



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

JULY 22, 2026

CALENDAR

Thu, Aug 6: Shalom Sisters Lunch, 11:30 am (CLC)
Sat, Aug 15: Birthday party for Cheryl, 2-4 pm (Announcement)
Sun, Aug 16: **NO** 3rd Sunday Fellowship Meal
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)

Tue, July 28: Brenda Grimes



The next Shalom Sisters Lunch will meet at Iozzo's Garden of Italy, 946 S. Meridian, 11:30 am on Thursday, August 6.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

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

Fall classes for our kids are shaping up. There is still an opening to co-teach the 1st-3rd grade class. Carol Bixler will teach about half the Sundays so we'll need a co-teacher that can cover September and December as well as a few other dates. Beverly Smith will teach the

Pre-K class and Carol Bither with Brian Bither will teach the 4th-6th grade class. A big thank you to Carol, Carol, Brian, and Beverly!

The summer schedule for Sunday school is planned as follows:

July 26 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Cheryl

August 2 – Intergenerational meeting in the fellowship hall with Melissa and Andrew

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 – Antiracism Sunday

Young children will meet with Abri and older children will fill school kits with Carol



School Kits for MCC: Shalom's children will participate in the MCC School Kit challenge, filling kits on August 9 and 16. Help MCC meet their goal by bringing in supplies.

Please bring the following items:

We have enough rulers, pencil sharpeners, and erasers so please prioritize the items left in this shorter list.

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
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative:

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

Carol Weaver will be joining the Congregational Life Commission on September 1 to serve with member Beverly Smith and chair Linda Showalter. Thank you, Bethany Martin for your past service.

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, 7/19, Wilma brought the message on "The Healing".

This Sunday, 7/26, Sabrina will bring the message.

Next Sunday, 8/2, Phil will bring the message from Nehemiah 8:9–12

This week's Prayer List

- **Church:** Grace Chapel is a small Mennonite church in Saginaw, MI, that is a member of the IN MI Mennonite Conference.
- **Organization:** Indiana AID (Assistance to Immigrants in Detention) is a volunteer group that supports immigrants detained in the state of Indiana. The volunteers visit immigrants, being witness to their experiences, and provide resources to them and their families.
Contact: Brian Bither

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our house in Indy is sold and we moved to Greenwood Village South. Our new address is 1059 Smock DR. Greenwood, IN 46143. Our email and phone numbers is unchanged. ~ Barbara and Zenebe

Indiana, ICE, and the Destruction of Immigrant Families

If you have been wanting to know more about immigrant detention in Indiana, and its impacts, this article from *Mother Jones* is an excellent resource. One section of the article features Miguel Avila, who has been active with Indiana AID ever since his release after nine months of detention at Clay County Jail. The photo shows him speaking, surrounded by a group of Indiana AID folks (you can catch a wee glimpse of Sabrina) who met with this journalist at a Mexican restaurant following one of our visits to the jail. ~ Sabrina

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2026/07/indiana-ice-and-the-destruction-of-immigrant-families/>

August 15 from 2-4 is a party to celebrate Cheryl's 80th birthday hosted by her children. Please respond to the evite you received several weeks ago. The invitation neglected to say

that **children are invited and welcome**. And yes, there will be cake and ice cream for all!! If you have trouble accessing or responding to the evite, just send me a message. ~ Cheryl

PERSON OF COLOR BIO

In 1967, just a few years after the Civil Rights Act had challenged the legal foundations of segregation, **Dr. Donald Hopkins** stepped into a medical world that still had many barriers for African Americans. He had graduated from medical school as the only Black student in his class, but instead of limiting his ambitions to the opportunities available at home, he chose to take his knowledge where the need was greatest. That decision took him to Sierra Leone, a country facing one of the most dangerous smallpox outbreaks on Earth.



Smallpox was not just a disease recorded in medical textbooks. It was a source of fear that had shaped generations of families across Africa and around the world. It brought fever, suffering, permanent scars, blindness, and death, often reaching communities that already had fewer resources to fight back.

At the time, many health experts believed the strongest weapon against smallpox was mass vaccination. The more people vaccinated, the more protection a country could build. But in places with remote villages, limited transportation, and outbreaks moving faster than health teams could reach, vaccinating everyone was a race against time. The problem was not a lack of effort. It was the reality that disease did not wait for paperwork, transportation, or perfect conditions.

Hopkins and his colleagues helped strengthen a different approach. Instead of only trying to vaccinate entire populations, health workers focused on finding every outbreak quickly, tracing how the disease moved, and protecting the people most likely to be exposed. This method depended on something medicine alone could not provide: trust.

Teams had to enter communities, listen to families, identify hidden cases, and convince people that reporting illness was not a sign of weakness but an act of protection. The campaign depended heavily on African health workers, local leaders, and community members who understood the people, languages, and realities of the places they served. The victory was never the work of one person. It was the result of thousands of people making difficult decisions far from the attention of the world. But Hopkins's leadership and experience in Sierra Leone became part of a historic turning point.

In 1969, Sierra Leone recorded its last known smallpox case. A country once facing one of the highest smallpox burdens in the world had helped demonstrate that surveillance and rapid response could change the course of an epidemic. The achievement became part of a worldwide effort that eventually led the World Health Organization to declare smallpox eradicated in 1980. For the first time in human history, a disease that had haunted civilizations for thousands of years had disappeared from nature.

For many people, that would have been the moment to step back and celebrate. Donald Hopkins chose another path. Instead of walking away after helping defeat one ancient disease, he turned toward another illness that had devastated poor communities for generations but received far less attention: Guinea worm disease.

Guinea worm was different from smallpox. There was no vaccine waiting to be distributed. There was no simple treatment that could end the suffering. The disease survived through

contaminated drinking water, entering the human body quietly before eventually emerging months later and leaving people unable to walk, work, or care for their families. For rural communities, the damage reached far beyond physical pain. A farmer unable to walk could lose an entire season's harvest. A parent unable to work could struggle to feed children. A village with repeated infections could become trapped in a cycle of illness and poverty.

By the 1980s, Guinea worm was infecting millions of people every year across Africa and Asia. The disease was ancient, but the people suffering from it were living in the present, waiting for the world to pay attention.

When Hopkins joined the Carter Center's Guinea worm eradication effort, the challenge sounded familiar. Experts knew the obstacles. There was no vaccine. There was no medicine that could simply remove the problem. The only way forward was prevention, persistence, and reaching communities one by one. So, the campaign focused on practical solutions that changed daily life.

Health workers distributed filters that removed infected water fleas. Communities learned how to protect drinking water sources. Local volunteers tracked cases, educated neighbors, and helped stop infected people from entering water supplies and continuing the cycle of transmission. The tools were simple, but the mission was enormous.

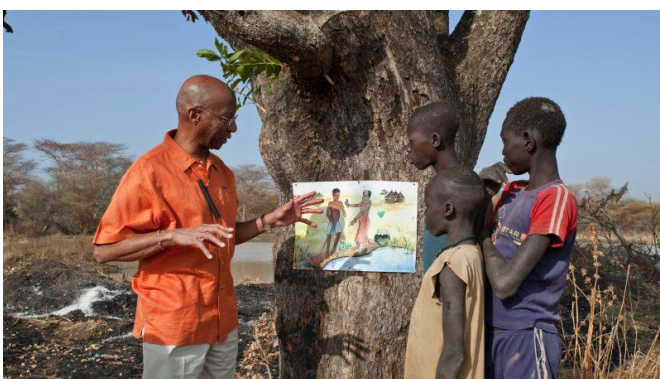


In the absence of a water system, women and children collect water from the Dukunani Dam in Savelugu, Ghana. Filtering water is highly effective for reducing Guinea worm disease.

Progress came through years of patient work, through conversations repeated in villages, through volunteers checking on neighbors, and through communities deciding that this disease would not define their future. The people most affected became the people leading the fight.

That is one of the most important lessons of Hopkins's career. He did not believe communities needed someone to save them. He believed communities deserved the knowledge, resources, and support to protect themselves. The results transformed history.

In 1986, Guinea worm affected an estimated 3.5 million people each year. Decades later, cases had fallen to only a tiny number worldwide, bringing humanity closer than ever to eliminating a second human disease. The fight is not completely finished. Guinea worm remains difficult because infections have also been found in animals, creating new challenges that require continued surveillance and determination. But the progress is undeniable.





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 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 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 worshiping 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.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

Congregational Reps: Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Abri Hochstetler