



## ***JOURNEYING TOGETHER***

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

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

**MAY 21, 2025**

### **CALENDAR**

Sat, May 24: Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall are reserved all day

Thu, Jun 5: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (see announcement under CLC)

Wed, Jun 18: Wild Church, 10 am (see announcement)

\*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9 am – 3 pm

### **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, May 22: Herb & Joyce Troyer, 1976

Sat, May 24: Menan Assefa & Isaac Lederach, 2015

Tue, May 27: Lexie Bither

Tue, May 27: Bek Linsenmeyer

Our **first** Shalom Sisters Lunch is Thursday, June 5! We will meet at La Casa Grande Mexican Grill at 6935 Lake Plaza Drive (at Binford & north 71<sup>st</sup> Street). Be thinking about where you'd like us to go in July! All Sisters are welcome.

## **DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS**

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

### ***New children's books in our library!***

To commemorate Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month (a little late!):

Suki's Kimono  
Kamishibai Man  
Sparrow Girl  
Apple Pie 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
So Far from the Sea  
My Name is Yoon  
Baseball Saved Us



Harvesting Hope: the Story of Cesar Chavez  
The Storyteller's Candle  
Seeds of Change (another story about Wangari Maathai)

### **For adults:**

Migrant God: A Christian Vision for Immigrant Justice, by Isaac S. Villegas  
The Deep End of Hope in the Wake of Hurricane Helene, by Emma Churchman

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

The biggest need right now is for the Pre-K/K class for June 1 and 8. Please let Laura know if you can help.

There are 10 slots open to spend some time with our kids this summer.

- 2-yr old class:
  - August 10
- Pre-K/K:
  - June 1, 8, 22, and 29
  - July 13 and 27
  - August 24
- Elementary:
  - July 27
  - Aug 24

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

May 25: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
June 1: Child safety training  
June 8: Food and Faith, intergenerational  
June 15: Caucus Sunday  
June 22: Food and Faith, intergenerational  
June 29: Food and Faith, intergenerational  
July 6: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL  
July 13: Food and Faith, intergenerational  
July 20: Caucus Sunday  
July 27: Reports from IN-MI and MCUSA conferences

August 3: Beginning of I Corinthians Bible study and another class, led by Herb Troyer

### OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

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

### SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

As the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team is meeting and discerning who to invite to participate in the commissions of Shalom, we thought it would be helpful to hear from all of you what commissions that you would be interested in participating in. We have openings in these commissions: Discipling, Outreach, and Worship. If you would like to participate in these commissions, please contact Pastor Craig and let him know.

### VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

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

### WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

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

**Last Sunday (5/18)** Randy Detweiler from the seminary that we support, the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), brought the message.

**This week (5/25)** Craig will bring a message from Acts 11:1-18 about when our traditions prevent us from being open to God's call.

**Next week (6/1)** Craig will bring the message.

#### **This week's Prayer List**

- **Church:** New Hope Community Church of Midland is a church in our conference located in central Michigan.
- **Organization:** We are also praying for Morning Star Ministries, which 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)
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

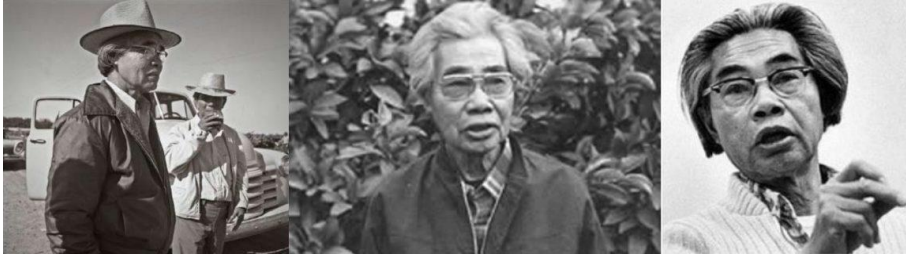


Wild Church will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at 10 a.m. at Meltzer Woods Nature Preserve in Shelbyville, IN. The address is 1522 S 600 E. Take I-74 E to IN 244 E, turn left onto S 600 E. Park in the lot on the east side of the Preserve.

**The Mara Youth Convention Fund.** At the Anabaptist 500, Brian announced that the Mara Christian Church would be sending delegates to the MCUSA biannual convention *for the first time* this year and that there seems to be interest in attending among the teenagers - who speak fluent English - as well. This could be a rare opportunity to get them connected to and integrated with other Mennonite youth around the country, but financially, it is too cost

prohibitive for them to fully participate. And so, we are inviting people to donate to the newly created Mara Youth Convention Fund so that at least a few Mara youth can get to Greensboro, NC, stay at the hotel, and participate fully in the week's events. Hopefully, this would spark enough interest that they would bring an even bigger group back the next time it occurs. To donate, you can write a check to Shalom Mennonite Church and write "Mara Youth Fund" in the Memo line or you can follow [this link](#), select the amount you want to donate first, and then opt to put it in the Mara Youth fund if you want to donate online.

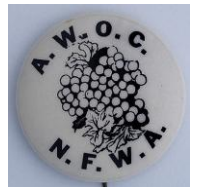
## IN HONOR OF ASIAN-AMERICANS & PACIFIC ISLANDERS MONTH PERSON OF COLOR BIO



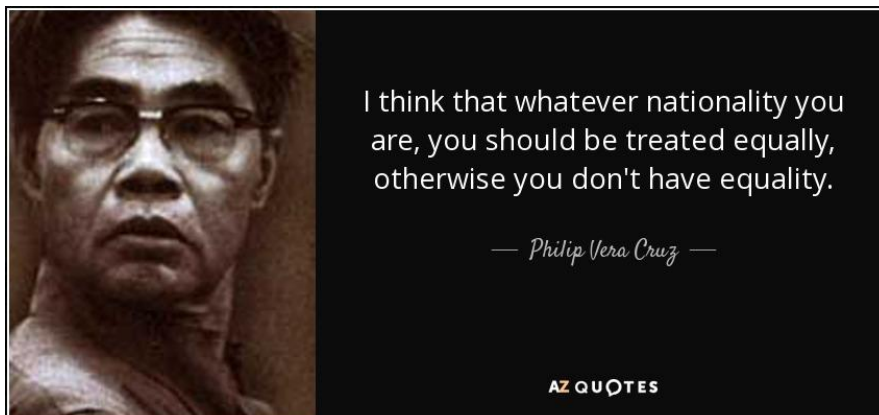
**Philip Vera Cruz** worked shoulder to shoulder with Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez to shape the farmworker labor movement that fought for and won better treatment for a predominantly immigrant workforce.

As a young immigrant from the Philippines, Cruz worked long shifts in the California fields, sometimes nine to 10 hours a day in 110-degree heat. This inspired him to fight for more labor rights and better wages. Filipino Americans were sometimes overlooked in the labor struggle, but Cruz worked hard to ensure that they maintained a seat at the table.

He was an early leader of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, which organized a strike in 1965 when grape growers in Delano, California, refused to pay fair wages to their workers, who were primarily Filipino. The National Farm Workers of America, who were primarily Mexican immigrants, joined the strike. Cruz was key to the organizations' merger to form the United Farm Workers (UFW), creating unprecedented solidarity between Filipino and Mexican farmworkers. To support the strike, Cruz traveled across the United States, calling for boycotts of nonunion grapes in churches, schools and community centers. The Delano grape strike was a landmark success, attracting international attention and leading to union contracts and better pay for more than 10,000 workers.



In his new position as the vice-president of the United Farm Workers, Cruz fought hard for the inclusion of undocumented farmworkers. Cruz went on to oversee Agbayani Village, a retirement community for farmworkers who retired without savings. He was relentless in his activism, even marching at 87 years old to protest the acquittal of the police officers accused of beating Rodney King.







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 address 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.

Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel,  
Grace Rhine  
Pastors Brian Bither, Craig Oury