



***JOURNEYING TOGETHER***  
***A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church***

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

**MAY 28, 2025**

**CALENDAR**

Sun, Jun 1: Graduation Celebration for Jason Rosales Harms  
Thu, Jun 5: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (see announcement under CLC)  
Wed, Jun 18: Wild Church, 10 am (see announcement)

**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!**

Mon, Jun 2: Lorraine Harms  
Mon, Jun 2: Jim & Linda Showalter, 1973  
Wed, Jun 4: Peter & Delicia Bravo Wigginton, 2011

Jason Rosales Harms will graduate on June 4, but he has a busy summer ahead. We will celebrate with cards and cake on Sunday, June 1, between the worship service and Sunday School.





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

A lot of children's books were culled from our library and are on the little bench next to the library doors. Help yourself to them; the rest will be cycled through our Sharing Library. If you have any recommendations, especially for older children's books, please let me know. Linda S.

### **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 8, 22, and 29
  - July 13 and 27
  - August 24
- Elementary:
  - July 27
  - Aug 24

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

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 we are starting a new year here at Shalom thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve on our commissions. We do have one spot that is yet to be filled. Please be praying for the right person who is willing to serve as chair of the Outreach Commission.

### 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 (5/25)** Craig brought the message from Acts 11:1-18 about when our traditions prevent us from being open to God's call.

**This week (6/1)** Craig will bring the message from Acts 1.

**Next Sunday (6/8)** Pastor Monica will be visiting and bringing 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:** *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)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Craig will be on vacation June 2 - June 8. If there are any emergencies during this time please contact the VAT chair, Frank Kandel.

PBS is airing a series titled "America the Bountiful". The episode titled "Wheat in Kansas" focuses on the Russian-Ukrainian Mennonites who brought Turkey Red Wheat to Kansas. It is available on Passport.



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.

A gray child's jacket with a yellow lining was found on the second pew Sunday morning, probably from an event held in the sanctuary on Saturday. It is now hanging on the coat rack in the foyer.

**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.

## REFLECTION

While reading through the Psalms, I have been struck by the musings of David while he was being pursued by Saul. We know that Saul was ordained and appointed by God to be Israel's first king. While David knew he would ultimately be the next king, he respected King Saul and his appointment by God. David's writings could have been written today by a person who is in tune with God. Several Psalms which are not often looked at are examples of this.

Psalm 5 says:

4 "...O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the slightest sin.  
5 Therefore, the proud will not be allowed to stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil  
6 You will destroy those who tell lies. The Lord detests murderers and deceivers.  
10 My enemies cannot speak one truthful word. Their deepest desire is to destroy others.  
Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their speech is filled with flattery.  
11 O God, declare them guilty. Let them be caught in their own traps.  
Drive them away because of their many sins, for they rebel against you.

In Psalm 11 we hear David say:

2 The wicked are stringing their bows and setting their arrows in the bowstrings.  
They shoot from the shadows at those who do right.  
3 The foundations of law and order have collapsed. What can the righteous do?  
5 The Lord examines both the righteous and the wicked. He hates everyone who loves violence.  
6 He rains down blazing coals on the wicked, punishing them with burning sulfur and scorching winds.  
7 For the Lord is righteous, and he loves justice. Those who do what is right will see his face.

Psalm 14, 36, and 40 are also examples and there are others. In each of these Psalms, David intersperses his distress with praise for God and how God will protect and preserve him.

David also seems to be exasperated and in Psalm 13 asks how long will God forget him. Will it be forever? And then David says that he trusts in God's unfailing love and expects God to rescue him from his enemies. He ends with: 6 I will sing to the Lord because he has been so good to me.

We can learn from David about God and how he cares for those of us who believe in him and give ourselves to serving him. I believe God will help us survive in these unsettled times and will in due time (his time) rescue us if we believe in him. I would encourage us all to read and reread these Psalms and take strength from them. Keep praying and keep the faith.

~ Cheryl

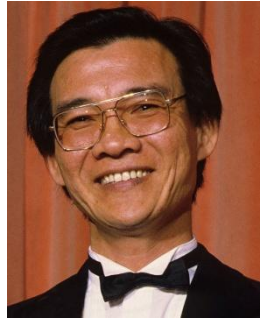
References from the New Living Translation 1996



## IN HONOR OF ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDERS HERITAGE MONTH PERSON OF COLOR BIO

**Haing S. Ngor, Actor / Activist, 1940 – 1996** was the first man of Asian descent to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, but that may be less impressive than what he did in Cambodia before immigrating.

Ngor was born on March 22, 1940, in Samrong Yong, a village in Cambodia, then part of French Indochina. His mother was Khmer, and his father was of Chinese descent.



Ngor trained as a gynecologist and obstetrician, practicing in Phnom Penh before the capture of the city by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge in 1975. He had to conceal his education, medical skills, and even the fact that he wore glasses to avoid the new regime's intense hostility to intellectuals and professionals.

Ngor was expelled from Phnom Penh with the bulk of its two million inhabitants as part of the Khmer Rouge's idea Year Zero and sent to farm rice imprisoned with his wife, Chang My-Huoy, who required a cesarean section and died with the couple's unborn child during labor in 1978 because it was impossible to perform the surgery without risking the whole family's life. He survived three terms in prison, using his medical knowledge to keep himself alive by eating beetles, termites, and scorpions.

After the fall of the Khmer Rouge in 1979, Ngor and his niece crawled to safety in a Red Cross refugee camp in Thailand, where he subsequently worked as a physician. The next year, they moved to the United States.

While living in Los Angeles, he was scouted for the role of Dith Pran in the film *The Killing Fields*. The fictional character Pran mirrored Ngor's own horrific experiences under the Khmer Rouge and Ngor's portrayal won him his Academy Award. He was determined to use the film to raise awareness of the horrors of the genocide, saying afterward, "I wanted to show the world how deep starvation is in Cambodia, how many people die under communist regime. My heart is satisfied. I have done something perfect."

Ngor also wrote a memoir of his experiences during the war, *Surviving the Killing Fields: The Cambodian Odyssey of Haing S. Ngor*, to spread his story further. He continued to act in television shows and films, often in stories of war set in East Asia.

Ironically, he survived the Khmer Rouge but not Los Angeles gangs. Ngor's life was tragically cut short when he was killed in a robbery. His family carried on his legacy of human rights activism and work on behalf of the Cambodian community through the Dr. Haing S. Ngor Foundation.

*Ngor provides humanitarian aid to Cambodian refugees*  
(Photo by Jack Ong, Dr. Haing S. Ngor Archive)



## BULLETIN BOARD

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.

|  |
|--|
| <p>Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:<br/>6100 E 32nd St, 46226; (317) 549-0577 <a href="http://shalommennonite.com">shalommennonite.com</a><br/>Pastors: Brian Bither, (317) 332-7320; Craig Oury, (301) 302-3181<br/>Vision &amp; Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel,<br/>Grace Rhine<br/>Pastors Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p> |
|--|