JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 8, 2025

CALENDAR

Mon, October 13*BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN
Sun, October 19: Fellowship Meal following Sunday School
Mon, October 20 *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave, Indianapolis, IN
Mon, October 27 *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Thu, November 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am. (see CLC)
Sat, November 15: Shalom will be hosting "A Nature Walk Down a Peace Path"
as part of The Spirit & Place Festival. More info to come.
Sun, December 14: Congregational Budget Meeting, 12 pm
Sat, October 3, 2026: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp
*BRO: Brian's Roving Office, 9am - 3pm

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)
Tue, October 14 – Dean Linsenmeyer

Wed, October 15 – Josh Martin
Wed, October 15 – Cam & Taylor Cook, 2022

Many cultures observe celebrations that remember ancestors who have passed away. Since we've been highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to do a version of Mexico's *Day of the Dead (Dia De Los Muertos).*

Everyone is invited to share pictures or small mementos of a loved one who has passed away. A table will be set up in the fellowship hall beginning October 19 so we can enjoy it longer. (Day of the Dead falls on Sat, November 1 and Sun, November 2.)

Day of the Dead is a rare holiday for celebrating death and life. It is unlike any holiday where mourning is exchanged for celebration.

CLC is looking for someone or a group of people who would be interested in organizing a Trunk or Treat event later in October. Let me know if you might be interested! ~ Linda

Next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street on **November 6 at 11:30 am.** All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Update on the current children's reading program:
It's been tricky keeping up with this program! More details have fallen into place – after children read 5 books from Shalom's library, they can pick a prize out of the bubble gum machine! Choose a bracelet with a message, a gold Peace Dove pin, or your choice of 2 patterns of Dove ornament made out of a CD, so it sparkles in the sun!
There are papers in the library for each child to keep track of how many books they've read – color in a book for each one read. Let's get back on track to reading! ~ Linda S

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.

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.

October 12:

1. The 1st Corinthians class on October 12 will review 1 Corinthians 7:25-40 before continuing on to I Corinthians 8. Wilma Lesson #9 - 1 Corinthians 8:4-13, 10:23-11:1, p 50.
2. Let Go: Just Act in Love, pp 97 -101 pp 52-53

October 19:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

October 26:

1. Lesson #10 - 1 Corinthians 11:2-16, p 56.
2. For-Give: Giving to others, pp 103- 107 pp 54-55. Tools of Creation Kingdom of God, Now

November 2:

1. Lesson #11 - 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, p 62.
2. What If: In Christ we put on the New, pp 119 – 123 pp 56-57

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

Please bring nonperishable food items to Shalom for the next 2 Sundays for delivery to Morning Star Church in Muncie for their Food Pantry outreach.
Thank you,
Frank Kandel for the Outreach Commission

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 (10/5) was World Communion Sunday and Craig continued the Sabbath series looking at God's people experiencing Sabbath again for the first time in the Exodus.
This Sunday (10/12) Craig will continue a series on the Sabbath looking at Jesus healing on the Sabbath in John 5:1-18
Next Sunday (10/19) Wilma will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *College Mennonite Church*, Goshen, IN. Pastors: Merle Hostetler (interim), David Maldonado, Madeline Maldonado, Pamela Yoder, Talashia Keim Yoder

- **Organization:** *Anabaptist Disabilities Network* is an organization that connects and supports people who have disabilities, their families, and faith communities to create a culture of belonging for everyone. (Contact: Joyce Troyer)

ANNOUCEMENTS

No Kings Rally, Sat October 18, Noon-2:00 pm, Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington St, Indy: This is an opportunity for people around the country to take nonviolent action, speak out, and show our love and solidarity in the face of the authoritarian regime governing our nation and wholeheartedly enabled by our state administration. It will feature speakers, community organizations, and tabling opportunities to connect us with resources. If you would like companionship...

Join the Peace Church Coalition*: we will meet at 11:30 AM at the One America Building, on the northeast corner of Ohio and Capitol, and walk together to the rally. Bring peaceful signs. If you don't have signs...

Attend a sign-making gathering the evening before the rally: **October 17th at 7:00 pm** at **Northview Church of the Brethren,** 5555 East 46th Street. RSVP to rhondabake@aol.com. Please bring materials to share.

*The Peace Church Coalition, once (until the pandemic) an active network of peace churches including Shalom, First Mennonite, First Friends, Northview Church of the Brethren, and more, is reactivating. This rally is one way for us to resume our joint witness and actions for peace, nonviolence, and justice. See attachment.

Abolish Capital Punishment In Indiana. We have a window of opportunity--and a sacred duty--to respond to the governor's call for a public debate about the death penalty in Indiana. Please see the attachments concerning a letter-writing campaign (and sample letters) to the governor. For more info, contact Sabrina Falls.

Nonviolence International (NI), [a partner organization of Mennonite Action], continues to be alarmed about harmful uses of technology in Palestine. Join us on Sunday, October 19 for a powerful online round table, *The Israel Occupation Tech Lab*, part of the Voices from the Holy Land Film Salon series. Together, we'll explore how the occupation has turned Palestine into a testing ground for technologies of domination which have globally abetted the decay of privacy and other civil rights. Panelists will discuss the global reach of these tools, their impact on human rights, and the urgent need to imagine collective alternatives rooted in justice and freedom.

Date: Sunday, October 19, 2025, 3:00pm ET / 12:00pm PT / 10:00pm
Jerusalem. Register**:** free to join and get access to the videos.

Watch the trailer: https://vimeo.com/1119210833.

You'll hear from an inspiring lineup of panelists:

- Helga Tawil-Souri: Palestinian-American scholar and Associate Professor, NYU,
- Omar Zahzah: Assistant Professor, Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies, San Francisco State University,
- Mohammad Natsheh: Palestinian human rights activist in the South Hebron Hills,
- Rafif Jouejati: Host; Syrian-American human rights activist, chair of Nonviolence International's board,
- Bianca Peracchi: Moderator; Brazilian human rights activist, Nonviolence International.

Watch the films for free at your convenience - then join us for the live panel and Q&A session. Together, we'll ask the tough questions:

1) How do you see these tools shaping everyday life under the Palestinian occupation?

2) How do digital systems and databases, used to track and control Palestinians, pose a threat to human rights?, and

3) How can people resist or challenge the spread of these “battle-tested” technologies sold across borders?

Spread the word, share the trailer, and RSVP today here.

Steadfastly, Sami Awad, Co-Director, Nonviolence International ~ Brad Yoder

"Parkview at 80"

Come celebrate 80 years of Parkview 1945-2025 on **Sunday, October 26, 2025**

9:30-11 am Worship

11:15-12:15 Sharing Memories

12:15 Meal

Please RSVP to parkviewkokomo@gmail.com for number attending the meal by Wednesday, October 15, 2025

REFLECTION

Children and Communion

Some of you have noticed that my children – as well as some others – take communion on Sunday mornings. Admittedly, this is a deviation from the Mennonite tradition. In its earliest days as an institution, the Mennonite Church held that communion should only be served to baptized Christians. Because children are not eligible to receive baptism in the Mennonite tradition, this also meant that they should not be allowed to partake in communion. So, some of you have wondered, why do we allow children to do it at Shalom?

The technical answer is that Shalom has adopted an understanding of theological diversity that “allows” its members to worship in a variety of ways - so long as we stay committed to our core values. Some of us have different understandings of baptism, some have different understandings of membership, and some have different understandings of communion. Rather than taking a strong stance on how any of these things ought to be practiced, Shalom have allowed individuals (or in this case, their parents) to make their own decisions. Because of this, I have generally avoided expressing my personal view on communion, because I know that it goes against the historic Mennonite position and I do not want to give the impression that I am speaking on behalf of our church. But if you will allow me to take off my pastor’s hat and speak as a parent, I am willing to explain why I allow my own children to do this. (Also, I would heartily invite anyone who has a different perspective to write it out and share it in a future issue of the newsletter.)

In the sixteenth century, Christians in Europe were studying the Bible directly for the first time in centuries. As they did this, they began to evaluate the teachings of the Catholic Church in light of Scripture, and many of those teachings did not pass their scrutiny. For example, the Anabaptists observed that baptism was closely associated with repentance and commitment in the Bible, and they realized that the practice of infant baptism, which is never described in Scripture, does not include either of those elements because babies cannot repent or commit to anything. Likewise, they rejected the sacramental understanding of communion, which treated the bread and wine of communion as the literal body and blood of Christ when a priest spoke the words of institution over them. They argued that Jesus described communion not as a mystical experience but as a practice of remembering what he had done. I agree with all of that.

Here is where I disagree: I do not see any evidence in Scripture to support the claim that communion was *only* intended for baptized believers. The main argument that Mennonites

make to support this claim is that Christians ought to understand what it is they are doing when they are taking communion. However, the original context of the Lord's supper suggests otherwise. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus invited his disciples to partake of communion despite the fact that they had very little understanding of the meaning of communion at the time. They didn't know that he was going to die and rise again until three days later, and yet Jesus still wanted them to partake of it. Furthermore, Jesusdid *not* ask his disciples to make an oath of allegiance to him when they ate the bread or drank the wine. This would have been a natural moment to make that appeal, but Jesus knew that his disciples would betray him a few hours later. The only thing that he "asked" his disciples to do was to remember him - and remembering is something that children are capable of doing. In fact, memory is closely associated with language, and so I would argue that children should be allowed to partake in communion as soon as they are capable of articulating a desire to do so and listening when someone explains its meaning to them.

Moreover, from a theological perspective, I consider communion to be a counterbalance to baptism. Our faith is one that holds many concepts in tension – such justice versus mercy, grace versus accountability, and faith versus deeds. I believe that baptism and communion ritualistically represent the two opposite ends of this spectrum. Baptism teaches us that salvation is something that happens at a particular moment, when a person decides to follow Jesus. Communion teaches us that we must "work out our salvation" over the course of our whole lives; it is gradual and continuous. Baptism emphasizes that faith must be embraced by each individual person. Communion emphasizes that we are not just individuals but members of the body of Christ. Baptism demonstrates that faith is a choice that we make. Communion shows us that it is also a gift we receive. As much as I love the Mennonite tradition, I know that we have gotten things wrong too. Unlike most Christian traditions, we tend to err on the justice/deeds/choice side of this continuum, which is why I find it so important to teach my children that the *presence* of Christ is freely offered even when we fall short of Christ's call.
~ Brian

PERSON OF COLOR BIO
SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

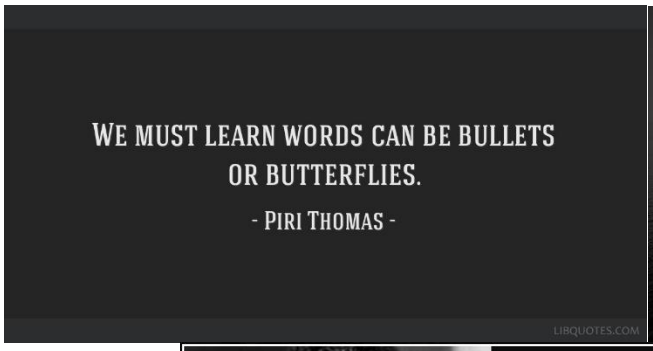
Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one single month but instead begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. The timeframe of this is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within these dates, beginning on the 15th with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. By aligning with these independence dates, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the resilience of the Hispanic community. Other independence dates are September 16 for Mexico, the 18th for Chile, and 21st for Belize.

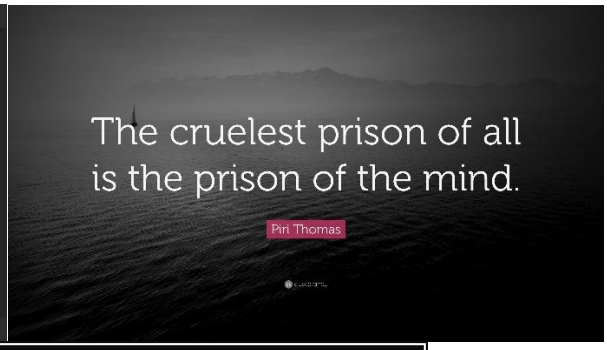
Piri Thomas
September 30, 1928
October 17, 2011

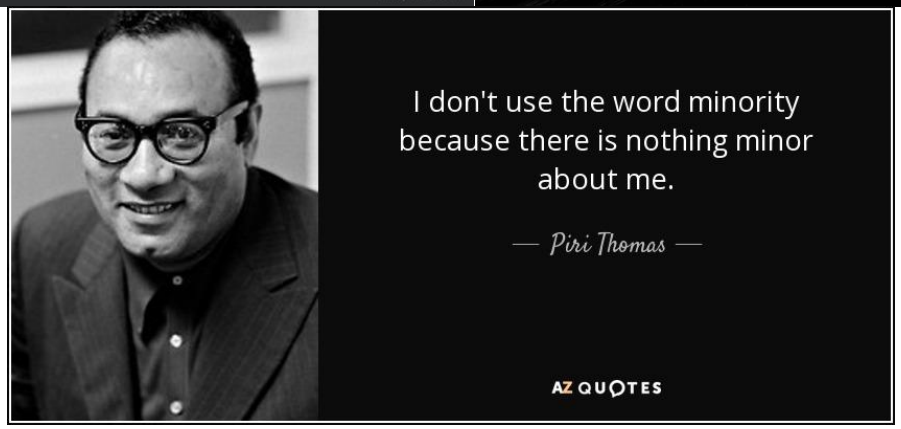
Down These Mean Streets, a memoir written by author Piri Thomas, is a noteworthy work on Afro Latinidad in the US. Discussing the racism, identity issues and poverty he experienced during his lifetime growing in Spanish Harlem in NYC, the Cuban-Puerto Rican poet created a piece of literature that shone a light on his own community. (Accordir has been in print for 52 years, was banned in some places but also required reading, depending on the time and place.)

As a darker-skinned Latino, he faced discrimination, both from his family and society as a whole. His father reportedly preferred his lighter-skinned children, according to *The New York Times*. During his youth he used and sold drugs and ended up in prison after he hurt a police officer. During his seven years imprisoned, he finished high school and turned to writing. The work he created was so trailblazing that his editor told him that with Down These Mean Streets, Piri created a new genre, one where "*everybody speaks like themselves*."
He also became involved in his community and advocated for at-risk youth. In Carmen Dolores Hernández's *Puerto Rican Voices in English: Interviews with Writers*, Piri said that if people wanted to know what he had done after writing his novel, all they had to do was to "ask the communities, the schools, the universities, and colleges."

Piri is remembered as an influential voices of the Nuyorican Movement, which captured the experiences of Puerto Ricans in New York through the discrimination and marginalization they faced. Again, according to Wikipedia, "The Nuyorican Movement was a vibrant 1960s and 70s cultural and intellectual movement in New York City, led by Puerto Rican artists, poets, and writers who used their art to challenge social and political marginalization. The term "Nuyorican" (a portmanteau of New Yorker and Puerto Rican) was reclaimed from an insult to represent a proud cultural identity rooted in the lived experience of Puerto Ricans in New York. The movement fostered a unique artistic expression, including "Nuyorican" literature and poetry, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, and influenced other genres like salsa and hip-hop."
https://remezcla.com/lists/culture/afro-latinos-contributions-us-history-literature-culture/







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

Herb has a source for free 50-gallon rain barrels. They are blue in color. This appears to be an unlimited source of barrels. Inform your friends and anyone else. They are rinsed three times with alkaline water to get all the chemicals out. Email or call Herb

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:
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