



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JANUARY 28, 2026

CALENDAR

- Thu, February 5: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (see CLC)
- Sun, February 8: Game Night @ Shalom; (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)

- Thu, January 29: Judy Roseberger
- Sun, February 1: Calvin Hochstetler
- Sun, February 1: Zema Falk
- Wed, February 4: Yeshi Lederach



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.

Since the following week includes Valentine's Day, we're looking for people who would be willing to provide some valentine cookies and decorating supplies so the children can decorate them for our dessert! (And this year, we'll try to see that the children share with the everyone and don't eat all of them!)

Sign up on the back sanctuary window to provide soup or cookies/decorating supplies. 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.

Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet on **February 5** at The Bosphorus, 935 S East St, Indianapolis at 11:30 am.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Sunday school class for the adults will be as follows:

- February 1 - Sermon discussion of the Philippians series with Kim Johnson
- 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:



Please bring non-perishable food items next Sunday for Morning Star Food Pantry in Muncie.

Thank you, Frank Kandel for the Outreach Commission

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

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (1/25) Craig will continue through Philippians and will preach from Philippians 3.

This Sunday (2/1) Craig will preach from Philippians 4.

Next Sunday (2/8) Craig will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church: Morning Star** is a Mennonite Church based in Muncie, IN that runs a weekly food pantry and community meal that Shalom supports.
- **Organization: Faith in Place** is a network of people of diverse faiths and spiritualities seek to lead the environmental movement by advancing environmental and racial justice, and providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.
Contacts: Brad Yoder and Becky Wigginton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE CHURCH COALITION & INDIANAPOLIS PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER are hosting a gathering: *Standing in Solidarity with Our Immigrant Neighbors*, **Sunday, February 1st**, at Northview Church of the Brethren, 5555 E 46th Street, Indianapolis, 46226

This event is designed for attendees to learn, ask questions, and find ways to use your own unique gifts to support the most vulnerable members of our community during these difficult times.

It will begin with a **pitch-in lunch at 12:00 pm**. From **1:00-2:30 pm**, there will be speakers and training, including stories from people impacted by the actions of ICE/DHS, Q&A with speakers, a description of ways to be involved, and small group discussion. There will also be an announcement of an Ash Wednesday Action being planned.

Sign up here (to give the hosts an approximate count) **or just show up!** All are welcome. Contact rhondabake@aol.com for questions.
See attached poster.



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!



Dear Shalom,

Thank you for supporting Faith in Place with your generous contribution of \$250.00. Your gift enables us to continue empowering people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth.

Your donation makes a real impact as we work together as people of diverse faiths and spiritualities to create healthier, more equitable, and more sustainable communities for all across Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

Thank you again, Shalom for your generosity. We cannot advance environmental and racial justice without supporters like you!

Join the conversation and stay connected with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#) where we share success stories, post event photos, and keep you informed on all upcoming [events](#).



Lorren Esch, who was the trainer for our Mennonite Action training in December, has asked me to share the attached information in this email with our congregation.

~ Sabrina

I am sending a new request for financial assistance for the people of Gaza, suffering in winter weather without adequate shelter or food. Please share this attached announcement with your congregation.

In the peace of Christ,

David Janzen

574-370-6310

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

John Barry Meachum **May 3, 1789 – February 1854**



John Barry Meachum was born into slavery on May 3, 1789, in Virginia. Meachum, who took the surname of his slaveholder and not his father's (Granger), was a skilled carpenter and managed to purchase his freedom at the age of 21 through the process of manumission. He then walked from Hardin County, Kentucky (where his owner moved) to Hanover County, Virginia, and secured his father's release for 100 Virginia pounds. It should be noted this was a rare occurrence, as most slaveholders did not offer the opportunity for slaves to buy their freedom.

John Berry Meachum and his father later purchased the freedom of his mother and siblings. His family moved to southern Indiana, while Meachum stayed in Kentucky and married an enslaved woman, Mary.

When Mary's owners moved to St. Louis, they took Mary and the Meachums' children with them. John dutifully followed in 1815 and, as a freedman, was eventually able to purchase their release with his carpentry skills.

Sometime after 1817, Meachum founded the First Baptist Church of St. Louis and the Sabbath School for Negroes. Meachum was ordained a minister in 1825. Two years later, he founded the First African Baptist Church.

Meachum began educating Black children in the church basement in what became known as the Candle Tallow School. According to Robert Samuel Duncan's "*A History of Baptists in Missouri*," Meachum, over the next 10 years, purchased 20 slaves and taught them to read and write, as well as carpentry and woodworking skills. When a slave could pay back their debt to Meachum, he and Mary would free them. The Meachums would use that money to purchase new slaves and begin the process anew. He did all of this under the threat of fines, lashing, imprisonment, or worse.

In the 1820s, both Missouri and St. Louis took steps to limit or outright deny Blacks from gathering or being educated, for fear such activity would foment revolt. Missouri established patrols in 1823 to break up any plot among slaves or abolitionists. By 1825, the state's general assembly declared Blacks could not appear as witnesses in court in matters involving a white person.

By 1835, Blacks were no longer permitted to carry firearms, and freed persons could only move in and out of the state with a special permit, which they had to apply and pay for. An ordinance passed by the St. Louis Board of Trustees in the early 1820s forbade educating both free and enslaved Blacks.

1847 would be a pivotal year for Rev. Meachum, as the Missouri General Assembly passed an anti-literacy law on Feb. 16, which also permitted police to be present at any church where a Black person was the preacher.


In the essay "*The North Star: A Journal of African American Religious History*," author Dennis L. Durst says the local sheriff went to the church and arrested Meachum and an educator from England while they were teaching children in the basement. The Candle Tallow School was closed and Meachum was charged with inciting sedition. It's unclear what punishment Meachum and his cohort were subjected to.

Undaunted, Meachum sought a way to fight this injustice. He obtained a steamboat, outfitted the vessel with a library, as well as tables, benches, desks, and chairs, and anchored it in the middle of the Mississippi River (the exact location is unknown). It was called the Freedom School and became known as the Floating Freedom School.

Because the Mississippi River was under the purview of the federal government, the Freedom School was beyond the jurisdiction of St. Louis and Missouri laws. Free and enslaved children would take skiffs out to the steamboat and receive an education. Word of the school and Meachum's ingenuity spread across the country, and teachers from out of state traveled to St. Louis to teach on the steamer.

Meachum died in the pulpit while preaching to his congregation in February 1854, though sources differ on the exact day of his passing. He was 64.

WHEN MISSOURI BANNED EDUCATION FOR ALL BLACKS, THIS MAN RESPONDED WITH A "FLOATING FREEDOM SCHOOL"



Edited from <https://fox2now.com/news/missouri/how-a-floating-school-bypassed-racist-laws-in-pre-civil-war-st-louis/>

NEXT WEEK: John Meachum's wife, Mary



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 worshiping 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

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler

Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury