



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

AUGUST 12, 2026

CALENDAR

Wed, Aug 19: Wild Church at Holliday Park (Announcements)
Sun, Aug 30: Back-to-school Cookout, 5 – 8 pm (CLC)
Thu, Sep 4: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (CLC)
Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp
Sun, Dec 6: Fellowship Meal to celebrate Craig's return

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Carl Rhine

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Tue, August 18: Brian Bither
Tue, August 18: Barb & Zenebe Abebe, 1979
Wed, August 19: Sheila Abebe

August 30, 5:00 - 8:00: Late Summer, Back to School Cookout. Bring a side dish and we will have meats and food to grill. Bring your lawn chairs and come at 4:30 to help set up and start the grills.



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be **Thursday, September 4th** at 11:30 am, meeting at Pho Saigon, a Vietnamese restaurant. It is located at 4760 W 38th St

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Thank you to all who contributed to **School Kits**. If you would still like to contribute items, note that we do not need pencil sharpeners, rulers or erasers. That leaves:

- boxes of 12 colored pencils
- black ink pens (x4),
- spiral notebooks (x4)
- unsharpened #2 pencils (x8).

My Coins Count collection is underway (so bring your change with you on Sunday) and continuing until the Michiana Relief Sale (September 25-26).



There will be 2 adult Sunday school classes this fall. A book study using Art and Faith: A Theology of Making by Makoto Fujimura will be facilitated by Andrew Martin. The second class will use the Salt and Light series and will be facilitated by Wilma Bailey.

Teacher needed:



I am looking for a teacher for the 1st-3rd grade class for 4 Sundays: September 13 - October 4. Please talk to Laura if you can help.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

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:

Shalom Mennonite Church seeks to be a community of grace, peace and joy; a space where people can come to experience God's healing and hope. Therefore, we as the people of Shalom are committed to maintaining a space of physical and emotional safety where people can come together to worship God and grow as disciples of Jesus.

Many children and youth attend Shalom and all adults are around them at least some of the time, even if they are not involved in the educational programs. Therefore, it is hoped that everyone will meet the requirements of the Church and Child Safety Policy. According to the policy, "All persons must complete an educational program approved by the Shalom Mennonite Church VAT annually." Last Sunday, we provided that annual training. But some folks were still traveling for the summer. Others were providing care for the children during the Sunday School hour. If you were not able to attend, you are asked to meet the requirement by doing the following:

1. Go to the Shalom website, click on "Member page," and on "Church Policies."
2. Follow the instructions under "Child Safety Training Instructions."
3. Check the "Child Supervisor Eligibility Records to see if you have a signed Memorandum of Understanding on file. If you do not, print it from the end of the policy (or ask Jeanne for one), sign it and give it to Phil to file.

Thank you for helping to make our worship space a safe place for everyone.

Jeanne Smucker

jmrsmucker@outlook.com

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday, 8/9, Phil brought message from Matthew 25:31–46.

This Sunday, 8/16, Shawn Lange will bring the message. He will be preaching from John 14:1-6 and his sermon title will be "The Gospel Message in a Foreign Land"

Next Sunday, 8/23, Phil will bring the message based on Deuteronomy 6:4–9

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Hudson Lake Mennonite Church is in New Carlisle, IN.
- **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 just. They also provide resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities. Contacts: Brad and Becky
- **Pastor Craig** while on sabbatical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Saturday, August 15 from 2-4 is a party to celebrate Cheryl's 80th birthday hosted by her children. Please respond to the evite you received several weeks ago. The invitation neglected to say that **children are invited and welcome**. And yes, there will be cake and ice cream for all!! If you have trouble accessing or responding to the evite, just send me a message. ~ Cheryl



Mary Albrecht's address:

Copper Trace Senior Living
1250 West 146th Street
Rehabilitation Unit, Room #416
Westfield, IN 46074



Wild Church will meet on **August 19, Wednesday at 10 a.m.** at Holliday Park (6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis) under our tree canopy. We will reflect on insects in the Bible and in our world. What is your favorite insect? Seating is available but if you want a softer chair, bring your own or a cushion to place on the hard surface. We will look for people unfamiliar with the park in the parking lot nearest the nature center.
~ Wilma

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Every year, as summer peaks in August, Black communities around the world observe **Black August**, a month-long reflection on Black resistance, revolution, and the enduring fight for liberation. Unlike festive celebrations, Black August is solemn and purposeful: it began in the late 1970s among Black activists and prisoners in California, intended as a time to honor fallen freedom fighters and



political prisoners and to educate communities about the long history of Black rebellion.

The aim is to channel the spirit of past revolutionaries – to learn from their struggles and carry on their legacy. Black August reminds us that the story of Black liberation is not confined to one country or one era but is truly global and continuous.

August holds a special place in Black history. The saying goes that “the month of August bursts at the seams with histories of Black resistance”. Indeed, many pivotal Black uprisings and milestones occurred in August. To name a few: the Haitian Revolution ignited on 21 August 1791, when enslaved Africans in Haiti (then Saint-Domingue) revolted against French colonial rule. This uprising grew into a 13-year revolutionary war that abolished slavery and led to Haiti’s independence as the first Black republic in 1804. Haiti’s victory – the only successful slave revolt in modern history – sent shockwaves through the colonial world. It proved that enslaved Black people *could* defeat empires, inspiring hope and fear in equal measure. Fast forward to August 1955 in the United States: the brutal racist murder of Emmett Till on August 28, 1955, galvanized the civil rights movement. August 1965 saw the Watts Rebellion in Los Angeles, a fiery protest against police brutality and injustice.

Even Black August itself was inspired by events in August, notably the prison rebellion led by George Jackson, a Black Panther, which culminated in his assassination on 21 August 1971. August, therefore, is a month of martyrs and milestones on the long road to freedom.

By dedicating this month to reflection, Black August connects the dots between these events, asserting that they form part of an “unbroken line of resistance and sacrifice” in Black history. A core principle of Black August is to study Black resistance throughout the diaspora. This means looking beyond our local or national history and understanding that Black people’s struggle against oppression has been *worldwide*. For Black British communities, educators and Black youth in particular; this global perspective is powerful and affirming. It teaches that their ancestors did not endure brutality passively; time and again, they fought back and reshaped history.

For instance, consider the Baptist War of 1831 in Jamaica. Enslaved Africans, led by preacher Samuel Sharpe, organized a general strike and uprising demanding freedom. It became the largest slave rebellion in the British Caribbean, involving some 60,000 people. Though the colonial forces brutally crushed the revolt and executed hundreds, the rebels achieved something monumental: their resistance accelerated the abolition of slavery. British authorities, shaken by the scale of the uprising, passed legislation to emancipate enslaved people across the Empire just a few years later, by 1838. In other words, enslaved Black Jamaicans were not passive beneficiaries of abolition – they were agents of their own liberation, forcing the issue through direct action.

In *Kenya*, the 1950s Mau Mau rebellion saw forest fighters and villagers resist British colonialism in a quest to reclaim their land and rights. The British authorities responded with mass detention camps and violence but could not extinguish the thirst for freedom. The uprising is widely seen as a key stepping stone to Kenya’s independence in 1963.

In *Ethiopia*, in 1896, the Battle of Adwa became a legendary example of Black resistance: Ethiopian forces, under Emperor Menelik II, defeated an invading Italian army, ensuring that Ethiopia remained independent. This victory was celebrated across Africa and the Black world. Finally, a non-European nation had halted the juggernaut of colonial conquest. It gave hope to anti-colonial movements everywhere.

In *Somalia*, between 1899 and 1920, Mohammed Abdullah Hassan’s Dervish movement waged one of the longest anti-colonial wars in African history. For 21 years, Hassan’s guerrilla

fighters defied the British and Italians, establishing a Dervish state in the process, until the resistance was put down by force. Such episodes, often left out of mainstream narratives, show that Black resistance was not rare – it was constant.

In the UK, Black history is often reduced to a few figures or the narrative of abolition led by white saviors, so incorporating global Black resistance into education is a radical act of truth-telling. It tells young Black Brits that *their* heritage is not just one of oppression, but also of heroism and innovation in fighting oppression. It's a heritage that links them to freedom fighters in Jamaica, revolutionaries in Haiti, anti-colonial warriors in Africa, and civil rights activists in America. This knowledge can inspire confidence and a deeper understanding of identity.

Edited from <https://blamuk.org/2025/08/14/black-august-and-the-power-of-global-black-resistance/>



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

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Pastor: Phil Schmidt (574) 500-4737, phil@shalommennonite.com

Vision & Accountability Team: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler