



HELLO
September

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

CALENDAR

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)

Sun, September 6: Bill & Mary Albrecht, 1959
Sun, September 5: Bek & Dean Linsemeyer, 1970
Mon, September 7: Chuck Dunn



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.

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.

Shalom
Sisters



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).



There will be no Sunday school this Sunday, September 6, as it is a holiday weekend.

LABOR DAY

Hall Monitors are helpful for the children's classes.

September 13: Joann Buerge

September 20: Linda Showalter

September 27:

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

The full Organization Chart for 2026-27 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 begin discerning Shalom's pastoral structure for next year, the VAT invites you to reflect on and share your **top five priorities for the pastoral tasks that are most important to you and to the congregation.**

For the next two Sundays, there will be space in the fellowship area to provide feedback. **For this exercise, please think at a high level about the pastoral tasks and qualities that are most important for Shalom, without focusing yet on whether those needs are best carried by one pastor or more than one pastor, or on how they might complement Pastor Craig's strengths.** We will later consider this feedback together with previous pastoral task information and Craig's input as an initial step in discerning a future pastoral structure that serves Shalom well and supports Craig in his ministry.

Attached to *Journeying Together* is a list of pastoral tasks created by Mennonite Church USA. These tasks are used to help identify pastoral priorities and strengths, and we thought they could be helpful as we consider our needs and hopes as a congregation.

We invite you to identify your **top five pastoral tasks** and place a sticker next to each of those **five tasks** on the chart paper in the fellowship area. If you attend virtually or will be absent during the next two Sundays, please email your top five priorities to Nizeet at deiteraquilar@gmail.com.

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

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

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

Next Sunday, 9/13, Phil will bring the message based on Isaiah 55:3–5; Matthew 5:17–20

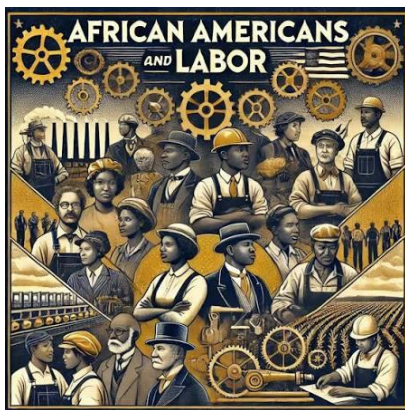
This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Maple River Mennonite Church is a 140-year-old Mennonite Church in Brutus, MI, that is part of IN MI Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association is the community organization that represents Shalom's area. They seek to beautify the area, bring neighbors together, bring awareness through advocacy, and build/continue legacies through neighborhood stories. Contacts: Becky Wigginton
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two Mirror Indy kid correspondents, Caden and Evie, (Sabrina and David's grandchildren) wanted to know why their favorite neighborhood park has been closed for so long. They went to Canterbury Park and interviewed their city-county councilor, the Indy Parks director and a construction worker. You can [watch their investigation on YouTube](#).

Thanks to generous support from Marion County Soil & Water, a new rain garden was installed at Habitat's first 10-home development not too far from Shalom (Millersville Rd & 46th St). On **Wednesday, Sept. 9**, at 6 p.m. (the rain garden event got rained out in August - ironic!) Habitat will host a tour of the rain garden with experts who designed the garden. You can also tour one of the ten homes (that Mike Wigginton helped build!). Learn more and [register here](#). Or reach out to Abri with questions.



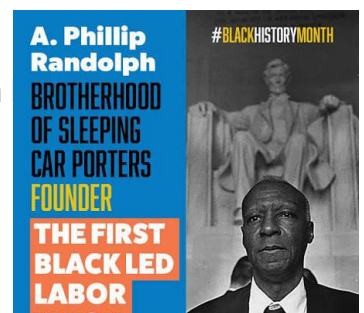
PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Labor Day, celebrated on the first Monday of September, is often seen as a time for rest, barbecues, and parades. But for people of color in America, its meaning runs deeper - rooted in centuries of struggle, resistance, and resilience. It's not just a holiday; it's a reminder of the labor that built this nation and the ongoing fight for dignity, equity, and justice in the workplace.

From the forced labor of enslaved Africans to the exploited toil of Chinese railroad workers, Mexican farm laborers, and Indigenous peoples, the American economy was built on the backs of those denied fair wages, safety, and recognition. While Labor Day was established in the late 19th century to honor the contributions of workers, it largely excluded Black and Brown laborers whose work was either criminalized, devalued, or invisibilized.

The uncomfortable truth is that forms of slave labor still exist today. Mass incarceration disproportionately affects Black and Brown communities, and prison labor—often paid mere cents per hour—fuels industries ranging from agriculture to manufacturing. This modern-day exploitation echoes the past, where labor was extracted without consent or compensation, reinforcing cycles of poverty and systemic oppression.

Yet, people of color have always resisted. The Pullman Strike of 1894, which creation of Labor Day, was influenced by Black workers who were excluded from unions but organized independently. The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, led by A. Philip Randolph, became the first African American labor





union to receive a charter from the AFL. Latino farm-workers, led by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta, mobilized for fair wages and humane conditions. Indigenous activists have long fought for sovereignty and labor rights on tribal lands.

Today, Labor Day should be a call to action. Especially in light of what's happening in the federal government. Let's take a moment to honor not just the labor of the past, but the ongoing efforts to dismantle systems of exploitation. That means advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and the abolition of prison labor. It means recognizing domestic workers, undocumented laborers, and gig workers—many of whom are people of color—as essential, not expendable the way ICE thinks they are.

For communities of color, Labor Day is not just about rest. It's about remembrance, resistance, and renewal. It's a day to reflect on the labor that built this country—and to recommit to building a future where all work is valued, and all workers are free.

<https://afampointofview.com/labor-day-and-the-legacy-of-labor-for-people-of-color-in-america/>



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 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: Phil Schmidt (574) 500-4737, phil@shalommennonite.com

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

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler