



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 22, 2025

CALENDAR

- Mon, October 27 *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Mon, October 27: Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association meeting in the Fellowship room,
5:30 pm
Sun, November 2: Daylight Saving Time ends 
Thu, November 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am. (see CLC)
Sat, November 15: Shalom will be hosting "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path"
as part of The Spirit & Place Festival. (See Announcements)
Sun, December 14: Congregational Budget Meeting, 12 pm
Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp
*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9am - 3pm

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! (Wędnęsday – Wędnęsday)

Sun, October 26: Sabrina Falls
Sun, October 26: Micah Urquizo Maust

If you are one who enjoys a cup of coffee, tea, hot chocolate or glass of lemonade between our church service and the Sunday School hour, you can thank the few people who make up our fellowship team. Every week one of them comes early to get everything set up and organized so that all you need to do is pour and stir. If you would be willing to learn the ropes, they would be happy to have extra hands helping with this task. See Linda S.



Everyone is invited to share pictures or small mementos of a loved one who has passed away. A table has been set up in the fellowship hall so we can enjoy it longer. (Day of the Dead falls on Sat, November 1 and Sun, November 2.)

Next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street on **November 6 at 11:30 am**. All women are welcome.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

There are several new children's books in our library that help explain *The Day of the Dead*, or *Dia de los Muertos*, a Hispanic holiday that remembers loved ones who have passed away. Any child who reads one of those books can select a decorated *Calavera* – a skull made out of sugar! See Linda S



Children's Education

Looking ahead: New teachers will be needed soon.

- Lead teacher or 2 co-teachers for the Elementary class (grades 2-5). The next quarter starts in December.
- Co-teacher needed for 2s-3s class to share dates with Abri in 2026.

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.

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), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler
Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (10/19) Wilma brought the message on “Where is Your Safe Place”, using Psalm 91.

This Sunday (10/26) Craig will be preaching from Luke 18:9-14.

Next Sunday (11/2) Craig will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Emmanuel Living Christian Church*, Indianapolis, IN. Pastor: Jeremiah Chuiha
- **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

More information about “A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path” on **November 15 from 3 – 6 pm:** Be sure and check out and register below. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged. Contact Becky and/or Wilma for more information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-nature-walk-down-a-peace-path-tickets-1743599475969?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile>



Would you like to take a much deeper dive into the US Civil Rights struggle? Mennonite Mission Network organizes Just Peace Pilgrimages, one of which is the United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage. These trips typically last about 8 days, but if a group applies together MMN will tailor-make the schedule. More information at

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/united-states-civil-rights-pilgrimage/>

More interested Just Peace at our southern border? MMN also has a Christ at the Borders Pilgrimage in Arizona:

<https://www.mennonitemission.net/serve/placements/christ-at-the-borders-pilgrimage/>

~ Martha Yoder Maust



Abolish Capital Punishment In Indiana. We have a window of opportunity—and a sacred duty—to respond to the governor's call for a public debate about the death penalty in Indiana. Please see the attachments concerning a letter-writing campaign (and sample letters) to the governor.

For more info, contact Sabrina Falls.

REFLECTION

Empathy versus Emotionalism

One of the things that I love about Shalom is that it's an extraordinarily sensitive congregation. Guests regularly comment about the warmth of the congregation: we do a pretty good job of showing interest in people without putting them on the spot and sharing our values without being judgmental. I never have to worry that someone will say something offensive to a newcomer that I may bring or direct to the church because we are very careful not to cause offense.

But like every gift, this wonderful feature of our congregation comes with a shadow side. While it is generally good to avoid hurting feelings, it's unhealthy for a community to make this its guiding principle. That is called emotionalism. Unfortunately, it's easy for sensitive people to fall into this trap. For example, if one person tells the congregation that they are offended by a song that we sang or language that we used, and we immediately stop using it, that is emotionalism. Or if congregational discernment over a controversial issue turns into problem-solving to try to make everyone happy, that is emotionalism. No one openly embraces emotionalism, but it sneaks into our decision-making when it's not clear what our values are, so we default to people-pleasing. But because people often have conflicting and even contradictory emotions, this often puts us in an impossible position.

Empathy, the practice of seeking to understand and even share in the feelings of others, is healthy. We should and do cultivate empathy at Shalom, and I hope we never lose it. However, seeking to understand or show compassion toward someone does not mean that we have to accommodate their wishes. Sometimes, people feel shame or anger because a church does something unjust, and that ought to be corrected. But at other times, people feel shame or anger because they are bringing their own baggage to the situation, and it is they who need to adjust their interpretive lenses, not the church that needs to change. This is why it is so important to be clear about where we stand with God, because that is the only standard that can withstand the winds and waves of emotional reactions. ~ Brian

PERSON OF COLOR BIO FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Pilipino Bruins have played an essential role in cultivating a vibrant and diverse UCLA community since the University's earliest days. Students, staff and faculty have championed,

educated and celebrated the Pilipino experience to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment.

(Note: Pilipino and Filipino are used interchangeably in this article and mean the same thing. Philippine locals use Pilipino because there is no phonetic equivalent to the letter "F" in the Philippine Islands' indigenous languages.)

In 1898, America claimed the Philippines as a colony following the Spanish American War. Pilipinos became American nationals who could migrate freely but were excluded from citizenship. Students who excelled academically were encouraged to become *pensionados* (a Philippine student whose expenses are paid by the government while he studies abroad) and study at U.S. universities with the understanding they would return to the Philippines to teach or work in government.

Pilipino Americans face unique challenges. The community has developed its own ways of supporting younger generations and ensuring their success. At UCLA, this support takes the form of mentorship, advocacy and sharing the importance of family, food and music.



HELEN SUMMERS, B.E.
Education
Transferred from Pasadena J.C.: General Elementary Club.

One early UCLA student, Helen Agcaoili Summers Brown was born in Manila and moved with her family to Pasadena. Brown had a 30-year career as a Los Angeles Unified School District teacher and counselor, where she advocated for cultural diversity awareness. With no resources available, she began documenting and preserving Pilipino American stories, building a library of books, pamphlets, newsletters and newspaper clippings. Affectionately called "Auntie Helen," when she retired, she brought her library to the community. The Pilipino American Reading Room and Library (PARRAL) opened in 1985 as the first library in the United States to focus on the Pilipino American experience.



FLORA ARCA MATA, A.B.
History
Los Angeles

In the early 1900s, many Pilipinos left their homeland in search of better economic opportunities and settled in California's Central Valley and the Pacific Northwest where they worked in agriculture and faced widespread racism. Flora Arca Mata was an early Bruin who broke barriers as Stockton's first Asian American full-time teacher. She attended UCLA with the financial help of an older sister who worked as a farmworker. Unable to find a teaching job in California, she and her husband moved to the Philippines. Mata recalled in an interview, "Why is it that America would educate the minority and not give them an opportunity to use this education?" Returning to Stockton after WWII, she was hired as a substitute and then a full-time teacher. Her experience and tenacity paved the way for future generations.



<https://alumni.ucla.edu/pilipino-bruins/>



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



Herb has a source for free 50-gallon rain barrels. They are blue in color. This appears to be an unlimited source of barrels. Inform your friends and anyone else. They are rinsed three times with alkaline water to get all the chemicals out. Email or call Herb

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 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.

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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