowship hall. We understand there is a Game happening at the same time ... never fear, it will be on the TV. Bring snacks and table games to share.



Our annual retreat isn't until **October 3**, but it's been proven that planning needs to start early! CLC proposes the theme of "Joy" for this year's emphasis. We are asking for help in the planning and implementation of this. If you have interest, please contact Linda S, Beverly, Bethany or Craig.



Community Life Commission is putting together a care package to send Marcela and Jason for Valentine's Day. If you'd like to participate, please bring some snacks and or a note letting them know that they are loved and missed. There is a box by the nursery for you to drop off those treats and notes **by Sunday February 15**.



Marcela cannot have any gluten and has allergies to almonds. Gluten is found in wheat, barley, rye, soy sauce, BBQ sauce, and some spice mixes. Many snack foods have gluten but below are some that don't. Baked goods that use almond flour as an alternative to wheat don't work for her. Oats are iffy unless processed in a gluten free plant. Here are some of her favorites:

Her #1 item: **Gluten Free Cheez-its** (just came on the market and are hard to find)

Flaming hot Cheetos

Popcorn - microwave or bagged

Reese's peanut butter cups

Chocolate like Hershey's, dove, etc as long as they don't have cookie pieces or almonds

Fruit snacks or gummies like Peach rings (check for gluten free label - some brands have gluten some are GF)

Plain potato chips

Gluten free pretzels

Annie's brand GF Mac n cheese single serve cups



Jason eats just about anything! Definitely no allergies to worry about. He seems to be really into Hi-chews, other gummy candies/jelly beans, nut mixes (especially pistachios), and ramen these days.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman

Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Children's Education

A Teaching Assistant is needed for the 2nd-5th grade class starting in March. Carol Bither will do the planning and preparation. All you need to do is be ready to cultivate an engaging classroom setting each week. Please reach out to Laura or Carol.

Sunday school class for the adults will be as follows:

February 8 - Discussion about Lent with Craig Oury

February 15 - Antiracism Sunday

February 22 - Discussion about Tithing and Offerings by Bob Love

Starting March 1 there will be 2 adult classes. The Standard Bible series with Mike Wigginton and the class on Zionism and Christian Zionism with Brad Yoder and Sabrina Falls.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (Chair), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Andrew Martin

Martha Yoder Maust has agreed to be Shalom's delegate to the IN-MI Mennonite Conference for the next 2 years. Please submit your comments and feedback to Pastor Craig or any member of the Gifts Discernment Team. Thanks, Jim

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (2/1) Craig preached from Philippians 4.

This Sunday (2/8) This week Craig will preach from Isaiah 58, looking at the meaning of fasting.

Next Sunday (2/15) CoraLyn Turentine will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *New Foundation United in Christ* is a small Mennonite church in Elkhart Indiana with love for Christ and each other.
- **Organization:** *Mennonite Missions Network* is an MCUSA missions agency that exists to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. They envision every congregation and all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission—across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world.
Contact: Martha Yoder Maust

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig will be on vacation next week, Feb. 9-15.

Dismukes Project: Black history in Appalachia
Dr. Henry Dodford Dismukes, an African American Physician in the early 1900's, founded the largest privately owned Black hospital in the country for its time. The hospital was discovered to have been located on the grounds of MCC property in McDowell



County, Kimball, West Virginia. Over the past several years, MCC has been working with the local community to share not only the story of Dr. Dismukes, but also to preserve other stories of Black history in Appalachia. **As of January 9, 2026, the Henrietta Dismukes Nurses' Home is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

Thanks to generous support from donors, MCC recently completed critical exterior renovations to the historic Henrietta Dismukes Nurses' Home, ensuring the building is ready for the next phase of interior renovations. Once fully rehabilitated, the Nurses' Home will be repurposed as a community learning center offering classes and preserving local history.

Learn about the Dismukes Project and how you can support [here](#).

On Sunday afternoon several Shalom folks attended a meeting at Northview Church of the Brethren. WFYI reported on the event: <https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/indy-residents-gather-for-food-fellowship-and-support-for-their-immigrant-neighbors>

One of the leaders advised us to put the phone number of Indy Rapid Response in our phones: 855-589-4639. This is the number to call if you see ICE activity. The rapid response teams are trained in how to respond. ~ Martha



Celebrating 50 years of More-with-Less! Herald Press and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) invite you to share stories of food, joy, and resilience to help to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *More-with-Less* cookbook. This beloved cookbook's call to thrift, Christian compassion and abundant living is just as urgent and relevant today as it was in 1973.

Go to <https://bit.ly/MoreWithLess50> to learn more and to submit stories, blessings or ideas for simple approaches to sharing food and fellowship. Please share your story by **February 15** for a chance to be featured in the 50th anniversary edition or additional digital resources – and receive a chocolate oatmeal cake recipe as thanks!

RELECTION

“You were so young”

“You were so young,” Rachel said when I told her about our plans to visit Brazil in March, my first time back since I served there from 1968-1970. Yes, we were so young, all right out of college or grad school. I was only 23, half the age that Rachel is right now. As I finished nursing school, the Viet Nam war was heating up. Martin Luther King Jr had been killed. Then, the night before I graduated, Robert Kennedy was shot. I had been accepted to the master's degree program at Boston University to study child psychiatric nursing. But how could I go to grad school when the world seemed to be burning. I needed to go “change the world.”

As MCC assignments were at that time, the job was not clearly defined, “community development.” We did have an organization we were to work with. But we got to Brazil and found that the organization was in the process of imploding. Perhaps we were too naïve to know better, but we stayed. Only 50 years later did I learn that our country director in Akron was amazed that we stayed.

I have been reading the journals and papers my step-mother, Doris, wrote while in China and Hong Kong. By my calculations, she was 28 when she went to China, after spending 3 years

working in social work in Appalachia. World War II had just ended, and China was opened to foreigners for a brief few years. She and her college best friend, with visions of helping the poor rebuild their lives, boarded a ship to China. Even when Doris had to leave China, as the Communists took over, she returned to Hong Kong and spent the remainder of her life working with the refugees fleeing China.

At the same time, my parents were preparing to go to Japan as missionaries. They became friends with a man who had been released from one of the internment camps. He was teaching them Japanese. The US had just dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. They felt called to help repair the damages of war and to bring hope. Then General MacArthur ordered that only groups that had already been working in Japan could go. The Church of the Brethren was not one of those groups. So, I ended up growing up in Ecuador. They were so young, only 23 and 26 years old, going to a country that they knew little about, with a toddler and another baby on the way. Both devoted the rest of their lives working to give voice to people rejected by the powerful.

Now we are in another super-tumultuous time. And I see the young stepping up. High school students learn about social activism by walking out of school to protest ICE. A young undocumented immigrant woman speaks out when her self-identification as undocumented puts her at risk of deportation. An international adoptee organizes, knowing that her very complexion could land her back in the country of her birth. But the streets of Minneapolis are “burning.” We are all feeling a call to resist.

Last Sunday, at a community gathering to explore ways to support our immigrant neighbors who are being targeted by our government, I ran into Arlene, a fellow facilitator in our *Interrupting Racism for Children* workshops. Arlene was a young teacher in IPS when “forced busing” happened. She got a job in Warren Township, one of the only Black teachers in the high school. Her classroom was where Black students went to feel safe. She has not stopped her activism. When I told her that she inspires me, she said that she looks to her ancestors when she feels discouraged. They never gave up. Neither did Doris, nor my parents, nor even me.

~ Jeanne Smucker
February 2026

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Mary Meachum
Abolitionist and Conductor on the Underground Railroad.
1801–1869

Mary Meachum was born into slavery in Kentucky in 1801. When she was 14 years old, her enslaver relocated to St. Louis and brought Mary with him. Mary was forced to leave behind her husband, John Berry Meachum, who had formerly been enslaved, but had worked as a carpenter and saved up money to purchase his own freedom. John followed Mary to St. Louis and purchased



her freedom shortly thereafter.

Although Mary never received a formal education, she dedicated her life to ensuring that other African Americans did. The Meachums were also actively involved with the Underground Railroad, using their home as a safe house to assist people who were seeking freedom from slavery.

Following the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, anyone caught assisting an enslaved person to freedom could be charged with slave theft, a criminal act that carried harsh penalties. Even after John died in 1854, Mary continued her work with the Underground Railroad, putting her own life and freedom at risk. Most notably, on May 21, 1855, she attempted to help several enslaved individuals cross the Mississippi River to gain freedom in Illinois. Mary was later arrested and charged with slave theft. Eventually she was acquitted of one charge, the rest of the charges were dropped, and she was released.

The site of the attempted crossing is now known as the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing Site and is part of the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Each year in May, a celebration is held at the site to commemorate the life and work of Mary Meachum.

Edited from <https://equityandinclusionstl.wordpress.com/namesake-project/history-and-community-advocacy/art-and-essay-contest-announcement/mary-meachum/>



<https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/the-story-behind-the-mary-meachum-mural-along-the-mississippi-river/>



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 Useage:** 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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Pastor: Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

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

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler

Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury