

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JUNE 24, 2026

CALENDAR

Mon, Jun 22: Arlington Woods Neighborhood Association meeting, 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall
Thu, Jul 2: Shalom Sisters Lunch, @ Greek Islands Restaurant, 11:30 am (CLC)
Wed, July 15: Wild Church, 10 am
Sun, Jul 19: 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal
Sat, Jul 11: Garage Sale, 9 am – 4 pm (CLC)
Sat, Oct 3: Annual Retreat @ Jameson Camp

ADMINISTRATION

Mike Wigginton (chair), Andrew Martin, Carl Rhine

COMMUNITY LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS AT SHALOM

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

Celebrations! (Wednesday – Wednesday)

Wed, June 24: Leo Maust

Fri, June 26: Cheryl Martin

Sun June 28: Daniel Grimes

Thursday, July 2, 11:30 am lunch will be at Greek Islands Restaurant, 906 South Meridian Street.

Shalom
Sisters



There will be a garage sale in the church basement on **Saturday, July 11 from 9 am – 4 pm if another 6-8 volunteers sign up.** Check out the back window of the sanctuary for ways to help. All proceeds will go to Indiana AID.

It's possible that Arlington Woods will also participate



DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

The summer schedule for Sunday school is planned as follows:

June 28 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Laura

I invite everyone to bring any extra tissue paper you may have around your house to use in our mural-making.

July 5 – No Sunday school

July 12 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Cheryl

July 19 – Antiracism Sunday – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Barbara
 July 26 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Cheryl
 August 2 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Melissa and Rod
 August 9 – Adults meet in the auditorium with Jeanne for Child safety
 Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol
 August 16 – Adults to be determined
 Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
 Pastoral Representative:

School Kits for MCC: Although summer is just starting, we'll soon be ready to begin gathering items for MCC school kits so our kids can put them together on August 9 and 16. Please bring the following items:

Contents (NEW items only)

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



All-metal sharpeners can be found online at sites like Amazon or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because they are lower quality and do not last as long. If you cannot find all-metal sharpeners, please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

Jim Showalter (chair), Angie Buller
 VAT Representative: Andrew Martin

Changes to the Administration Commission effective September 1.

Carl Rhine (chair); **Chris Deiter** (member). We invite your affirmations and comments.

VISION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (VAT)

Nizeet Deiter (Chair), Andrew Martin (Vice-Ch) Sam Bixler, Charity Bauman, Abri Hochstetler
 Pastoral Representative:

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Melissa Walsh Martin (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker
 Pastoral Representative:

Last Sunday, 6/21, we viewed the sermon recorded by Conference Minister Sharon Yoder

that she preached for each of the congregations in the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

This Sunday, 6/28, Craig will bring the message.

Next Sunday, 7/5, Phil will bring the message from Luke 24:13–35.

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Fairhaven Mennonite Church is a member of Indiana Michigan Mennonite Conference, located in Fort Wayne. It is the northernmost congregation in our regional network of CAMFell
- **Organization:** Mennonite Central Committee is a worldwide ministry of Anabaptist churches, which shares God's love and compassion all in the name of Christ. This is done by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice.

REFLECTION

A Brief History of Wild Church at Shalom

On September 20, 2023, with permission from the Community Life Commission, Wild Church held its first meeting at Holliday Park in Indianapolis. Since then we have met every month (with a few exceptions due to weather) on the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. In the beginning, the group was called together by the playing of "This is God's Wondrous World" on the Kalimba. The group, however, wanted to sing. Rod Maust agreed to lead us in song and now each session begins with a hymn related to nature. The hymn is followed by reflections on a nature topic with observations from the Scriptures and the natural world. For example, one time we had a lecture and demonstration on soils, another time, we focused on doves in the Bible and Indiana; and yet another time, we reflected on two trees that produce edible food, the maple in Indiana and the olive in the Ancient Near East. We have reflected on the birds and the bees, the seasons, snakes, Irises and other aspects of nature. Following the reflections, participants tell stories of their own experiences in nature. After a prayer, we go for a hike to enjoy the wonder and beauty of the natural world that God created. Each session usually lasts for 2 hours with 12-15 persons in attendance, most, but not all, of whom are from Shalom. Our record so far was 27 on June 17, 2026 when we met in the Virginia Fairbanks Park (Newfields). Most often, we meet at Holliday Park or the Virginia B. Fairbanks Park (100 Acres). We have also met at Eagle Creek Park (Indianapolis) and West Park (Carmel), Meltzer Woods (Shelbyville), Oliver's Woods and Shalom. Wilma Bailey, June, 2026



PERSON OF COLOR BIO

Clara McBride Hale (1905-1992)

Clara Hale had a mission of motherhood. Her life experiences helped make her extraordinarily empathetic to the pain and suffering of other mothers and children. Her compassion gave her an unusual capacity to love and to find solutions.

"Mother Hale" was born in North Carolina in 1905. After her father was killed, her mom moved the family to Philadelphia, PA. After she married, she had two children and adopted a third.

Her husband moved the family to New York City, but he lost his battle with cancer when Clara was 27.

Through the Great Depression, Hale raised and supported her children, working as a domestic by day and a janitor by night. In 1943, Hale opened a daycare in her home in order to spend time with her children as well as care for others. It grew from a short-term to a long-term care facility. She also took care of foster children.

When Clara Hale retired in 1968 she could not have foreseen that her most notable endeavor, the founding of Hale House, was yet to begin. Hale House started in 1969 when Clara Hale's biological daughter, Lorraine, brought a mother and child who were addicted to drugs to Hale's home. She could not refuse the desperate pair. Actually, she had no choice because the mother disappeared and left the baby behind while Hale made a phone call in another room. Hale took the tiny baby girl and nursed her through drug withdrawals. The young mother had other children, and when she returned to Hale's residence, she brought the others and left them, too. Eventually she returned to take the children back. Hale sent the family off with her blessing and never charged a penny for her help. Within a few short weeks Mother Hale's apartment was packed from wall to wall with 22 drug-addicted babies. Some of them were abandoned; some were orphaned. As Mother Hale told the tale to Irene Verag of *Newsday*, "Before I knew it every pregnant addict in Harlem knew about the crazy lady who would give her baby a home."

Slowly the Hales (Clara, daughter Lorraine, and sons Nathan and Kenneth) allowed their lives to become virtually consumed by the effort to instill hope and to inject healing into the lives of addicted parents in Harlem. The dedicated family worked day and night to support their cause. Mother Hale kept the frailest of the infants in her own bedroom, cradling them and walking the floors all night when necessary to comfort each one through the painful experience of detoxification. The younger Hales took as many jobs as was necessary to bring in the funds to support the many, many children who came into their home. Hale said, "My daughter says she was almost sixteen before she realized all these other kids weren't her real sisters and brothers. Everyone called me 'Mommy.'"

She later got a home license as a "child care facility" in 1970, called the Hale House. A few years later Hale purchased a larger building. In 1975 she was able to attain a license for child-care. She raised the children as if they were her own and once they were healthy she would help to find families interested in adoption. "It wasn't their fault they were born addicted. Love them. Help one another," Hale explained to others, as quoted in the *Chicago Tribune*. She took it upon herself to make sure the families were a correct fit and even in some cases turned families down if she thought they could not provide a good enough home for the child. She eventually helped over 2,000 drug addicted babies and young children who were born addicted to drugs, children born with HIV, and children whose parents had died of AIDS. It was simple, she said; "Hold them, rock them, love them and tell them how great they are."

After the grant that helped her buy Hale House expired her work became a victim of severe cutbacks of state and city funds. Public agencies with competing services repeatedly harassed the center.

Successfully supported by individuals, churches, and community groups, Hale House nonetheless became unique in its format and demonstrated a sharp contrast to public agencies for the care of children. In the program's early days when funds for food and supplies were few and meeting payroll was a constant challenge, Clara Hale's personal faith in Christ and the love and active concern of ordinary people were her only reliable sources of strength and support. They brought her disposable diapers, formula, and other items that were in constant demand.

One notable admirer spent more than two years, off and on, trying to track down Clara Hale because no one among his circle of friends knew her name. Finally, John Lennon found her and sent a check for \$10,000. "He came with his wife and son and spent time with the children," Hale had said. After Lennon's tragic death the following year, Yoko Ono, his wife, sent more gifts, including a check for \$20,000, which arrived every year thereafter. One morning, another fan made her way to Hale's doorstep. As she emerged from a black limousine, the usual paparazzi who typically pressed for pictures were elsewhere. This was a private visit, for sure. Nonetheless, the presence of Princess Diana made it a royal and memorable one. As the princess stood at the top of the brownstone stairs, she lovingly held a baby in her arms. "Thank you for the work you're doing here for these children," she said to Mother Hale.

On February 6, 1985, at the close of the State of the Union message to Congress, President Ronald Reagan turned to Mrs. Clara Hale, seated at the side of the first lady, Mrs. Reagan, and recognized "Mother Hale" for helping babies of drug-addicted mothers in Harlem, N.Y. The president said to members of Congress and to all America, "go to her house some night and maybe you'll see her silhouette against the window as she walks the floor, talking softly, soothing a child in her arms. Mother Hale of Harlem, she too is an American hero."

<https://www.transhistoricalbody.com/tag/mother-hale/>



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

We have a gas grill and a rototiller we are no longer using. They are free to the first person(s) who want to come get them. One or both. Call Cheryl at 913-375-6264 or Jim at 913-375-6270 to arrange pick up.

ROUTINE INFORMATION

Send email to office@shalommennonite.com for the following:

- **Church calendar** (Grace Rhine)
- **To upload minutes** on the church website. (Carl Rhine)
- **Zoom** (Grace Rhine)
- **Announcements for Journeying Together**, by 5 pm on Wednesday (Linda Showalter)
- **New/update church directory, email address list, or telephone numbers**, managed by Sam Bixler (bixlersc@gmail.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 the church office so your item can be added to the calendar. It's helpful to include the contact person and which parts of the building you expect to use.

"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 [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.

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.

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Vision & Accountability Team: Chair Nizeet Agular Deiter, Vice-Chair Andrew Martin

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler