



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JANUARY 7, 2026

CALENDAR

Thu, January 8: Shalom Sister Lunch @ His Place, 11:30 am (see CLC)
Sun, February 8: Game Night @ Shalom; details to come
Sat, February 21: Arlington Woods Neighborhood gathering, 11 am – 3:30 pm
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)

Fri, January 9: Jim Showalter

Sun, January 11: Phoenix Dunn

Tue, January 13: Beverly Smith



Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet on **January 8** at His Place, 6916 East 30th Street at 11:30 am. They don't take reservations, and have a limit on sizes of groups, so we may have to sit at different tables.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Children's Education

For the 2s-3s class, it would be great to have one more teacher to share dates with Abri in 2026.

Sunday school class for the adults will be as follows:

January 11: Communion from the Quaker, United Church of Christ, Brethren, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, and Mennonite perspectives

January 16: Antiracism

January 25: Review of Technology

The sessions for February will be added soon. The third quarter will have 2 classes. One will be the standard Bible study series. The other will be about Zionism and Christian Zionism taught by Sabrina Falls and Brad Yoder. Be thinking about which one you would like to attend and be ready to sign up in the very near future so materials can be ordered.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (Chair), Angie Buller
VAT Representative: Andrew Martin; Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Dear Shalom Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you again for your involvement and support during the development and approval of the 2026 Plan for Shalom.

Attached are the minutes from our Congregational Meeting focused on the 2026 Plan, held on December 21, 2025. ~ Nizeet Deiter

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

Last Sunday (1/4/2026) was Epiphany, Craig brought the message from John 1:43-51.

This Sunday (1/11) This week Craig will begin a 4-week series on Philippians and will be preaching from Philippians 1.

Next Sunday (1/18) Herb will continue the series, preaching from Philippians 2.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church: Maple River Mennonite Church** is a 140-year-old Mennonite Church Conway, Michigan that is a part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. Pastor: Michelle Merchant
- **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)

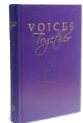
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Downstairs on the stage in the fellowship hall are several banners. These were made many years ago by various people. We no longer have need for them, but they may have a sentimental attachment for some. Please feel free to take one if you like.

The Shalom Creation Care Group is a part of the East Side Creation Care Group. We will be meeting this Saturday at 9:00am via Zoom. Our guest will be Mads Gullion and Lindsay Trameri from the Indianapolis Office of Sustainability. All are welcome. Contact Mike or Becky Wigginton for more information and zoom link.

Borderlands and Beyond: Monthly Charlas with MCC

Join us every 3rd Thursday of the month (January to December 2026) for a new conversation series led by the MCC U.S. Immigration Network featuring MCC partners, community leaders and borderlands practitioners who will share their work, struggles, insights and hopes. [More information.](#)



Don't forget to sign the Voices Together for Brian! It's in Andrew & Melissa's mailbox.

Mennonite Men is an organization sponsored by MCUSA and MC Canada. It has retreats and activities for men and an online newsletter. Mennonite Men is asking for help in developing a coming-of-age ritual for boys. If you have ideas, they would like to hear them. Below is the contact information.

Men's Retreat March 6-8

Mennonite Men will be hosting a men's retreat at Camp Friedenswald on March 6-8, 2026. The theme of the weekend will be "Becoming Malleable Men: Practicing Faith and Being Formed". Registration at friedenswald.org/retreats/

We want your thoughts on Boys Rites of Passage!

We as Mennonite Men would like to hear about rites of passage activities being created and experiences offered for boys coming of age as well as ideas for future activities, as well as what might an Anabaptist flavor look like. If you are a parent, teacher, mentor, uncle, grandparent, or coach of boys, please take this simple survey. Details and survey link [HERE](#).

Co-Coordinator for USA: Steve Thomas

stevet@mennonitemen.org

Phone: 866-866-2872 Ext. 21339 (Toll Free)

Cell Phone: 574-202-0048

Co-Coordinator for USA: Jon Zirikle

jonz@mennonitemen.org

Cell Phone: 574-612-5063

PERSON OF COLOR BIO



Barbara Rose Johns

March 6, 1935 – September 28, 1991

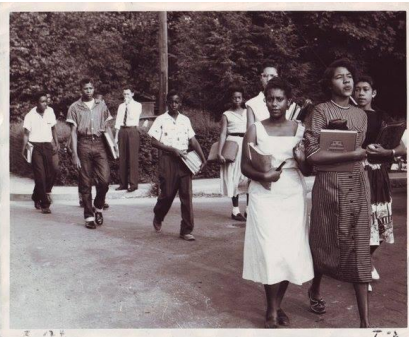
Barbara Rose Johns was 16 when she mobilized hundreds of students to walk out of Farmville's Robert Russa Moton High School to protest its overcrowded conditions and inferior facilities compared to those of the town's white high school. That fight was taken up by the NAACP and eventually became one of the five cases that the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed in *Brown v. Board of Education*, whose landmark 1954 ruling declared school segregation unconstitutional.

Johns was born in New York City in March 1935, and moved to Virginia's Prince Edward County during World War II to live on her grandmother's / father's farm. She grew increasingly frustrated by the lack of resources at her school. Classrooms were located in free-standing tar-paper shacks that lacked proper plumbing, with no science laboratories, cafeteria or gymnasium at all.

<https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/barbara-rose-johns-powell/>



"... then there were times I just prayed, 'God, please grant us a new school. Please let us have a warm place to stay where we won't have to keep our coats on all day ... We are your children too,'" Johns wrote in a journal entry. She later wrote that when she finally took her concerns to a teacher, they responded, "Why don't you do something about it?" She felt dismissed at first but gave the idea more thought and decided to unite the student council members to coordinate a strike.



On April 23, 1951, Johns gathered all 450 students in the auditorium and convinced them to walk out, to protest their school's conditions and campaign for a new building. The strike lasted roughly two weeks and caught the attention of the NAACP. NAACP lawyers filed a lawsuit in federal court, challenging the constitutionality of segregated education in the county's schools.

The court ultimately sided with the county, but did order that its Black schools be made physically equal to white schools. A new Black Moton High School was built in 1953 to avoid integration.

The following year, the Supreme Court declared school segregation unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Ed*, based on the Farmville case and four others from across the country. But it took years for the ruling to actually be enforced throughout the U.S., especially in Virginia, which enacted a set of anti-integration laws that came to be known as "Massive Resistance."

Prince Edward County schools were officially integrated in 1964, after being closed for five years in an attempt to avoid it. Moton 2 was reopened as the Prince Edward County High School and remained in use until 1993.

As for Johns, she was sent after the walkout to live with relatives and finish her schooling in Alabama due to safety concerns.

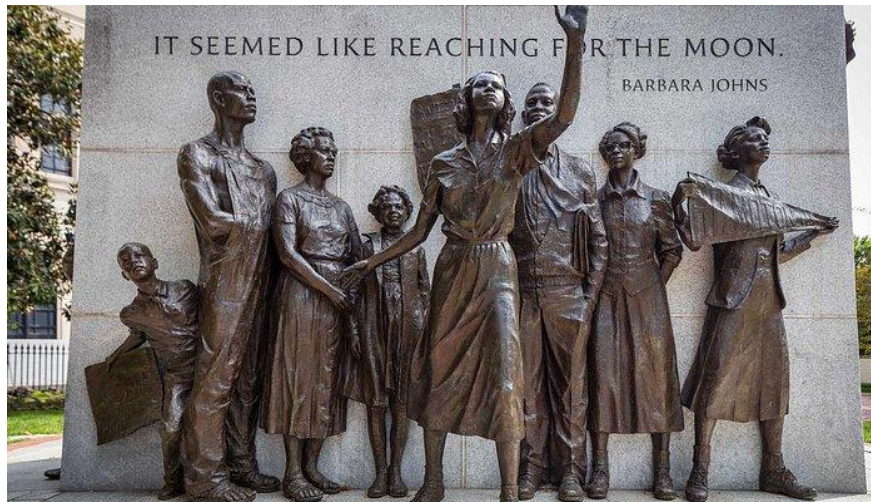
Johns has been recognized in Virginia over the years. Her story is now a required part of lessons in the public school curricula. In 2017, the Virginia Attorney General's Offices were

renamed in her honor. And the following year, the Virginia General Assembly designated April 23, the anniversary of the walkout, as Barbara Johns Day statewide.



Johns' bronze statue is the latest addition to Emancipation Hall, a gathering place in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center that houses many of the 100 statues representing each state. Every state legislature gets to honor two notable individuals from its history with statues in the Capitol. For over a century, Virginia was represented by George Washington and, until a few years ago, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Lee's statue was hoisted out of the Capitol at the request of then-Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, a Democrat in December 2020, the year that a nationwide racial reckoning spurred the removal of over 100 Confederate symbols across the U.S.

The same month, Virginia's Commission on Historical Statues in the United States Capitol voted unanimously to select a statue of Johns to replace it. Johns, who died in 1991, was chosen from a list of 100 names and five finalists. Five years and a multi-step approval process later, the 11-foot statue has finally moved in. It shows a teenage Johns standing at a podium, raising a book overhead mid-rallying cry. Its pedestal is engraved with the words: "Are we going to just accept these conditions, or are we going to do something about it?"



Picture: https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g57726-d2715741-Reviews-Robert_Russa_Moton_Museum-Farmville_Virginia.html

Edited from <https://www.npr.org/2025/12/16/nx-s1-5645727/barbara-rose-johns-capitol-statue>



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

Jacob Martin is wondering if there is any job or work he can do for anyone in the community for money.

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.

“**TBD**” 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 office@shalommennonite.com 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.

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 shalommennonite.com

Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; 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