



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

CALENDAR

Mon, September 29: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
Thu, October 2: Shalom Sisters Lunch (see Community Life)
Sat, October 4: Shalom Retreat (see Community Life)
Sun, October 5: CROP Walk (see Announcement)
Mon, October 6 *BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN
Mon, October 13* BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN
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
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!

Wed, September 24: Tania Goodloe & Ernie Hodel, 2014

Sat, September 27: Vivienne Bauman

Sun, September 28; Lena Bauman

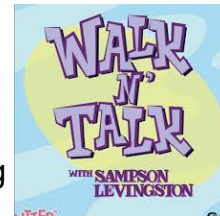
Wed, October 1: Martha Yoder Maust

Wed, October 1: Mark Stocksdale

2025 Annual Retreat

Join us on Saturday, October 4, as we learn about the rich and beautiful history along Indiana Avenue!

We will be guided on a 1-hour walking tour of Indiana Avenue with Sampson Levingston (through2eyes [link](#)) on a Walk & Talk that starts and ends at the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library at 543 Indiana Ave. Free parking is available. Dress according to the weather. (Learn more about Sampson [here](#).)



- Meet at 543 Indiana Avenue by 9:45 am. If you prefer to carpool, make arrangements with others.
- Beverly and Joann do not plan to participate in the walk but will be at the church at 10 am with coffee, tea and donuts all morning - feel free to join them.
- Lunch will be catered by His Place, a nearby black-owned small business, at 12:30. After lunch, a short devotional, and then free time. Bring indoor and outdoor games!



Change in plans: next Shalom Sisters Lunch will be at Driving Wind Farm located at 6410 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis on **Thursday, October 2.**

We will meet at Machu Picchu Peruvian Restaurant located at 5356 W. 38th Street on November 6. All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Cheryl Martin (chair), Wilma Bailey, Matt Bauman

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Children's Education

We will be looking for lead co-teachers for the older elementary class next quarter. If you want to try it out, you can shadow Frank or be a substitute during the fall quarter.

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.

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), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

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 (9/21) David Boshart, President of AMBS (Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary), brought the message from Ephesians 2:11-22 titled "A Gathering God".

This Sunday (9/28) Pastor Craig will begin a short sermon series on Sabbath and will look at the first Sabbath after creation in Genesis.

Next Sunday (10/5) Is World Communion Sunday and Craig will continue the Sabbath series looking at God's people experiencing Sabbath again for the first time in the Exodus.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Church: Benton Mennonite Church** is a Mennonite church in Goshen, Indiana, and is part of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference. Pastor: Derrick Ramer
"Pray for Benton as we continue to walk together, pursuing God's peace at the river and at the table."
- **Organization: Meserete Kristos Seminary** is a Mennonite seminary in Ethiopia that exists to equip men and women for the holistic transformation of the church and society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In 2019 the New York Times Magazine published the 1619 Project, a collection of art and essays exploring slavery's impact on us today. You can watch Nikole Hanna-Jones being interviewed about the impact of that work and how to understand what is happening today on the Cannonball podcast at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMj3GM2Xae0> Thoughtful and sobering. You do not have to have read the 1619 Project to learn from this podcast.

~ Martha Yoder Maust



It's time to donate and register for the 2025 Crop Walk!

Please click on the link below for Shalom's page to donate and or register to walk!

2025 CROP Hunger Walk - Shalom Mennonite

Church <https://share.google/mEQV8L8LpiENUSicE>

All donations go to stop hunger around the world! A \$80 donation would give 4 families chickens to feed their family. The Walk is scheduled for Sunday October 5th at 2pm starting beginning at the InterChurch Center (near Butler University & CTS) 1000 W 42nd Street Indianapolis, IN 46208.

Or if you want to participate virtually and walk the 3 miles on your time in the month of October, that is an option too! Any questions just ask me! ~ Julie Sanders

REFLECTION ON OUTREACH

For the next few weeks, I am going to be offering some reflections in *Journeying Together* about my time as a pastor here at Shalom and insights I have gained from this experience. Those of you who were here back in 2013 may remember that I was originally hired to be an "Associate Pastor with an emphasis on *outreach*" because the church felt that this was an area where Shalom could use some growth. This was a title I took seriously; it was my primary area of focus for the first few years that I served at Shalom. Therefore, I thought it would make sense for me to begin this reflection series by sharing some of the things I have learned about outreach and its importance in church life.

First, let me acknowledge that "outreach" is not a Biblical term, nor is it a particularly well-defined one. It didn't take me long to discover that "outreach" meant very different things to different people at Shalom. For some, it referred to the call in the gospels to tell the world about Jesus and invite them to follow him. For others, it referred to service to those in need or even political advocacy for the oppressed. Some envisioned outreach as a local neighborhood effort, others as a chance to amplify our pacifist voice in the city of Indianapolis, and still others as a partnership with various faith-based organizations who were doing good things around the country and the world. But despite being vague, the redeeming quality of the word "outreach" is that it makes clear that the church should not only be working toward its own interests like some sort of spiritual country club, but it should be seeking to love people "outside" of our immediate community. Because the temptation to be inward-focused is so strong, that alone makes the term worth keeping.

During those first few years, I spent many hours working with many of you (as well as several people who are no longer at Shalom) to find new ways to reach out to our neighbors. We did "Thriving Thursdays" as a program for neighborhood kids in the summers, we created a network called the "Peace Church Coalition" that sought to promote peace in Indianapolis, we joined campaigns from IndyCAN (later Faith in Indiana) that advocated for policies that benefited the poor and returning citizens, and there were many other projects and programs in addition to these. At times, these programs felt successful, but other times I questioned

whether they made any lasting impact. However, whatever success or failures we had in terms of our original goals, one positive thing came out of each of those experiences: connection.

For an introvert like me, making “connections” does not feel like a particularly meaningful way to spend one’s time. If I spend an hour at a neighborhood event talking to people whom I didn’t know before, it doesn’t automatically feel like I have “done” something important. But in order to learn about people outside of the church – both in terms of their gifts and their needs – and in order to find real ways to make an impact instead of doing something flashy that doesn’t really help, you must first develop relationships that are authentic and close enough to make these things clear. I have come to realize that if you develop these relationships, the opportunities for outreach will genuinely flow out of them, but you must first be committed to cultivating the relationships themselves.

As simple as this sounds, it is countercultural and radical in our world today. Our technology is designed to minimize our interactions with people we don’t know, to keep us inside of our homes and our cars, and to saturate us with news stories and perspectives that all come from the same perspective. To make an effort simply to meet, learn about, and show care for people whom we don’t know – with no predetermined agenda except to “love our neighbors as ourselves” – creates a space where God can work and move in ways that we could never have imagined ourselves. I have found that to be true, and I hope Shalom continues to be committed to this kind of outreach. ~ Brian

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15 IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

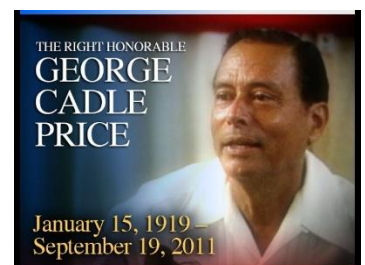
Hispanic Heritage Month does not cover one single month but instead begins in the middle of September and ends in the middle of October. The timeframe of this is significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within these dates, beginning on the 15th with Costa 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.

Belize may be a young nation, but it has been blessed with a true hometown hero in the form of George Cadle Price. Widely known across the land as the Father of the Nation, George Price helped guide this former British colony as it transitioned to a fully sovereign nation in 1981.

George Price was born on January 15, 1919, and passed away on September 19, 2011, at the age of 92. During his lifetime, he saw Belize transition from an isolated agricultural British colony to a free and independent nation that is a regional leader in responsible conservation and environmental stewardship.

Born to a large family with 10 siblings in Belize City, Price nearly died at the tender age of 21 when a hurricane destroyed his high school, only narrowly escaping by swimming away from the collapsed building at the last moment. Originally drawn to the priesthood, Price attended seminary in the United States but felt called to return to his homeland.

Throughout his whole life, George Price dedicated himself to improving the people of Belize. In the 1940s, Price began writing for the Belize Billboard, an influential newspaper that was run by Philip S. W. Goldson. Price first entered political life in 1944 when he ran for a position on

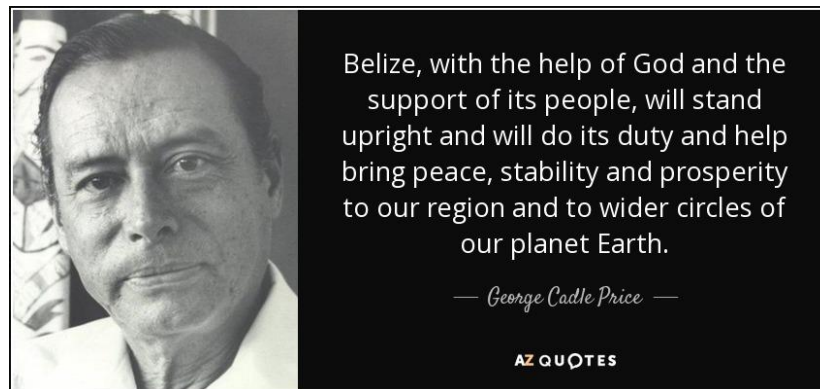


the Belize City Council. After falling short in 1944, he kept trying and was eventually elected in 1947.

Price faced his first difficult challenge in 1949 when the British Honduran dollar (as the currency was then known) was steeply devalued. Price then assembled a group of leading citizens to form the People's Committee in order to address the economy's needs. This committee formed the nucleus of what later became the People's United Party (PUP) in 1950. Later that same year, Price gave a now-famous speech in which he called for national unity. In 1954, Price was elected to the brand-new Legislative Assembly. From 1956 to 1962, Price served as the mayor of Belize City. In 1961, he was elected as the First Minister, then the highest office in the land available to Belizeans.

As First Minister, he initiated the process for Belize to become an independent country, which finally occurred in 1981. After independence, Price became the first Prime Minister of Belize and served in various government posts until 1996. In 2000, Price became the first person to be given the Order of National Hero, the highest honor in Belize.

<https://www.belizehub.com/george-price-belize/>



BULLETIN BOARD

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

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 USAGE: 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 Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler Pastoral Rep: Craig Oury</p>
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