



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

AUGUST 5, 2026

CALENDAR

Thu, Aug 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (CLC)
Sat, Aug 15: Birthday party for Cheryl, 2-4 pm (Announcement)
Sun, Aug 16: **NO** 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal
Sun, Aug 30: Back-to-school Cookout, 5 – 8 pm (CLC)
Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp

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)

Tue, August 11: Brenda & Daniel Grimes, 1984

Tue, August 11: OlaJowon Turentine



This Thursday's Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet at Iozzo's Garden of Italy, 946 S. Meridian, **11:30 am**.

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.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman

The summer schedule for Sunday school is planned as follows:

August 9 – Adults meet in the auditorium with Jeanne for Child safety

Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol

August 16 – Antiracism Sunday

Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol



There will be 2 adult Sunday school classes this fall. A book study using Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura will be facilitated by Andrew Martin.

The second class will use the Salt and Light series and will be facilitated by Wilma Bailey. Please sign up for your preferred class on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary no later than August 2 so materials can be ordered. If you cannot physically sign up at the church, please send a text or email to Cheryl ASAP (913-375-6264 or 1cmm@att.net).

Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura

Conceived over thirty years of painting and creating in his studio, this book is world-renowned painter, Makoto Fujimura's broad and deep exploration of creativity and the spiritual aspects of "making." What he does in the studio is theological work as much as it is aesthetic work. In between pouring precious, pulverized minerals onto handmade paper to create the prismatic, refractive surfaces of his art, he comes into the quiet space in the studio, in a discipline of awareness, waiting, prayer, and praise.

Ranging from the Bible to T. S. Eliot, and from Mark Rothko to Japanese Kintsugi technique, he shows how unless we are making something, we cannot know the depth of God's being and God's grace permeating our lives. This poignant and beautiful book offers the perspective of, in Christian Wiman's words, "an accidental theologian," one who comes to spiritual questions always through the prism of art.

Salt and Light

The Fall Quarterly titled "The Soul of a Nation" by Frank Ramirez will study selections from the books of Joshua, Judges and 1st and 2nd Samuel. Issues for us to reflect on are raised such as how did God intend for the Israelite tribes to settle in Canaan? Violent conquest? Peaceful settlement? What type of government did God intend for Israel to have? Monarchy? Democracy? What can we learn from ancient Israel as we reflect on our own governing structures today? ~ Wilma



Shine Children's Ed curriculum changes

I'd like to highlight a key change has been introduced in the Shine curriculum we use for Children's Sunday School. Instead of an in-class workbook, each student will get either a storybook (targeted at ages 3-6) or a magazine (targeted at grades 1-5) that lives at home. The idea is that families can revisit the themes from the previous Sunday together during the week.

Teachers: instead of workbooks, your Teacher Kit will have worksheets to photocopy and use in class. ~ Laura

Teaching opportunity:

There is still an opening to co-teach the 1st-3rd grade class. Carol Bixler will teach about half the Sundays so we'll need a co-teacher that can cover September and December as well as a few other dates.

School Kits for MCC: Shalom's children will participate in the MCC School Kit challenge, filling kits on August 9 and 16. Help MCC meet their goal by bringing in supplies.

Please bring the following items:

We have enough rulers, pencil sharpeners, and erasers so please prioritize the items left in this shorter list.

Contents (NEW items only)

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks
 - 8.5 in x 10.5 in; 70 sheets each (US)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

Please note: Grace Rhine's name was inadvertently missing from the original list of persons for VAT nomination. Anyone that has already sent nominations to me and wishes to make a change, please indicate which names you wish to change.

All Shalom participants are encouraged to **submit up to 3 nominations** for VAT Congregational Representative beginning Sept 1, 2026. Email to jim.indy@gmail.com -or- text to **317.727.4922** -or- my **mailbox** at church. A copy of the "Vision and Accountability Team Congregational Representative Selection for Years 2027-29" is **attached**.

Due by Sunday Aug 9. Thanks! - Jim Showalter

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday, 8/2, Phil brought the message "The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength" from Nehemiah 8:9–12.

This Sunday, 8/9, Phil will bring the message from Matthew 25:31–46. See attached poster.

Next Sunday, 8/16, Shawn Lange will bring the message. He will be preaching from John 14:1-6 and his sermon title will be "The Gospel Message in a Foreign Land"

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Hopewell Mennonite Church is in New Carlisle, IN, and is part of our IN-MI Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** Mennonite Women USA is a sisterhood of women following Jesus who engage the voices of all women, honoring out/their stories, practicing justice, and embracing healing. Contact: CoraLyn Turentine.
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION FROM JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE (JVP)

This invitation came from Malkah Bird of JVP, who gave a presentation to us for the last session of our Sunday School class on Zionism:

On Saturday, August 8, from 12:00–2:00 p.m. we'll be gathering at **Ujamaa Community Bookstore (2424 Doctor Martin Luther King Jr St, Indianapolis, IN)** in Indianapolis to learn more about Indiana's investments in Israel Bonds and our campaign to close the loophole in state law that allows those investments to continue. As the genocide in Gaza continues, Indiana leaders have reaffirmed significant investments in Israel Bonds- loans that provide funding to the Israeli government. We're organizing to change that by building a statewide campaign to end Indiana's exception for Israel Bonds and push for divestment.

At the meeting, we'll:

- Learn how Israel Bonds work and why they matter.
- Break down Indiana's investment policies in plain language.
- Strategize together about how we can build a statewide movement to close the loophole and end these investments.
- Connect with others who want to take action.

No prior knowledge is needed- just come ready to learn, ask questions, and think together about next steps. Food and drinks will be provided. Feel free to invite friends, family, or anyone else who might be interested. ~ Sabrina

You can RSVP [here](https://actionnetwork.org/events/indiana-break-the-bonds-divest-from-israel-bonds/): <https://actionnetwork.org/events/indiana-break-the-bonds-divest-from-israel-bonds/>

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). Next Wednesday, August 12, at 6 p.m. 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.

Support the work of MCC through participation in the **Amigo Bike Michiana for MCC**, August 28-30, 2026. We are expanding the event to include children's activities. See our website for more details. Registration deadline is August 15th.
<https://mcc.org/events/amigo-bike-michiana-mcc>



Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is offering a new series of courses in *Ecotheology*. Some courses are taken entirely on-line. You will be sent weekly assignments that you do on your own. Others are on-line but you meet with an instructor and the other students in the class at set times. Other classes are hybrids where you meet in person on the AMBS campus occasionally and sometimes on-line. If you choose, you can work toward a certificate, an M.Div with a concentration in Ecotheology or an MA. with a focus on Ecotheology. For details go to the website for Anabaptist Mennonite Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana. Wilma

August 15 from 2-4 is a party to celebrate Cheryl's 80th birthday hosted by her children. Please respond to the evite you received several weeks ago. The invitation neglected to say that **children are invited and welcome**. And yes, there will be cake and ice cream for all!! If you have trouble accessing or responding to the evite, just send me a message. Cheryl



PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Marie Rose Juliette Gaston was a Haitian woman born into slavery in



1786. Her freedom was purchased by Pierre Toussaint, who in 1811 married her. Ms. Juliette was 25 years old and Mr. Toussaint was 20 years her senior. Mr. Toussaint also arrived from Haiti as a slave, but in time he made a small fortune as a hairdresser among the wealthy ladies of the times. With the money he made he was able to purchase his freedom, as well as his sister's and Juliette's.

In spite of the hardship of slavery, Juliette was a humanitarian who cared deeply about the plight of the Haitian community. She and her husband were generous and supported many organizations that helped Black Americans and their families.

One of their beneficiaries was the African Society for Mutual Relief (NYASMR). This organization was designed to serve the everyday needs of the free Black community in Manhattan. It also served the orphanages for the Black children, as well as providing health insurance to African Americans which was not available to Blacks. A place for education was provided for the Black children, since they could not attend the same schools the White children attended. Juliette and Pierre took orphans into their own home, and they also put their lives in jeopardy by taking care of victims of cholera and yellow fever. They would both cross the quarantine barriers to reach the sufferers in the city's early ghettos.

One can appreciate the altruistic attitude of Pierre when a client asked him, "Why are you still working if you have a lot of money?" He replied, "Madame, I should not have enough for others." This generosity was a constant part of their lives. Both Pierre and Juliette genuinely cared about the suffering of others. Another act of kindness took place in 1820, when Juliette donated the money necessary so that the African Society for Mutual relief could purchase land so a meeting house could be built on it. This location became a target during the anti-abolitionist riot of 1834, where a mob of Whites attacked the Hall.

Juliette Toussaint is documented in her husband's biography, and her generosity was well appreciated by the Black community, who were the victims of racial hatred and segregation during this time period. When Juliette passed away in 1851 at the age of 65, Pierre stopped working. He said that Juliette was the motor of his life and he went into a deep state of depression. Pierre died two years later, in 1853 at the age of 87. One cannot speak of Pierre Toussaint without also speaking of Juliette Toussaint, because they worked together to help the Black community, with generosity and dedication.

https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/history_20_projects_prof_kanakamadala/Marie_Rose_Juliette_Toussaint

Another site shared this about Juliette (edited):

Her husband made a fortune styling hair for the city's elite. Juliette managed the accounts. She decided where the money went. They did not take vacations. They did not buy a larger house. They did not purchase fine clothes. They spent their entire net worth on other people's freedom.

Juliette found people about to be sold South to the cotton fields. She found families about to be separated by a master's unpaid debts. She found refugees from her home country living on the streets, terrified of being captured and sold into the harbor trade. She bought them. She signed manumission papers for their freedom and hid them in her home while the ink dried.

She did not keep a public ledger of the names. She did not write down their stories. The less evidence that existed, the safer they were.

When she ran out of people to buy, she looked at the children left behind by the cholera epidemic. The sickness swept through the lower wards, leaving thousands of orphans. She

pulled her savings again. She helped fund the first Catholic orphanage in the city. The St. Vincent de Paul asylum took in children nobody else wanted.

Juliette Noel Toussaint: the woman who bought freedom in secret.

Source: Records of Pierre and Juliette Toussaint.

Verified via: New York Public Library Archives, Archdiocese of New York.



Have something to give away? Need something? Skills needed or to share? Tools needed or to share?

We have a gas grill and a rototiller we are no longer using. They are free to the first person(s) who want to come get them. One or both. Call Cheryl at 913-375-6264 or Jim at 913-375-6270 to arrange pick up.

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