



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

CALENDAR

Wed, September 17: Wild Church, 10 am (see Announcement)
Sun, September 21: Carry-in Fellowship Meal following Sunday School
Thu, Oct 2: Shalom Sisters Lunch (see Community Life)
Sat, October 4: Shalom Retreat (see Community Life)
Sun, October 5: CROP Walk (see Announcement)
Sat, November 15: Shalom will be hosting "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path"
as part of The Spirit & Place Festival. More info to come.
Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp

ADMINISTRATION

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

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

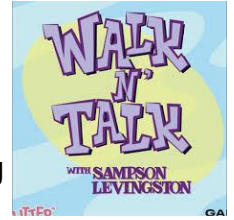
Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Sun, September 14: Nathan Deiter
Wed, September 17: Carol Stocksdale

2025 Annual Retreat

Join us on Saturday, October 4, as we learn about the rich and beautiful history along Indiana Avenue!



We will be guided on a 1-hour walking tour of Indiana Avenue with Sampson Levingston (through2eyes [link](#)) on a Walk & Talk that starts and ends at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library at 543 Indiana Ave. Free parking is available. Dress according to the weather. (Learn more about Sampson [here](#).)

Meet at 543 Indiana Avenue by 9:45 am. If you prefer to carpool, make arrangements with others.

Beverly does not plan to participate in the walk but will be at the church at 10 am with coffee, tea and donuts all morning - feel free to join her.

Lunch will be catered by His Place, a nearby black-owned small business. After lunch, a short devotional, and then free time. Bring indoor and outdoor games!

A sign-up is posted on the sanctuary window. We'll need to know how many to expect for the Walk and the meal.



This time of year is a good time to look at our Small Groups, of which there are currently five, meeting at various times, some in person, some via Zoom. Questions for those in small groups have been sent to the group contact person.

For those not currently in a group: Do you have interest in being part of a small group? What would you like to see as content? Time of meeting? In person or Zoom? Or, would you be willing to organize / lead a group

Please feel free to contact a member of the Community Life Commission with further questions or comments. We would be happy to do what we can to make your small group experience meaningful.



Change in plans: next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at Driving Wind Farm located at 6410 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis on **Thursday, October 2.**

We will meet at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street on November 6. All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Children's Education:

Thank you to our teachers and assistants for a great start to our fall quarter.

We will be looking for lead co-teachers for the older elementary class next quarter. If you want to try it out, you can shadow Frank or be a substitute during the fall quarter.

Adult Sunday School Classes:

1. Bible Study meets in the back of the sanctuary, with Zoom. Facilitated by Wilma Bailey
2. Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices meets in the fellowship hall. Led by Herb Troyer.

September 14:

1. Lesson #6 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-23, p32.
2. Positive Words: What we tell ourselves Spiritually, pp 71-75 pp 46-47

September 21:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

September 28:

1. Lesson #7 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 6:1-8, p 38.
2. Positive Actions: Acting out of Love to Self and Others, pp 77-81 pp 48-49. Tools of Moving Forward: Finding a New Ability to Love

October 5:

1. Lesson #8 - 1 Corinthians 7:1-21, p 44.
2. Claim Responsibility: Finding new ways to Walk with Love, pp 83-95 pp 50-51

October 12:

1. Lesson #9 - 1 Corinthians 8:4-13, 10:23-11:1, p 50.
2. Let Go: Just Act in Love, pp 97 -101 pp 52-53

October 19:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

October 26:

1. Lesson #10 - 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, p 56.
2. For-Give: Giving to others, pp 103- 107 pp 54-55. Tools of Creation Kingdom of God, Now

November 2:

1. Lesson #11 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, p 62.
2. What If: In Christ we put on the New, pp 119 – 123 pp 56-57

November 9:

1. Lesson #12 - 1 Corinthians 12-14, p 68.
2. Reality Check: Allowing ourselves to Fail, pp 125 – 129 pp 58 – 59

November 16:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

November 23:

1. Lesson #13 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-34, p 74.
2. Ultimate Freedom: Acting out of Love, pp 131 – 137 pp 60-61

November 30: (Thanksgiving Weekend)

1. Lesson #14 - 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-58, p 80.
2. Wrap up.

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

Please continue to pray for the discernment process for the chair and member of the Outreach Commission.

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

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

Last Sunday (9/7) Craig brought the message on Luke 14:25-33.

This Sunday (9/14) Jeanne will bring the message from 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

Next week (9/21) David Boshart, the President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

Church: *Belmont Mennonite Church* in Elkhart, I N

Pastors: Phil Schmidt, Mandy Yoder

We praise God for renewed energy at Belmont in these recent weeks: we have celebrated three baptisms, welcomed three additional new members, and hosted a variety of guests and visitors in our worship services. We pray for God's grace as we begin another journey through the Narrative Lectionary.

Organization: *Mennonite Disaster Service:* At MDS, our goal is to restore hope for survivors of disasters. We do this by recruiting, organizing and empowering volunteers to repair and rebuild the homes of those impacted by disasters in Canada and the U.S. Our Vision is to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those affected by disasters. We respond to disasters, rebuild homes, and restore hope by organizing and empowering volunteers in the U.S. and Canada.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wild Church will take place on **Wednesday, September 17** at 10 a.m. at Meltzer Woods in Shelbyville. The address is 1522 S. 600 E, Shelbyville. Directions- take I-74E to exit 119. Turn east (left). Take SR 244 E to S County Road 600 E. Turn north (left). Park in the lot that is opposite the entrance. Meltzer Woods is an old growth forest. Some people call it a "virgin forest" meaning that it was never developed for agriculture or other purposes. They say that some trees date back to the 1600s. We will find out what the Bible has to say about forests. Bring your own stories. And bring a camp or lawn chair, if you have one.

We invite the church community to join us in raising funds for the ALS Foundation through the Walk to Defeat ALS in memory of our dad, Dagne Assefa, longtime founding pastor at Shalom who passed away 4 years ago on September 9 from ALS. Our family is participating in the Walk to Defeat ALS on **Saturday, September 20** at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Celebration Park. The 1-mile walk begins at 10am. Please consider joining us on the walk or donating to our team to help other families, like ours, who are affected by ALS. Info on the walk can be found here: <https://rb.gy/1ibxmt>. To donate or join our team, please visit our team site here: <https://shorturl.at/o4T6w>. Thank you for your support! ~Lydie and Menan Assefa



It has sneaked up on us this year! It's time to donate and register for the 2025 Crop Walk! Please click on the link below for Shalom's page to donate and or register to walk!

2025 CROP Hunger Walk - Shalom Mennonite C Church <https://share.google/mEQV8L8LplENUSicE>

All donations go to stop hunger around the world! An \$80 donation would give 4 families chickens to feed their family.

The Walk is scheduled for **Sunday October 5th** at 2pm starting beginning at the InterChurch Center (near Butler University & CTS) 1000 W 42nd Street Indianapolis.

Or if you want to participate virtually and walk the 3 miles on your time in the month of October, that is an option too! Any questions just ask me!

See the attached "A Walk Down the Peace Path" from Mike Wigginton.

Also attached is an Appeal for Gaza Funds from David Janzen.

We are looking for persons to help with transportation for Robert in the coming months. This usually is no more than once a month or less. Two of the persons usually helping with this ministry are going to be unavailable for several months and so this need has arisen. If you can help with this, please contact Cheryl Martin at 1cmm@att.net or 913-375-6264.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. ~ Cheryl Martin



We are still collecting cash for Mennonite Central Committee in our "My Coins Count" jug. The donations will be taken to the Michiana Relief Sale on September 26.

PERSON OF COLOR BIO SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one single month but instead begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. The timeframe of this is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within these dates, beginning on the 15th with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. By aligning with these independence dates, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the resilience of the Hispanic community. Other independence dates are September 16 for Mexico, the 18th for Chile, and 21st for Belize.



Sylvia Mendez is an American civil rights activist and nurse who was at the center of the court case *Mendez v. Westminster*, in which a federal court ruled in the mid-1940s that the school segregation of Hispanic children was unconstitutional.

Mendez's father, Gonzalo, was from Mexico, and her mother, Felicitas, was from Puerto Rico. When Sylvia was a child, her family moved to Westminster in Orange County, California. In 1944, when she was eight, her family tried to register Sylvia and her brothers at a nearby Westminster elementary school. However, the public school did not admit Hispanic students, and the family was told to enroll the Mendez children at Hoover Elementary School, which was specifically for Mexican Americans. After appeals to Westminster's principal and the county school board were unsuccessful, Gonzalo Mendez decided to take legal action.

In 1945 he hired civil rights attorney David Marcus, who filed a federal lawsuit against Westminster and three other school districts in Orange County. Joining the suit were four other Mexican American families whose children had been forced to attend segregated schools. Marcus argued that segregating children based on ethnicity was a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. He also stated that segregating the children was detrimental because it interfered with their ability to learn English and made them feel inferior. The defense countered that the segregation was based on the fact that Hispanic students were deficient in the English language and thus needed special instruction.

In early 1946 the judge ruled in favor of Mendez and ordered the four school boards to stop segregating Hispanic children. The next year an appeals court upheld the decision, and a couple of months later the state of California outlawed all segregation in its public schools. *Mendez v. Westminster* paved the way for the landmark 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. Thurgood Marshall, who represented the plaintiffs, used Marcus's equal protection argument to successfully argue that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional.

After the Mendez court case, Sylvia attended the desegregated Westminster elementary school. Later she graduated with an associate's degree in nursing from Orange Coast Community College. She then earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a public health certificate and subsequently worked at the Los Angeles County University of Southern California Medical Center for more than 30 years.

After retiring from nursing, Mendez was active in teaching others about her legal case. In 2011 U.S. Pres. Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her work in civil rights.



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 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 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: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury</p>
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