



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JULY 16, 2025

CALENDAR

- Sat, July 19: Response due for the Underground Railroad Museum visit (see Community Life)
- Sat, July 19: Blueberry order due (see announcement)
- Sun, July 20: No Fellowship Meal
- Sun, July 20: Prayer Action for our Communities and Democracy (see announcement)
- Sun, July 27: Congregational meeting after the Sunday School on Sunday (see VAT)
- Wed, July 30: Nominations for Congregational Rep for VAT due (see VAT)
- Thu, August 7: Shalom Sister Lunch at 10th Street Diner, 3301 E. 10th Street, 11:30 am (see Community Life)
- Sat, October 4: Shalom Retreat (see Community Life)
- 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

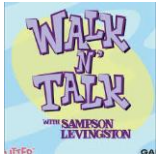
Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Thu, July 17: Lydie Assefa

Fri, July 18: Carl & Grace Rhine, 1987

Sun, July 20: Wilma Bailey



This year's annual retreat will be a "Walk and Talk" with Sampson Levingston in downtown Indy (through2eyes). A catered meal will follow at the church, and the afternoon will be available for games and fellowship. More details will follow.

Underground Railroad Museum visit: go to

<https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/b8KJROLa> to vote for which

Saturday in August would work best with your schedule to visit the

Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati. **Respond by July 19th** so

we can finalize plans and get discounted group tickets. Everyone will

be responsible to pay for their own admission, meals and travel. Carpools can be organized.



August 7th's Shalom Sister Lunch will be at 10th Street Diner, 3301 E. 10th Street, at 11:30 am. The diner is a vegan restaurant, and has been showcased on tv's Diners, Drive-ins and Dives! All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Dear Shalom



Thank you for paying for me to go to camp Amigo. I had a lot of fun. I went swimming. I got a bullseye at archery. One thing we did was played tag and we played with a oiled watermelon in the lake.

Sincerely Liam Sanders



Children's Ed for Summer 2025

A teacher for the Elementary class is still needed for **August 24**. Laura can provide a digital curriculum.

Children's Ed for Fall 2025

Have you noticed the laughter, cries, and playful sounds that are interspersed with worship? Shalom has a lot of kids!

- 23 kids will form our 3 Sunday school classes this fall
- In addition to Lead Teachers, I'd like to have an Assistant for the 2 larger classes
- Fall classes will start on Sept 7

2-4s class	Early Elementary	Older Elementary
Lead:	Lead: Beverly Smith	Lead: Frank Kandel
Asst:	No assistant needed	Asst:
7 kids: Zema, Abigail, Matthias, Vivienne, Allison, Nathan, Callie	6 kids: Yeshi, Luke, Elise, Kara, Junia, Lena	10 kids: Layla, Aubrey, Leo, Calvin, Eva, Lexie, Roslyn, Liam, Sydney, Karina

Adult Sunday School Classes:

July 20: Caucus Sunday, video

July 27: Reports from IN-MI and MCUSA conferences

Beginning on August 3: The *Salt & Light Bible study in I Corinthians*. Wilma Bailey is facilitating that class. No sign-up necessary, study booklets have already been purchased.

Beginning August 10: A sign-up sheet is posted at the back of the sanctuary for the class, *Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices allows Love to Blossom*. This will be led by Herb Troyer, starting August 3.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Dear friends and supporters of Peter and Delicia. Please enjoy this video about their work in Ecuador. <https://www.mennonitemission.net/video/help-support-ministries-of-peacemaking-and-anabaptist-education-in-ecuador/>

It's time to make Mennonite Central Committee school kits!

This is the complete list if you want to fill kits on your own [drawstring bags provided]:

- 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
- 1 large eraser
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm (inch markings optional)
- 1 small all-metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)



If you want to contribute individual items, being collected next to the lift downstairs, please note that ***we have enough erasers, rulers and pencil sharpeners already.***

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair beginning in September), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Nizeet Deiter; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

The SGDT is pleased to announce that Andrew Martin has agreed to serve as the vice-chair of the Vision and Accountability Team. Please communicate affirmation and feedback for Andrew to Pastor Craig (craig@shalommennonite.com) by July 30.

Seeking Your Nominations: VAT Congregational Representative

Grace Rhine's term as Congregational Representative (CR) on the Vision and Accountability Team (VAT) concludes on August 31. We are grateful for Grace's faithful service!

Now, we invite *ALL* who consider Shalom their church home to participate in the process of selecting a new CR. Congregational Representatives are chosen *BY YOU*, the congregation, and serve as your voice on the VAT. While the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT) members facilitate the process, it is *YOUR NOMINATIONS* that shape who is called to serve. Continuing their service on the VAT in the upcoming church year are:

- Nizeet Deiter, Chair
- Andrew Martin, pending congregational approval, beginning in September, Vice Chair
- Charity Bauman, CR
- Sam Bixler, CR

A description of the selection process and the nominating form are **attached** in this issue of

Journeying Together. Please prayerfully consider whom you might nominate and respond promptly.

Nominations are due **by July 30**. Paper forms are available at the back of the sanctuary.

~ Submitted by Pastor Craig Oury, on behalf of the SGDT

The SGDT is pleased to announce that Melissa Walsh Martin has agreed to serve as the chair of the Worship Commission. Please communicate affirmation and feedback for Melissa to Pastor Craig (craig@shalommennonite.com) by July 16.

Please continue to pray for the discernment process of the VAT vice chair and chairs of the Discipling and Outreach Commissions.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Frank Kandel (Chair), Nizeet Deiter (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Grace Rhine
Pastoral Representatives: Brian Bither, Craig Oury

BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front): Pastor Brian's leave is proposed to be extended through September 8 by using paid sabbatical, with a one-time exception to the pastoral covenant of understanding pending a congregational vote on **July 27 after Sunday School**.

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (7/13) Andrew Martin brought the message.

This week (7/20) This Sunday Craig will bring the message from Luke 10:38-42.

Next Sunday (7/27) we will have a song and Scripture service

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Sunnyside Mennonite Church*, Elkhart, IN. Pastors: Maria Hosler Byler and Osée Tshiwape.

Please pray for our congregation and community as we and a couple other Elkhart churches host joint Bible school the week of July 14, that we would be a community of belonging and witness to the good news.

- **Organization:** *Indiana AID* is a volunteer group that supports immigrants detained in the state of Indiana by visiting them, bearing witness to their experiences, and providing resources to them and their families. (Contact: Brian Bither)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Mennonite Church is taking orders for blueberries. A 5 lb box is \$19 & a 10 lb box is \$38. Blueberries will be picked up on **Saturday, July 19th**. Let me know if you would like to order some. Contact Becky Wigginton

PRAYER ACTION FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND DEMOCRACY

People of faith, together with the Indiana State AFL-CIO and Indivisible of Central Indiana, will be joining in prayer and to call on the federal government to invest in our

communities, not in the arrest and deportation of our neighbors, friends, and families. We will gather in the spirit of prayer, love, and solidarity with the many people in our lives who are suffering from the trauma of this intentional persecution. This will be one of three simultaneous events happening across Indiana. Together we will make it clear: We will not be silenced. We will resist attacks on our neighbors and our Constitution. And we will demand that our elected representatives show courage and join us in speaking out against these abuses.

**Sunday, July 20 5 – 6pm EDT
Office of Senator Todd Young
310 E 96th St, Indianapolis, IN 46240**

Background: Our federal government has set aside \$45 billion to build immigrant detention facilities while also tripling ICE funding. While these funds will be spent to terrorize our friends, families, and neighbors, millions of Americans will lose health care, and the increased cost of housing continues to squeeze hard-working Americans. Hoosiers want investments in health care, education, housing, and public safety, not terror and intimidation.

The cruel arrests, deportations, and disappearances of non-criminal immigrants and asylum-seekers are causing enormous harm and trauma to those who are targeted as well as their U.S. citizens family members, friends, and co-workers. These actions violate the immigrants' Constitutional rights to due process and threaten the rights of every American by undermining one of the pillars of our democracy. The recent attempts to prosecute SEIU California President David Huerta and U.S. Representative LaMonica McIver as well as the unnecessary deployment of the National Guard and Marines to California over the objection of the State's duly-elected governor are among the increasing attempts by the Administration to silence dissent and accumulate power.

**PERSON OF COLOR BIO
BIPOC MENTAL HEALTH MONTH
A.K.A. BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

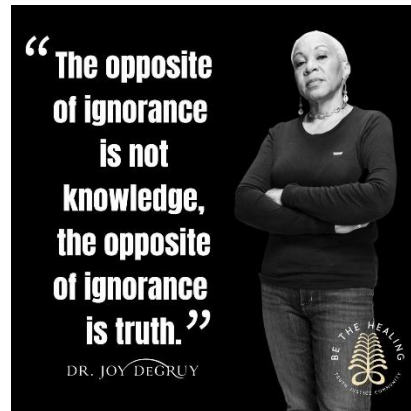
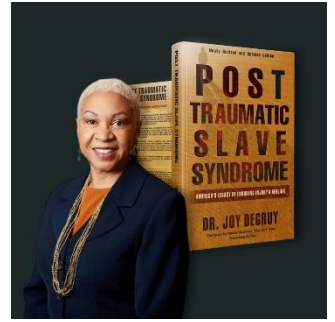


Dr. Joy DeGruy authored the book entitled *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*, (revised 2017) which addresses the residual impacts of trauma on African Descendants in the Americas. Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome (PTSS) lays the groundwork for understanding how the past has influenced the present and opens up the discussion of how we can eliminate non-productive attitudes, beliefs and behaviors developed to cope and survive the traumatic periods of capture, transport, enslavement, Jim Crow and current day racial terrorism. The focus of the book is to learn and build upon the strengths we have gained from the past in order to heal from injuries both past and present.

<https://www.joydegruy.com/>

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing is a 2005 theoretical work by Joy DeGruy Leary. The book argues that the experience of slavery in the United States and the continued discrimination and oppression endured by African Americans creates inter-generational psychological trauma, leading to a psychological and behavioral syndrome common among present-day African Americans. It often manifests as a lack of self-esteem, persistent feelings of anger, and internalized racist beliefs.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_Traumatic_Slave_Syndrome



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: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine Pastors Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
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