



JOURNEYING TOGETHER
A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

AUGUST 20, 2025

CALENDAR

Thu, September 4: Shalom Sisters lunch, 11:30 am (see Community Life)
Sat, October 4: Shalom Retreat (see Community Life)
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.
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

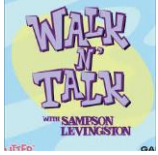
Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

Fri, August 22: Menan Assefa
Tue, August 26: Craig Oury
Wed, August 27: Nuria Urquizo Maust



The *Shalom Sisters Lunch* will take place in the cafe at Newfields, The Indianapolis Museum of Art, 4000 Michigan Road, at the corner of 38th St. and Michigan Road on **September 4**. Parking in the surface lots or in the underground garage is free. There is no fee to enter the museum building when you are going to the cafe or gift shop. However, Sept. 4 is the first Thursday of the month. Admission to the entire museum and the museum grounds are free on the first Thursday of the month. So, if you have the time, plan to visit the galleries or walk through the gardens after lunch.



This year's annual retreat will be Saturday, **October 4**, a "Walk and Talk" with Sampson Levingston on Indiana Avenue, downtown Indy (through2eyes). A catered meal will follow at the church, and the afternoon will be available for games and fellowship.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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



Those who have checked books out, don't forget to bring them back so you can get some new ones!

Children's Ed for Summer 2025: All Children's Ed classes are covered for August.

Children's Ed for Fall 2025: Fall classes will start on Sept 7.

Fall needs: The Older Elementary class needs one co-teacher (a lead teacher to split dates with Frank) and one or two assistants.

Substitute teachers may be needed for any of the four classes. Please consider adding your name to the list to fill in on occasion.

2-4s class	Early Elementary	Older Elementary	Youth
Leads: Abri and Carol W	Lead: Beverly Smith	Leads: Frank Kandel; need Co-Teacher to split coverage	Leads: Jeanne and Brad
Asst: Rose; could have 1 more to share coverage	No assistant needed	Need Asst or 2 if alternating Sundays:	Asst: Julie can assist as needed
7 kids: Zema, Abigail, Matthias, Vivienne, Allison, Nathan, Callie	6 kids: Yeshi, Luke, Elise, Kara, Junia, Lena	10 kids: Layla, Aubrey, Leo, Calvin, Eva, Lexie, Roslyn, Liam, Sydney, Karina	4 youth: Karina, Jacob, Phoenix, Caleb

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.

Sunday, August 24:

1. Lesson #3 – Acts 18:24-28; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, p 14.
2. Belly Breathing: Contemplation and Meditation, pp 46-50 pp 40-41

Sunday, August 31: (Labor Day Weekend)

1. Lesson #4 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-10, p 20.
2. Five Second Lightweight: Choosing to act in Love, pp 53-57 pp 42-43. Tools of Choice: Putting off the Old and Putting on the New

September 7:

1. Lesson #5 - 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2:1-14; 3:1-4, p 26.
2. Positive Thoughts: Evaluating our Spiritual Life, pp 58-69 pp 44-45

September 14:

1. Lesson #6 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-23, p32.
2. Positive Words: What we tell ourselves Spiritually, pp 71-75 pp 46-47

September 21:

- Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe

September 28:

1. Lesson #7 - 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 6:1-8, p 38.
2. Positive Actions: Acting out of Love to Self and Others, pp 77-81 pp 48-49. Tools of Moving Forward: Finding a New Ability to Love

October 5:

1. Lesson #8 - 1 Corinthians 7:1-21, p 44.
2. Claim Responsibility: Finding new ways to Walk with Love, pp 83-95 pp 50-51

October 12:

1. 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), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Lexi, at Family Promise is soliciting some assistance for needed supplies for the Day Center. The list of items is included in the link. Thank you! ~ Solomon
<https://familypromiseindyihh.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=24b9c6c8fbecdd20cbf6427e2&id=03db652a33&e=366a1f4fee>

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

The SGDT is pleased to announce that Matt Bauman has agreed to serve as a member of the Discipling Commission. Please communicate affirmation and feedback for Matt to Pastor Craig (craig@shalommennonite.com) by **August 26**.

The SGDT is pleased to announce that Cheryl Martin has agreed to serve as the chair of the Discipling Commission. Please communicate affirmation and feedback for Matt to Pastor Craig (craig@shalommennonite.com) by **September 3**.

Please continue to pray for the discernment process for the chairs of the Discipling and Outreach Commissions.

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

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

Last Sunday (8/17) Craig preached from Luke 12:49-56, what does Jesus mean when saying, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!"?

This week (8/24) Wilma will bring the message.

Next Sunday (8/31) Frank will bring the message.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church:** *Wildwood Mennonite Church* in Engadine, MI. Contact Person: Janice Wagner
- **Organization:** *Family Promise* is a partnership of congregations and community organizations responding to the crisis of children and their families who are homeless. They work to eliminate homelessness in Greater Indianapolis. (Contact: Solomon Abebe)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig will be on vacation August 25-31.

Please be sure to update Chris and Nizeet's email address to deiteraquilar@gmail.com.

The August newsletter from the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference can be viewed here: <https://www.im.mennonite.net/news/gospelevangel/>

A WAY TO EXPRESS GOD'S LOVE FOR OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY: Our congregation, as the fiscal sponsor for IndianaAID, has demonstrated our profound concern for immigrants in or under threat of detention. Some of us volunteer to visit and support people detained at Clay County Jail while others of us help via donations and prayers. More recently, as Indiana increasingly cooperates with the federal policy of imprisoning people deemed not to have legal status in the US, the Marion County Sheriff has a contract with ICE to detain people here in Marion County. We can try to end this by calling our City-County Councilors to say we do not support detention at Marion County Jail.

If you live in Marion County, please contact your city-county councilor before the Sheriff's budget hearing with the Council on September 3. Tell them to hold Sheriff Kerry Forrestal accountable for taking money from ICE to detain immigrants in the Marion County Jail. Here's a sample of what to say: *"I'm asking you to publicly call on the Sheriff to end the ICE contract immediately and to work toward policies that protect all Indianapolis families. Will you commit to doing that?"*

To find your city-county councilor, go to <https://www.indy.gov/workflow/find-your-elected-official/redirect> enter your information to get the name and contact information for your City-County Councilor. For more info, feel free to contact Sabrina.

On **Thursday, August 21**, Michael Homoya and family will give a talk and slide presentation at Oliver's Woods from 6-7 p.m. about the year that they set out to see every wild orchid in Indiana in bloom. Michael Homoya wrote the book Wildflowers of the Mid-West and was, for many years, the Indiana State plant Biologist. If you want to attend, sign up on the website of the Central Indiana Land Trust. Your favorite Indiana Master Naturalist will be on duty that evening!



Church At The Crossroads – *Conference for Christians Committed To Peacemaking*, **September 11-13** – Parkview Community Church, Glen Ellyn, IL.

Speakers include Jemar Tisby (author of *The Color of Compromise* which we have been reading together this past year), Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Kuttub (co-founder of Nonviolence International, which sponsors Mennonite Action), and Rev. Munther Isaac (Palestinian pastor and author of *Christ in the Rubble*), and many more.

I hope to attend this either virtually or in person and would love to know who might like to join me. ~ Sabrina



We are collecting cash for Mennonite Central Committee in our "My Coins Count" jug. The donations will be taken to the Michiana Relief Sale on September 26.

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

AUGUST: NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH



Buyblack.org is the largest online directory of Black-owned businesses in the US with over 50,000 listings that are fully searchable by keyword, category and geolocation.

Shortly after the murder of George Floyd, BuyBlack.org founder, David Derryck, read an article in the Columbia University Magazine entitled Portrait of a Gen-Z Activist featuring Chelsea Miller '18 who said:



“People ask themselves, “What would I have done during the civil rights movement? What would I have done during the time of slavery? Well, this is your answer: whatever you’re doing now.”

Talk about a call to action. In response to Chelsea Miller’s statement, George Floyd’s murder, the continued lack of support and investment in Black businesses and the growing wealth inequality gap, David launched BuyBlack.org, an online directory, to catalog the over 2 million Black-owned businesses in the United States and increase consumer spending at these businesses.

It quickly became clear that consumers, regardless of color, looking for Black-owned businesses have to work too hard to discover them. We rely on word-of-mouth referrals, fragmented localized lists, “featured” brands on large platforms eg. Yelp or Google, Black history month and now Juneteenth. In short, one has to overcome significant friction to purchase from Black-owned businesses by visiting numerous websites and/or apps.

David saw that this highly fragmented market was in need of an overhaul. So, in 2020, over occasional nights and weekends he began consolidating and aggregating the numerous individual, localized buy-black directories and listicles and adding them to the site. BuyBlack.org was simplifying that process by aggregating these various sources into one fully searchable business directory accessible from any device.

However, as the pandemic dragged on and Black-owned businesses closed at a rate faster than non-black ones, the focus shifted from simply cataloging Black-owned businesses to driving traffic and revenue to them.

In 2022, with 10,000 listings and growing, David left his job to pursue BuyBlack.org full time.

<https://www.buyblack.org/about>



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 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.

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.

<p>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 Frank Kandel, Vice-Chair Nizeet Aguilar Deiter Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Grace Rhine Pastoral Reps: Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
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