



## *JOURNEYING TOGETHER*

### *A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church*

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

**JUNE 25, 2025**

### **CALENDAR**

**Today: Congregational Meeting, 6:30 pm, fellowship hall**

Thu, Jul 3: Shalom Sisters Lunch, @ Blueberry Hill, 10289 E. Washington St, 11:30 am

Sat, Jul 12: Eastside Creation Care Network meeting @ Shalom, 8:30 am

(see announcement under Outreach)

Sat, Oct 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, June 26: Cheryl Martin

Sat, June 28: Daniel Grimes



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 19<sup>th</sup> so we can finalize plans and get group tickets (discounted). Everyone would be responsible to pay for their own admission, meals and travel. Carpools can be organized.

No 3rd Sunday Carry-in in July since a lot of folks travel and it can get hot in the kitchen in the Summer! Keep an eye out for our Summer Picnic! ~ Kitchen Team

## DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither  
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

### **Summer Children's Sunday School volunteer needs:**

June 29 - Beverly Smith will be back to teach!

August 24 - teacher needed for Elementary class. Laura can provide digital resources for the lesson that day.

### **Adult Sunday School Classes:**

June 29: Linda S and Craig sharing in the Intergenerational Faith & Food class.

July 6: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

July 13: Jim M, Charity and Brad sharing in the Intergenerational Faith & Food class

July 20: Caucus Sunday

July 27: Reports from IN-MI and MCUSA conferences

Beginning August 3:

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. (See attachment)

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

## OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

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

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.***



## EASTSIDE CREATION CARE NETWORK meeting at Shalom Mennonite Church, Saturday, July 12, 2025

Light breakfast 8:30 - 9 am

Meeting 9 - 11:00 am

- Welcome and introductions
- Reflection
- Guest: Daniel Hedglin and Jamey McPherson about Indy's bike/pedestrian/greenway infrastructure
- Faith In Place - Zach Garcia, Advocacy:
- Thriving Congregations for Environmental Justice, accepting applications for Faith, Action, and Renewal: Equipping Congregations for Climate and Environmental Action (July 28–31)
- 2025 Environment & Spirituality Summit Sept 29–30, Keynote Speaker: Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*
- Faith in Place - Grace
- Congregations - Green updates
- Other Business

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

### VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Shalom-

Your leaders at Shalom (the VAT) are calling a special gathering of the Congregation

**Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m.** to give you an opportunity to share your feelings, prayers and concerns for Pastor Brian and his family. You may attend in person (in Fellowship Hall) or on Zoom. The session will not be recorded and no decisions will be made, but is intended as time for us to hear each other.

Frank Kandel for the VAT, 309-532-2859

### WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

**Last Sunday (6/22)** Craig brought the message from Mark 6:30-46.

**This Sunday (6/29)** Sabrina will bring the message.

**Next Sunday (July 6)** Craig will bring the message.

### This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Piedra Viva Mennonite Church*
- **Organization:** *Mennonite Central Committee* is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, which shares God's love and compassion for all in the name of Christ by

responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. (Contact: Zenebe Abebe)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Dan Rosenberger: **500th Year Anniversary of Anabaptism**; RSVP @ 217-873-4901

Where: Otto Center, ½-mile south of Arthur, IL

When: July 4th & 5th 2025

What Time: Doors open at 1:00pm, July 4th

Sessions: Friday July 4th

2:00pm - 1524 to 1744 – The Froschauer Bible by Lloyd Weiler

2:30pm - The State Church and Its Spiritual Darkness (Pre-Reformation), by Chester Weaver

3:30pm - The Years 1500 to 1550 (The Reformation), by Lloyd Weiler

4:15pm - The Anabaptist Swiss Brethren – Schleithem Confessions/Jacob Amman, by Andrew Ste. Marie

5:15pm - Evening Meal

7:15pm - The Ancestral Homes of the Illinois Amish, by John Sharp

Sessions: Saturday July 5th

7:00am - Coffee/Doughnuts (by donation)

8:20am - Why Anabaptism is Persecuted, by Lloyd Weiler

9:00am - The Nazi Mennonite Story, by Chester Weaver

9:45am – Morning Break

10:00am – The Devastating Outcome of the Hitler/German Mennonite story, by Chester Weaver

## IN HONOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC MONTH PERSON OF COLOR BIO

***Bernice Johnson Reagon*** was born Bernice Johnson on October 4th, 1942 just outside of Albany, Georgia. Her parents, Beatrice and Reverend Jessie Johnson, raised Reagon and her siblings within the town's closely connected African American community. Reagon describes this experience as "being raised by a whole community of people" rather than solely by her parents. She recalls living in close proximity to her relatives' homes. Reagon's schooling started young, and she was in fourth grade by the time she was seven years old. Following primary school, she and her siblings attended an all-Black high school.



Reagon's father's role as a reverend in an all-Black church and her childhood in a primarily Black community ensured she was brought up in an environment full of Black music and traditions. Her environment allowed her to constantly learn more about her culture. Heavy engagement with her community was a large factor in the passion she developed for Black identity and heritage.

In 1959, Reagon attended Albany State College (now Albany State University) where she majored in music. She also began to take an interest in activism and political organizing. One prominent protest method of various Albany Movement rallies was singing. Organizers often called upon Reagon to initiate singing at demonstrations. When interviewed for the Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years interview project, Reagon recalled her shock that Albany State College students were unfamiliar with songs that were prominent in her childhood. She remarked, "I remember being surprised that everybody in Albany State College gym at that time didn't know the Negro National Anthem, which in Albany you learned from the



time you were born. That was one of my first awareness' that all Black people didn't grow up like we did in Albany". Though this surprised Reagon, she did not let this discourage her. Instead, she put her own unique twist on the music she sang at rallies. Most often, she would change certain words to better fit the theme of the gatherings. For example, if a song incorporated a word she did not think was relevant to their cause, she would change it to "freedom" where applicable.

Reagon was jailed in 1961 for participating in a civil rights demonstration. When she discussed her experience in jail, she immediately reflected upon the power of song. Reagon recounted that there were many kinds of Black people in jail with her, all evidently from different walks of life. One thing they had in common though was their imprisonment. When encouraged to sing by fellow jailed civil rights leaders, Reagon reflected that "growing up in Albany, I learned that if you bring Black people together, you bring them together with a song,". When singing in jail, she recognized the power of music to create and maintain community - even in the most dire situations.



Reagon completed her undergraduate degree at Spelman in 1970 with a bachelors in Non-Western History, then moved to Washington, DC in 1971 to begin a graduate program at Howard University. She graduated in 1975 with a Ph.D. in History. During her time at Howard, Reagon was the Vocal Director of the Black Repertory Theater in DC (Hatfield 2020). While serving as Vocal Director, Reagon created the all-female and all-Black acapella group called *Sweet Honey in the Rock* in 1973. Reagon explains the name of the group originated from Psalm 81:16, which "describes a land so rich

that honey pours from the rock". The women also felt the name was a fitting metaphor for Black women - "sweet as honey, strong as rock".

The ensemble performed more than 60 times a year, with most shows sold out well in advance. Sweet Honey in the Rock's mission reads:

*"The ensemble educates, entertains and empowers its audience and community through the dynamic vehicles of a cappella singing and American Sign Language interpretation for the Deaf and hard of hearing."*

Reagon served as a prolific composer and the ensemble's artistic director for 30 years from the band's inception until she retired in 2004. As an outspoken member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, her commitment to social justice and equality are infused in the music, spirit, and ideology of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Bernice Johnson Reagon passed away in 2024.

Edited from <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/bernice-johnson-reagon>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet\\_Honey\\_in\\_the\\_Rock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweet_Honey_in_the_Rock)





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](mailto: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](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.

**JOURNEYING TOGETHER** is compiled by Linda Showalter each week. Send information to [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) by 5 pm on Wednesday.

**SAM BIXLER** manages our church directory, email add

ress list, and telephone numbers. You can email changes or additions to the office at [office@shalommennonite.com](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [bixlersc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@shalommennonite.com) or [craig@shalommennonite.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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 [shalommennonite.com](http://shalommennonite.com)

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181

Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel,

