



*MARCH: WOMEN'S MONTH AND
IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH*

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

MARCH 25, 2026

CALENDAR

- Thu, April 2: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 (see CLC)
- Thu, April 2: Maundy Thursday Service, 7pm (see Worship)
- Sun, April 5: Easter Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am, (see CLC); Worship at 10 am (see Worship),
Easter Egg Hunt after Worship
- Sat, April 11: A Spring Walk Down the Peace Path, 4 – 6 pm (see Outreach)
- Wed, April 15: Wild Church, 10 am (see CLC)
- Sat, October 3, 2026: 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: Craig Oury

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Thu, March 26: Kim & Krystal Johnson, 2005

Sun, March 29: Charity Bauman

Sun, March 29: Andrew Martin

Easter Breakfast April 5th will be at 8:30am. Look for signup sheets on back window. Rolls, bread or breakfast casserole or fruit. Have it ready to set on the tables. ~ Becky



Next Shalom Sisters Lunch, April 2nd (not the 9th as noted last week), will be at Fire by the Monan, 6523 Ferguson Street, Indianapolis (Broad Ripple), 11:30 am.

Wild Church will next take place on **Wednesday, April 15 at 10 a.m.** at Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Park in the parking lot across from the Nature Center. We will meet under the trees. Bring a chair or cushion for softer seating. The early Spring flowers should be in full bloom by then. Wild Church meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Locations vary.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman

Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Children's Education will host an Easter Egg hunt after worship on Easter Sunday. Edible treats will be peanut free/no peanut cross contamination.

Sunday school class for the adults

- "Understanding Zionism" with Brad and Sabrina will be in the fellowship hall downstairs.
- The class using the "Salt and Light" materials with Mike will be at the back of the sanctuary.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton

Pastoral Representative:

A Night Without a Bed is a fundraiser event at Family Promise.

The dates for the event are from April 4, 2026, through May 2, 2026.

Here is the link if members would like to participate.

<https://mail.yahoo.com/n/list/folders=1&listFilter=PRIORITY/messages/77374?.src=ym&reason=myc&listFilter=PRIORITY> ~ Solomon Abebe



April 11th, 4-6 pm, A Spring Walk Down The Peace Path

Together with our Neighbors we will be learning and enjoying spring ephemerals in the Shalom Woods and on the Peace Path. All are welcome to participate and help greet our neighbors.

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

On **Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm** we will be having a Maundy Thursday service in the church basement. It will be a service of Scriptures, singing, foot washing or hand washing, and communion. All are welcome.

On **Easter Sunday, April 5**, breakfast will be at 8:30 and worship will start at 10, no Sunday school.

Last Sunday (3/22) Craig brought the message from Matthew 17.

This Sunday (3/29) Dr. James Logan from Earlham will bring the message. Dr. Logan is Senior Associate Vice President and Dean of Faculty; Professor of African and African American studies; Professor of Religion at Earlham College

This week's Prayer List

- **Church: Prairie Street Mennonite Church** is one of the Elkhart churches in our Conference with a rich history that dates back to 1870.
- **Organization: Mennonite Disaster Service** is an organization that strives to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those affected by disasters by rebuilding homes and organizing and empowering volunteers in the U.S. and Canada. (Contact: Jim Showalter)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Webinar about Christian Zionism: The Sunday School class on Zionism recently watched and discussed a virtual conversation featuring Jonathan Brenneman of Christians for a Free Palestine and Rabbi Alissa Wise of Rabbis for Ceasefire, facilitated by Jonny Rashid, a Mennonite pastor in Philadelphia. Here is the link for those of you who wish to watch it again or watch for the first time: https://youtu.be/OzNyZa_4FHQ.

There are two Mennonite camps in southern Michigan that have retreats to which we are invited to attend:

--Wild Church retreat at Amigo Centre, May 15-17. Some of us used to go to a women's retreat at Amigo, but now the retreat is open to all genders.

--Women's retreat at Friedenswald, September 18-20.

If you are interested in either or both of these retreats, please let me know. ~ Martha

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Anna Julia Cooper
1858 - 1963

If you have a US passport today, you can flip to a particular page and read this quote:





“The cause of freedom is not the cause of a race or a sect, a party or a class—it is the cause of humankind, the very birthright of humanity.”

This quote comes from Anna Julia Cooper, an early proponent of Black feminist—womanist— theory. More than a century after Cooper wrote those words, they found their way into an unlikely place: the pages of the United States passport.

In 2007, the State Department introduced a redesigned “American Icon” passport that included historical images and quotations printed on the visa pages. The goal was to showcase the ideals of American democracy and freedom to citizens traveling abroad. Designers selected quotations from a range of historical figures whose words spoke to liberty, equality, and human dignity.

Among those 13 quotations was Anna Julia Cooper’s line from her book, *A Voice from the South*. Cooper is one of the few Black intellectuals—and the only woman—whose words are printed in the booklet. The quote is fitting. Cooper’s insistence that freedom belongs to all people, not merely to one race or class, echoes the very ideals the United States claims to represent on the global stage.

Cooper was born into slavery in 1858 in Raleigh, North Carolina and lived to 105 years old. Like many enslaved people, Cooper was bi-racial. Her enslaver’s brother was likely her father, but her mother refused to confirm the assumption.



Anna had the opportunity to attain a formal education at an early age and took full advantage of this intellectual foundation. She excelled as a student at Saint Augustine’s Normal and Collegiate Institute in Raleigh.

Upon graduation at age eighteen, she married a classmate, George Cooper, who had trained to be a minister. Their marriage lasted only two years because George died. For the rest of her life, Anna remained single and committed her time and energy to education.

She enrolled in Oberlin College—well-known for its ties to abolitionism prior to the Civil War and for being one of the few colleges open to Black students at the time - and went on to earn both her bachelor and master’s degree from there in 1887. Thereafter, she moved to Washington, DC, where she would spend the majority of her professional career.

She accepted a teaching position at the prestigious M Street High School (later Paul Laurence Dunbar High School). She later became principal of the school. Like Du Bois, Cooper promoted the idea that Black people can and should learn subjects like Latin, Greek, French, and philosophy just as she had.

For more than a decade she engaged in doctoral research and finally graduated with a PhD from the Sorbonne in Paris in 1925 at the age of sixty-six years old. Cooper was just the fourth Black woman to earn a PhD.

In 1931, Cooper became the president of Frelinghuysen University in Washington, DC, a nontraditional school educating Black working-class adult learners that served as a forerunner of the modern community college model.

Cooper is best known for a series of essays she wrote that were collected into the volume *A Voice from the South*. This is where the quote included in U.S. passports comes from. The book, originally published in 1892, centers the educational and moral uplift of Black women as central to the Black community and the overall well-being of society. Her quote

about freedom comes in a section where she is critiquing the women's movement for its racism against Black women. She said the Women's Movement could be a movement of universal good "if its pioneers could only realize it." They should move beyond the racial prejudices that divided the rest of society and live up to the ideals of the movement.

"It is important and fundamental that there be no chromatic or other aberration when the teacher is settling the point, "Who is my neighbor?"

She emphasized that "inescapable network of mutuality" of which Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke. To pursue women's rights was to pursue human rights.

"[W]hen race, color, sex, condition, are realized to be the accidents, not the substance of life, and consequently as not obscuring or modifying the inalienable title to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness...then woman's lesson is taught and woman's cause is won—not the white woman nor the black woman nor the red woman, but the cause of every man or woman who has writhed silently under a mighty wrong." She concludes that section with a prayer, "God hasten the day."

While most of Cooper's commentary focuses on education and women's rights, the role of religion in society and in her personal life appears throughout the volume. Anna Julia Cooper defined faith as "treating the truth as true." And for her, no one embodied this principle of faith more than Jesus Christ.

"[Christ's] faith was . . . an optimistic vision of the human aptitude for endless expansion and perfectibility."

Cooper derived her approach to Black social improvement through education from the lived example of Jesus as the person who modeled the infinite possibility of humankind's moral, social, and intellectual capacities. Her conception of Christianity was not as a set of theological propositions meant for discussion. Rather, hers was a lived faith.

"Religion must be life made true. And life is action, growth, development—begun now and ending never."

Cooper also applied her Christian beliefs to social issues in a 1902 speech she gave called "The Ethics of the Negro Question." She demanded the nation to live up to the Christianity many professed and to apply the teachings of Jesus to racial conflict.

"Does anyone question that Jesus' vision would have pierced to the heart and marrow of our national problem? And what would be His teaching in America today as to who is my neighbor?"

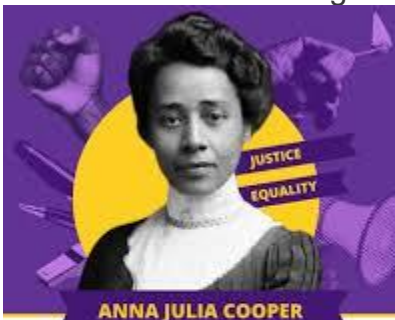
Cooper observed that instead of following the example of the Savior, however, many white people had twisted his teachings to justify racism. In her estimation, it was as if Jesus taught, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, and strength and thy *white* neighbor as thyself!"

She cautioned that "Anglo Saxon America is in danger of forgetting how to deal justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with its God." Anna Julia Cooper, like many other Black Christians, detected the hypocrisy of white Christians who promoted and defended segregation, as well as the unequal educational prospects of Black and white people. True faith meant treating Black people as neighbors and loving them as oneself, not only in word but also in deed.

As a Black person who had achieved a level of professional success and education, she saw it as her duty, her Christian duty, to help others of her race who had not gained such advantages. In applying her undeniable intellectual aptitude to the work of educating Black people, Cooper fulfilled a desire:

"Better to light a candle than curse the darkness. It has been my aim and hope to light candles that may carry on lighting others in God's own way of goodwill and helpful living."

Today, millions of Americans carry Anna Julia Cooper's words across borders and oceans—often without realizing it. A Black woman born into slavery now travels the world in their pockets, quietly reminding the nation that freedom belongs to all of humanity.



"The **cause of freedom** is not the cause of a race or a sect or a party or a class, it is the cause of **humankind**."

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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](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:

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Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler

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