JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

CALENDAR

Thu, November 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am. (see CLC)
Sun, November 9: Fellowship Meal after Sunday School (see Announcements)
Sat, November 15: Shalom will be hosting "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path" as part of The Spirit & Place Festival, 3-6 pm. (See Announcements)
Sun, December 14: Congregational Budget Meeting, 12 pm
Sun, December 28: There will be no Sunday school on Dec.28 (the Sunday between Christmas and New Years).
Sun, February 9: Game Night @ Shalom
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! (Wednesday – Wednesday)
Thu, November 6: Peter Wigginton
Fri, November 7: Martha Yoder & Rod Maust, 1981

Sat, November 8: Caleb Martin

Shalom Sisters Lunch at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street **this Thursday, November 6, at 11:30 am.** All women are welcome.

It's November, which means **Thanksgiving Day** is coming up. If you do not have plans for the day, you are invited to join us for a meal and the afternoon. If there are enough people, we'll meet in the fellowship hall; otherwise, you are welcome to the Showalter's home. (Last year, around 40 people shared the day!).

Turkey will be provided; sign up to bring whatever is a favorite of yours for the holiday to share. Feel free to bring friends and family. (Football game will be available.) We will plan to eat at 1:00 pm. There's a sign-up sheet on the back sanctuary window. ~ Linda S.

If you are one who enjoys a beverage of some kind 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.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Good job, Calvin, Kara, Elise and Layla! They each picked out a sugar skull after reading books on *The Day of the Dead*. We'll keep it open for one more Sunday, then we will get back to our original reading program. Read 5 books, then pick out a gold dove pin, sparkly dove ornament, or a bracelet.

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.

Hall Monitors
November 9: Linda S
November 16:
November 23:
November 30:

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.

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 (11/2) Craig brought an All Saints Day message from Luke 6:20-31.
This Sunday (11/9) This Sunday, Brian will deliver his final sermon, "The Lord Is Not Slow," from 2 Peter 3:3-9.
Next Sunday (11/16) Eric Kurtz from Mennonite Central Committee will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Fellowship of Hope* in Elkhart, IN. Pastor: Peter Martin
- **Organization:** *Morning Star Ministries* is a food pantry ministry run by Morning Star Church in Muncie, IN, which Shalom supports. In addition to food, they offer community meals and care to the people whom they serve. (Contact: Frank Kandel)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **Sunday, November 9th**, we will be having a carry-in meal after Sunday school in honor of Pastor Brian Bither's twelve years of service to Shalom. It will be a time to reflect on his time with us and the role he has had in shaping our congregation, working with other churches, and Indiana AID*. See the attached invitation.*

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

Please join us – November 16, 2025
The Sacred Cycle: Faith, Consumption, and our Ecological Future
Join faith communities and experts in a panel discussion and a “Why We Care” fair exploring how faith can inspire ecological action and value-based economic choices. Hear stories from faith groups and connect with organizations advancing circularity to explore their interconnectivity. This event is part of the Spirit & Place Festival (Nov 6-16), and is a partnership with Circular Indiana, Mundell & Associates, and International School of Indiana. Learn more at spiritandplace.org. By registering for this event, you agree your email address can be shared with Spirit & Place.

Speakers:

- Pam Francis, Circular Indiana Board President
- John Mundell, Mundell & associates and Former International Director of the Vatican’s Laudato Si’ Action Platform
- Ken Miller, Circular Indiana Board Member

Panel Dialogue: faith values, creation care and economy
Moderated by Sarah Mundell Spencer, Mundell & Associates

- Paul Ainslie, President at Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Indy
- George Kelley, Education Director of Congregation Beth-el Zedeck
- Dr. Katy Lines, Co-Pastor Englewood Christian Church
- Imam Mikal Saahir, Resident Imam, Nur Allah Masjid
- KP Singh, The Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis

Mennonite Action: The Anniversary Call: Thursday, November 20 at 8pm EST / 5pm PST
Two years ago, congregations across the U.S. and Canada rallied together to respond to the escalated violence against Palestinians. We were fueled by the Anabaptist calling to courageously, proactively seek peace. All these months later, our community is stronger than ever, unified in the face of injustices like genocide, violence, and deportation. Please join us on our anniversary call to stay engaged in this movement: reflecting on the work of the past 12 months and staying fervent in our commitment to the work to come. We will hold our anniversary call virtually on November 20th, 2025, at 8pm ET / 5pm PT. All are encouraged to attend. To sign up, visit mennoniteaction.org/call ~ Sabrina

On **December 11** Mennonite Action is providing a training event in Indianapolis at First Mennonite Church from 5:45-8:45. More information will be coming soon. The planners of this training session are looking for some volunteers. We are looking for people who would be willing to:

* Provide housing and breakfast for the trainer who is coming in from out of town on Thursday, December 11 (and possibly on December 10 as well).
* 1 volunteer to greet and welcome those who arrive
* 2 volunteers to provide childcare during the training if needed
* 1 song leader
* 1 volunteer photographer to document the training and take a group photo at the end

If you are able to help in any of these ways, please let Pastor Craig know. Thank you!

Shalom Book Club? Do you love to read and reflect on our Christian journey together? We're exploring the idea of starting a Shalom Book Club where we can study theology, biblical studies, and other relevant disciplines together. I don't know about all of you, but I have a substantial "shelf of shame" of books that I have bought with the intention to read but just have never got around to it! I would love to have a group of people to read with for accountability and multiple perspectives. What we would read would be dependent on who would like to join and your interests, but I have a few ideas of things I'm interested in reading.

I've never read John Barclay's *Paul and the Gift* (or the later, shorter version) or Richard Hays *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul,* both highly regarded works. I would love to re-read some books with a group like Charles Taylor's *A Secular Age* or Eugene McCarraher's *The Enchantments of Mammon* both works that explore larger worldview questions that affect us all. Perhaps some Patristics? Rowan William's *The Edge of Words,* which considers how words can be used to describe God, has been opened and started at least a dozen times, but I've put it down for "when I really have time to explore it".

I'm imagining a group that meets either weekly or every two weeks via Zoom in a seminar format where we rotate facilitating discussions. If anyone is interested, reach out to *Andrew Martin* and we'll go from there if there is any interest.

REFLECTION

The Politics of Jesus: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

When I went to Duke Divinity School for seminary, I brought with me with a deep aversion toward politics. You see, I had grown up in a Christian tradition that often set the American flag right next to the Christian flag in its worship settings and which encouraged Christians to vote for various right-wing policies, and I was convinced that these practices had poisoned our church culture and undermined our witness to the world. So I found myself drawn to the Anabaptist tradition, because it was one of the first Christian communities that called for a separation between the church and the state. And I went to Duke to study under pacifist theologians like Stanley Hauerwas to learn how Christians could be faithful to the politics of Jesus in a society that tries to manipulate us into supporting a partisan agenda.

I was so resistant to politics, in fact, that I was surprised when I heard Hauerwas acknowledge that he voted in US elections. At the time, I saw voting as a tool that the government used to get its citizens to legitimize the violent decisions it was making, and I couldn’t see how Christians could participate in such an evil system without tainting our own commitment to nonviolence. However, I had great respect for Hauerwas as a brilliant and courageous theologian, and I was sure that he had thought through this question more deeply than I had. So I set a meeting with him and I asked him, “What is your Biblical basis for voting?” Without taking much time to think, he replied, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

To be honest, I was not impressed with that answer, but I was too intimidated by his towering intellect to tell him that it sounded like a copout to me. So I went on to ask him about other things, but his words stuck in my memory. Over the next few years, I became increasingly aware of the violence that African-Americans were experiencing under the police, and I felt increasingly convicted to demand the government to make policy changes that would protect people of color, but I was still uncomfortable with voting. That finally changed after I had coffee with an African-American friend who was reeling from a news report about police killing yet another unarmed black man and who couldn’t believe that his white Christian friends were overwhelmingly silent on this issue. In a vulnerable moment, he said, “I believed them when they said that they loved me like a brother, but I guess those were empty words.” That wording cut me to the heart because I could see the connection between political advocacy and love. As West put it, “Justice is what love looks like in public.” Of course, if we saw our own family members being murdered for no good reason except that someone perceived them to be threatening, we would demand accountability and action. Then I realized that Hauerwas was right: loving your neighbor as yourself really ought to be the guiding force of our politics.

So does that mean that I abandoned Anabaptist politics and fully joined the political left? No. I have actually found that the concept of “Loving your neighbor as yourself” is a helpful anchor to keep me from getting carried away by politics from the right or the left. Many of the groups with which I have partnered talk about the importance of political power, and they periodically start seeking out this power for its own sake while losing focus on the “people” concerns that motivated them to engage in politics in the first place. That is when I tend to push back. Once a political party or organization considers itself to be the bulwark against evil, then it tends to claim that it must engage in “necessary evils,” in order to defeat the enemy, and this is how Christians justify violence. But when we stay grounded in our love for others – both those whom we want to protect and those whom we oppose, we are much less likely to succumb to the lust for power and tarnish Christ’s reputation. I realize that this doesn’t make the issues any clearer. It can be challenging to figure out what it means to love our neighbors in any given situation. But it is the right question to be asking. For Christians to avoid political idolatry, we must ensure that our advocacy is not rooted in parties or institutions or even ideologies, but in our love for God’s people. ~ Brian

PERSON OF COLOR BIO
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

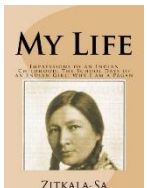
In the United States, there are 574 federally recognized Native American tribes, plus an estimated 400 more that are unrecognized, that speak nearly 200 different indigenous languages, making for an incredible diversity in culture and way of life.

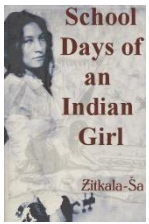
Zitkala-Sa
Gertrude Simmons Bonnin
1876-1938

Writer, musician, educator, and Indian rights activist, Zitkala-Sa (or Red Bird) was born on the Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. After her white father abandoned the family, she was brought up by her Indian mother in traditional Sioux ways. At the age of eight, Zitkala-Sa’s life was transformed when white missionaries came to Pine Ridge and convinced her to enroll in a boarding school in Wabash, Indiana. Part of a movement to “civilize” Indian children by removing them from their native culture and indoctrinating them in Euro-American ways, the school trained Indian pupils in manual labor, Christianity, and the English language. Zitkala-Sa found it a hostile environment and struggled to adapt.

After three years at school, Zitkala-Sa returned to Pine Ridge only to find herself estranged from her traditional culture and from her mother. While she was not completely comfortable with the Euro-American culture she encountered at school, she was also no longer at home with Sioux customs. She returned to school and eventually received scholarships to Earlham College in Indiana and to the New England Conservatory of Music to study violin. After completing her studies, she became a music teacher at the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania.

Frustrated by her position on the margins of both Indian and white culture and increasingly outraged by the injustices she saw visited on Native Americans, Zitkala-Sa resolved to express her feelings publicly in writing. Her reflective autobiographical essays on her experiences among the Sioux and in white culture appeared in the prestigious Atlantic Monthly in 1900. In these pieces, Zitkala-Sa explored what she called the “problem of her inner self,” grappling with the question of her cultural identity





and her relationship with her family. She also used the essays as occasions to expose the injustices perpetrated by whites on Native Americans and to critique the insensitivity of white strategies for “civilizing” Indians.

After the publication of the autobiographical essays, Zitkala-Sa composed an Indian opera called “Sun Dance” and compiled collections of traditional Sioux legends and stories that she translated into English. Her outspoken views eventually alienated authorities at the Carlisle School, so she left to work at Standing Rock Reservation. There she met and married Raymond Bonnin, another Sioux activist. Together they became involved in the Society of American Indians, founded the National Council of American Indians, and worked tirelessly on behalf of Native American causes. Zitkala-Sa died in Washington, D.C.and was buried in Arlington Cemetery.

https://www.learner.org/series/american-passages-a-literary-survey/regional-realism/zitkala-sa-gertrude-simmons-bonnin-1876-1938/

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

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.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:
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Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury