



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JULY 30, 2025

CALENDAR

- Thu, August 7: Shalom Sister Lunch, 11:30 am (see Community Life)
- Sun, August 10: All Church cookout, start at 5:00 (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

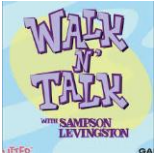
Linda Showalter (Chair), Bethany Martin, Beverly Smith
Pastoral Representative: Craig Oury

Celebrations!

- Wed, July 30: Amber Goodloe
- Wed, July 30: Cheryl & Jim Martin, 1967
- Fri, August 1: Abri & Justin Hochstetler, 2009
- Sun, August 3: Charity & Matt Bauman, 2013
- Sun, August 3: Matthias Martin



All Church cookout is planned for Sunday, August 10th. The grills will start at 5:00; drinks, hotdogs, mac and cheese and more will be provided. Folks could bring a side, snacks - no main courses are needed. We could use help to set up. Or, just come! (Bring chairs!)



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.



August 7th's Shalom Sister Lunch will be at 10th Street Diner, 3301 E. 10th Street, at 11:30 am. The diner is a vegan restaurant, and has been showcased on tv's Diners, Drive-ins and Dives! All women are welcome.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

If You Give a Kid a Book reading program started last Sunday! This program is for children ages 4 – 13 and will go through fall and into the Christmas season. Children are asked to read **10 books** from Shalom's library between now and Christmas – that's only 2 books a month, although they are encouraged to read as many as they want. Small prizes as they go.



(If anyone happens to have 14 small items – or ideas - that could be used as prizes for the children, please see Linda S.)

Children's Ed for Summer 2025

Carol Bixler will work with the Elementary kids on August 3, 10, & 17 to put together school kits.

A teacher for the Elementary class is still needed for **August 24**. Laura can provide a digital curriculum.

Children's Ed for Fall 2025

Have you noticed the laughter, cries, and playful sounds that are interspersed with worship? Shalom has a lot of kids!

- 27 kids will form our 4 Sunday school classes this fall
- In addition to Lead Teachers, I'd like to have an Assistant for the 2 larger classes
- Fall classes will start on Sept 7

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:

August 3:

Lesson #1 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; 16:13-24, p 2.

Bible study led by Wilma Bailey meets in back of sanctuary, with Zoom.

* Read 1st Corinthians in preparation for studying the first lesson in Salt and Light: A Church Divided. Books are in the back of the sanctuary.

August 10:

1. Lesson #2 – Acts 18:1-11, p 8.

Bible study led by Wilma Bailey meets in back of sanctuary, with Zoom.

2. Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices using the 12 tools of GOGI led by Herb Troyer in basement classroom #4.

August 17: Antiracism Sunday led by Martha Yoder Maust and Barbara Abebe; meets in fellowship hall with Zoom.

August 24:

1. Lesson #3 – Acts 18:24-28; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17, p 14.

Bible study led by Wilma Bailey meets in back of sanctuary, with Zoom.

2. Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices using the 12 tools of GOGI led by Herb Troyer in basement classroom #4.

August 31: Labor Day Weekend

1. Lesson #4 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-10, p 20.

Bible study led by Wilma Bailey meets in back of sanctuary, with Zoom.

2. Healthy Spiritual and Mental Health Practices using the 12 tools of GOGI led by Herb Troyer in basement classroom #4.

Study materials are available for both adult classes.

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Bring in the items you have gotten for MCC school kits as the elementary Sunday school class will be getting them ready to send off this month. Watch for a progress report in next week's Journeying Together.

It's time to make Mennonite Central Committee school kits!

This is the complete list if you want to fill kits on your own [drawstring bags provided]:

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks
 - 8.5 in x 10.5 in; 70 sheets each (US)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 large eraser
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm (inch markings optional)
- 1 small all-metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)



If you want to contribute individual items, being collected next to the lift downstairs, please note that ***we have enough erasers, rulers and pencil sharpeners already.***

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

Thank you to all who gave nominations for the Congregational Representative to VAT. We are pleased to announce that Abri Hochstetler has agreed to serve a 3-year term on VAT.

Please continue to pray for the discernment process of 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

Dear Congregants

The result of the vote at our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 27, 2025 was as follows: Are you in support of extending Pastor Brian's leave by approving six weeks of paid sabbatical time and granting a one-time exception to our covenant which would allow him to use this time without obligation to continue serving as pastor at Shalom and without obligation to repay sabbatical salary and benefits?

YES 95%, NO 5% -- Proposal Carried well past the 75% threshold

Thank you,
Frank Kandel for the VAT

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

(chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker

Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (7/27) we had a song, Scripture, and Communion for our service.

This week (8/3) Craig will bring the message from Luke 12:13-21

Next Sunday (8/10) Peter and Delicia will be sharing.

This week's Prayer List:

- **Wildwood Mennonite Church** is a congregation in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which is an active member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference
- **Faith in Place** is a network of people of diverse faiths and spiritualities seek to lead the environmental movement by advancing environmental and racial justice, and providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities. (Contact: Brad Yoder and Becky Wigginton)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those who knew Joanne Lingle: Joanne passed away in early May after a stroke. She was living with one of her daughters, then in the DC area. Read her obituary at

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/joanne-lingle-obituary?id=58715920>

Here's where people can watch the recordings of Summer Fest worship:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLo9bXlhEXgVxetaEnWdyudcAF0wWkDDQ>

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is offering several on-line short courses this Fall. They are *Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible* (Sept. 10-Oct. 21), *Challenging Christian Nationalism* (Oct. 22-Dec. 9) and *Anabaptist History and Theology*. The early registration fee is \$300. No exams. No papers.

The Rooted and Grounded Conference that focuses on ecology and spirituality will take place from the afternoon of Sept. 18 (4:30 p.m.) until Sept. 20 at noon. The in person cost is \$130 with a \$10 lunch fee and a \$15 dinner fee. The on-line cost is \$60. The on-line version will not allow access to all activities and workshops. The theme this year is "*Kinship with all Creation: Pursuing Relationship, Justice and Community*".

Go to [ambbs.edu](https://www.ambbs.edu) for more information.

PERSON OF COLOR BIO
BIPOC MENTAL HEALTH MONTH
A.K.A. BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL
HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



Faith In Indiana started the Black Youth Collective in 2022. Georon Evans, 20, far right, and Londen, 15, second from left, stand with their other fellows at the Indiana Interchurch Center in July.

A local faith group is helping Black Indianapolis youth learn about politics and empowerment. The eight young people in the first cohort of *Faith in Indiana's Black Youth Collective* fellowship program are using the experience to advocate for more mental health awareness in the city.



Georon Evans, 20, said the program gives him a voice and a position beyond the negative stereotypes of Black men that others project on him. "It gives me a power — a power to organize," Evans said. "And it puts me in a space where I can get young folk also like myself to want and see change in the community."

Evans lost five friends to gun violence over the past four years. That's a reason why he decided to apply for the paid-fellowship that serves 15- to 20-year-olds. "This numb feeling that you get from something like that, it makes you really like — you almost expect it," Evans said. "You expect one day your life will be taken. So what's, like, the real point of living, you know?" Evans said about how he's felt in the past. "What do I get out of it when I know I'm just gonna get my life taken away from me at any cause."

But now Evans has shifted his mindset and wants to make a difference in his community. “My long-term goal for this is just to change the narrative within the city of youth in general,” Evans said. “You know, how we’re criminalized as thugs, welfare queens, or just people that are lazy good for nothings, when I know that’s just not true.”

The Black Youth Collective is advocating for more mental health awareness, especially for low-income community members who can’t afford those services, said 15-year-old Londen, another fellow. “A lot of people have mental health problems, and a lot of people don’t have anybody to lean on,” Londen said.



A goal of the collective is to expand the city’s emergency dispatch system to create a new clinician and mental crisis response team. They also want to offer more options on the dispatch line so people who are having a mental health crisis don’t have to call the police. “Suicide is a part of mental health, but it’s not the only part of mental health,” Evans said. “It varies from what you see in everyday streets, what you [are] going through in school, at home because it’s such a big problem. But there’s so many key issues involved with it.”



Josh Riddick, an organizer for Faith in Indiana’s Black Church Coalition, said the goal of the fellowship program is to build power for teens and young adults in Marion County. “In so many spaces, our Black youth are used as statistics, as narrative plot points, as these kinds of flattened characters who are also victims and perpetrators of all sorts of injustice and violence,” Riddick said. “And we recognize that’s not the full narrative and the full breadth of our Black youth.”

This generation of young people have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, social justice protests, climate change and much more. Riddick said the community must equip youth with the resources they need to tackle these problems.

“Every social movement in this country was led by young people,” Riddick said. “And if we’re going to be serious about the type of change we want to build within the Black church coalition, we had to build a vehicle for our young people to participate and build power.”

<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/these-black-youth-want-to-improve-mental-health-in-indy-heres-what-theyre-doing>



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 Agular Deiter Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Grace Rhine Pastoral Reps: Brian Bither, Craig Oury</p>
