



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

MAY 6, 2026

CALENDAR

- Thu, May 7: Shalom Sisters Lunch @ The Bosphorus, 11:30 am (see CLC)
- Thu, May 7: Eastside Creation Care Network (see Outreach) Recycle Force tour, 816 N. Sherman Drive, 2:30 pm
- Sun, May 17: 3rd Sunday Carry-In after Sunday School (see CLC)
- Wed, May 20: Wild Church, 10 am
- Sat, Jun 20: Peace Church Coalition training at Shalom, 10a-2:30p (see Outreach)
- 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: Craig Oury

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Thu, May 7: Lydie Assefa & Tyler Falk, 2011

Tue, May 12: Jason Gossett



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at The Bosphorus, 935 S East St. **Thursday, May 7th** at 11:30 am. The Bosphorus is Indiana's and Indianapolis' first and only Turkish restaurant. All women are welcome.

Do you have some things you would like to get rid of? Would you be interested in participating in a Garage Sale in the church basement sometime this spring/summer? We are exploring the interest level, also whether there would be enough volunteers to help. (No clothes, no books would be accepted!) All proceeds would go to Indiana AID. Let me know if you would be interested. ~ Linda



In the kitchen and Fellowship Hall we have a lot of items -- tables and kitchen tools -- that Shalom congregants are welcome to borrow. We just ask that you sign them out and back in on a clip board under the phone in the kitchen. If it's something that is used regularly, like the refrigerator, talk with one of the fellowship team, Becky, Krystal or Carol W.

Our 3rd Sunday Carry-In in May will be on the 17th after Sunday School. That week is Herb and Joyce Troyer's 50th wedding Anniversary and we will celebrate with them During our carry-in with cake! The rest of us will focus on salads, breads or main dishes.



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Summer and Fall plans for Children's Education:

Summer: For many summer Sundays, the Discipling Commission would like to have intergenerational Sunday school with kids participating alongside the adults. We're going to do most activities with all ages so my request for summer teachers for ages 2-4 is no longer needed. The dates when we will have separate children's classes are below and are all covered.

June 14 – Charity, Beverly, Carol Bither

June 21 – Abri, Beverly, Carol Bither

Aug 9 & 16 – Abri, Carol Bixler

Parents, Grandparents, Teachers, Future Volunteers, and Everyone - please provide any feedback on these tentative fall plans to Laura.

Fall: We will start our Fall curriculum on August 23 rather than waiting until September this year. Since we usually don't offer classes on holidays like Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekend, we will bring lessons forward by 2 weeks and still have enough lessons for the quarter.

Classroom breakdown plans are as follows. Please reach out to Laura with any questions or wonderings, especially if your child is placed in a different class than you expected. The structure below is proposed as a starting place, not the final draft! I've left our lone "2 turning 3" year old, Nathan, off the list for now to think through what will work best for him.

PreK-K:

Irene Koop

Allison Sanders

Vivienne Bauman

Matthias Martin Walsh

Abigail Dieter

Zema Falk

Yeshi Lederach

Younger Elem (1st-3rd):

Luke Bither

Elise Hochstetler

Kara Hochstetler

Junia Martin Walsh

Lena Bauman

Layla Bither

Upper Elem (4th-6th):

Leo Maust

Calvin Hochstetler

Liam Sanders

Lexie Bither

Sydney Maust

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:



May 7 at 2:30 pm, Eastside Creation Care Network will be touring Recycle Force, 816 N. Sherman Drive. RecycleForce is a 501(c)(3) committed to reducing crime through employment and job training while improving the environment through electronics recycling. Since 2006, RecycleForce has safely recycled more than 100 million pounds of electronic waste and recycles up to 97% of everything that comes through its doors.

All are welcome and it is very interesting. ~ Becky

Shalom will be hosting the next Peace Church Coalition training on **June 20th 10am - 2:30** with lunch provided by Indiana Organizing Project. This is a newly-formed organization started by Stuart Mora who is a member of First Friends Quaker Meeting and of Peace Church Coalition. The June training will be designed to lead up to planning a state-wide Prayer Vigil that will be scheduled the last weekend in August. More info to come.

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

Phil Schmidt, now has a direct email address: phil@shalommennonite.com
Phil also has a bio that is now on the church website (on the menu under: About\Pastors).

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (5/3) Craig brought the message from Matthew 21:23-32

This Sunday (5/10) Craig will bring the message from Psalm 16.

Next Sunday (5/17) Craig will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** *Belmont Mennonite Church* is in Elkhart and is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** *Faith in Place* is a network of people of diverse faiths and spiritualities who seek to lead the environmental movement by advancing environmental and racial justice. They provide resources to educate, connect and advocate for healthier communities. Contacts: Brad and Becky

ANNOUNCEMENTS



May 16th is a state-wide Day of Action to *End Ice Detention at Miami Correctional Facility.*

The Peace Church Coalition is holding an action at **Broad Ripple Art Center**, 12:00-1:00. The event will include **Music by Peaceful Voices** weaved within

Messages of Hope, Prayers, and Stories from our immigrant neighbors

Meet @ 11:45 in the parking lot near the Monon Trail <https://indyartcenter.org/> **If you are interested in joining, please email rhondabake@aol.com.** If you are interested in joining the singing group, contact Rhonda at rhondabake@aol.com. Rehearsals for this event will be at Northview Church of the Brethren 5555 East 46th Street, **May 10th** 12:30-2:00 and **May 14** 6:00-7:30.

*** this will include a sign-making time.** (if you can't make it to rehearsal but want to sing, contact Rhonda Baker at rhondabake@aol.com). We will sing protest songs, hymns, and singing resistance songs. Here is a link to google doc with song lyrics, music, and recordings:

[Peaceful Voices - Google Drive](#)



Mennonite Action Hiring Executive Director

Mennonite Action co-founders Nick Martin and Adam Ramer are transitioning out of the organization. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, Mennonite Action grew from an idea to a movement organization with 5 staff and dozens of chapters across the United States. Nick and Adam feel that now is a good time to pass the mantle on to new staff leadership.

To keep this movement growing into the future, Mennonite Action has decided to hire an Executive Director. Please help us find great candidates by passing on the application to your networks. To view the application or to apply, you can visit

mennoniteaction.org/executivedirector

~ Sabrina

May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

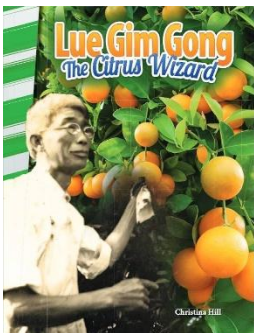
Asian: Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander: Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Lue Gim Gong (刘锦浓)

August 24, 1857 – June 3, 1925



Lue Gim Gong, a Chinese American immigrant in the late nineteenth century, was an accomplished horticulturalist who contributed to the growth of the American citrus industry by developing a cold-resistant orange and other plants. Overcoming hardship, ignorance and injustice, Lue lived a triumphant life that continues to inspire generations of people in our multicultural society in the twenty-first century.

Lue Gim Gong was born in the village of Lung On. At age fifteen and led by his uncle, he left his home in Guangdong Province, and immigrated to the United States. After a dreadful voyage over the Pacific Ocean that lasted for weeks, he landed on the West Coast on June 27, 1872 and began to work in a shoe factory in San Francisco.

Shortly after, he joined seventy-four other Chinese workers hired by Calvin T. Sampson to break a strike at his North Adams shoe factory in Massachusetts. There he learned English at a Chinese Sunday School, joined the Baptist Church and became a Christian. He met Fannie Burlingame, a volunteer teacher at the school who greatly influenced his life.

Burlington was intrigued by the fresh and eager intelligence of young Lue, and invited him to live in her house. Through her caring efforts, Lue soon became a member of the family and began to call her “Mother Fannie.” He spent much time working in Burlingame’s large garden and greenhouse filled with exotic vegetation. He was familiar with plants since he had worked in the orange groves in Lung On, where his mother had taught him how to cross-pollinate blossoms and graft stock.

In the mid-1880s, Lue was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and was given one year to live if he did not leave the harsh Massachusetts climate. He chose to return to his family in subtropical Guangdong. However, after returning to China, he found that his Christian ideas were no longer completely compatible with the Chinese customs. Furthermore, his family had arranged a marriage that he refused to accept. For his act that brought shame to his family, Lue’s name was stricken from the clan genealogy. The four-month homecoming had become an unhappy journey, and he was eager to go back to the States, even though that meant his life might be shortened there. The arrangement turned out to be a difficult task, as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was already in effect. Miss Burlingame had to forge the documents that listed him as a merchant who planned to open a store in Massachusetts (McCunn, 122).

Lue returned to the United States in December 1886 and went directly to Florida, where he stayed with the Burlingame family on their newly purchased orange groves in DeLand. The following year, he became an American citizen and cast his first vote in a general election.

The severe freezes in the 1890s greatly motivated him to work on developing a strain of orange that would resist frost. He crossed the Florida Harts Late orange with a variety from the Mediterranean region. The result was a sweet, juicy fruit that could endure severe weather. It was named the *Lue Gim Gong Orange*. Hume (1926) noted in his *Cultivation of Citrus Fruits* that “this hardy thrifty-growing variety is very resistant to cold; in fact, it may be the hardiest of all sweet orange varieties now commonly cultivated in America. It is a noteworthy fruit because of the length of time the fruit may be held on the tree.” *The New York Times* (1925) reported that “he [Lue] saved the industry millions of dollars by his perfection of an orange tree on which fruit would remain until far beyond maturity.”

During the following years, Lue also developed an aromatic grapefruit, and propagated roses and other flowers and fruits. For his contribution to Florida’s citrus industry, Lue was called “the wizard of citrus growers,” and “the Chinese Burbank of Florida.”

However, his success with the orange and other botanical discoveries only brought him fame, not fortune. As his name spread, numerous visitors came to his grove, and he would give away free samples of his fruit and plants. Not a very talented businessman, he was often cheated by his distributors, who refused to pay for materials they ordered and royalties he was entitled to. In 1922, when his mortgage was due and Lue had no money to pay his bills, the *Florida Grower* published his story, and the magazine readers, along with citizens of DeLand and



North Adams, responded to raise sufficient funds to save his property. Never married, Lue spent his last years alone in his beloved grove, accompanied only by his horses, named Baby and Fannie, and pet rooster, March.

Lue Gim Gong died on June 3, 1925, and was buried in the Oakdale Cemetery in DeLand, Florida. Hundreds of people attended his funeral, and newspapers published obituaries that praised his horticultural

achievements. His accomplishment was also featured prominently in the Florida Pavilion at the 1933 Chicago World’s Fair.



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 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:
6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 office@shalommennonite.com

Pastor: 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