



JOURNEYING TOGETHER

A weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church

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

OCTOBER 9, 2024

CALENDAR

Sat, October 12: Retreat @ Jameson Camp, 9 am coffee/donuts; 9:30 music starts
Mon, October 14: *BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St, Indianapolis, IN
Wed, October 16: Wild Church (see announcement)
Sun, October 20: Carry-In Meal after Sunday School (Heritage Carry-In)
Mon, October 28: *BRO @ Greenwood Panera, 789 US Highway 31 N, Greenwood, IN
Mon, November 4: *BRO @ Downtown Starbucks, 430 N Mass Ave
Mon, November 11: *BRO @ Fishers Panera, 8510 E 96 St, Unit A, Fishers
Mon, November 18: *BRO @ Northwest Panera, 6050 W 86th St
Mon, November 25: *BRO @ Eastside Starbucks, 9605 E Washington St.
Thu, November 28: Thanksgiving Meal @ Shalom
Sun, December 8: Congregational budget meeting following Sunday School
Sat, December 14: Christmas Banquet
Sun, December 15: No Carry-In Meal
*BRO = Brian's Roving Office, 9a – 3p

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, Oct 14: Dean Linsenmeyer

Tue, Oct 15: Josh Martin
 Tue, Oct 15: Cam & Taylor Cook, 2022
 Wed, Oct 16: Aubrey Lily

Annual Retreat! “Shalom’s Family Tree”



- 9 am coffee/donuts
- 9:30 am Music
- 10 am devotions
- Shalom’s Family Tree saga begins
- There will be ample unstructured time, so bring favorite games, puzzles, snacks to share.

Anyone interested in a guided nature hike with Wilma: We will meet at Nature Park (formerly called Sodalis) located at 7700 S. CR 975E in Plainfield.



October’s carry-in will be a "Heritage Carry-in". Bring a dish that has been passed down, what Grandma/pa always made for the family, or a dish that reminds you of where you have been, or even a family favorite! Something you always asked for at home. Or it maybe your starting a new family dish! bring that!

In reviewing our budget for 2025, we were reminded that there is a line for “Transportation – possible need for transportation for non-drivers” in case anyone knows of a need.

DISCIPLING: GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

Carol Bixler (chair), Wilma Bailey, Carol Bither
 Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

“Busy Bags” have been replenished for children 5 years old and younger. Older children are encouraged to choose books and activities in the back of the sanctuary.

Children's Sunday School

Hall Monitor

6-Oct	Linda S	3-Nov	Joann
13-Oct	Rose	10-Nov	Linda S
20-Oct	Joann	17-Nov	Linda S
27-Oct	Joann	24-Nov	Linda S

Teachers:

- 2-yr old class - Abri and Carol W will co-teach
- Pre-K and K - Beverly will teach with Joyce as a substitute
- Elementary - Frank and Rod will co-teach
- Youth - Jeanne and Brad will teach

Adult Sunday School Classes:

Sermon on the Mount class, meets in the sanctuary, facilitated by Craig

- October 13: Giving, praying, and fasting humbly, 6:1-18
- October 27: Treasures and masters/Do not worry 6:18-34
- November 3: Do not judge and Asking God 7:1-12
- November 10: Fruit of our Actions 7:13-23
- November 24: Hearers and Doers 7:24-29 and SOM conclusions

He Came Preaching Peace, in the basement classroom. Facilitated by Wilma.

- Oct. 13 Please read chapter 6.
- Oct. 27 Please read chapters 7 and 8.
- Nov. 3 Please read chapters 9 and 10.

- Nov.10 Please read chapter 11.
- Nov. 24 Please read chapter 12

OUTREACH: RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND SHALOM

(chair), Chuck Dunn, Becky Wigginton
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Greetings, friends and supporters. Attached is a letter from Peter and Delicia. Thank you again for your support for the important work they are doing in Ecuador and within the broader Church in Latin America. ~ Jeanne Smucker

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DISCERNMENT TEAM

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

In the spring of 2022, when we had outside consultants do an anti-racism audit of our congregation, one of their recommendations was that we have an anti-racial harassment policy, similar to our anti-sexual harassment policy. The Dismantling Racism Steering Committee reviewed some materials recommended by the consultants and drafted a statement. The statement was reviewed by the People of Color caucus, then by the white caucus, and some changes were made resulting from those reviews. The DRSC plans to bring the statement to a Meeting of the Congregation at 11:00 AM on October 20, 2024 in the fellowship hall, for final review and a vote. The statement is attached. Please read it in preparation for the meeting.

If you will not be present at the meeting on October 20, please email your vote to Frank Kandel by October 19.

We will move into discussing chapter 3 of *The Color of Compromise* after this meeting.
Martha Yoder Maust
Chair, DRSC

WORSHIP: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Brittany Bither (chair), Justin Hochstetler, Jeanne Smucker
Pastoral Representative: Brian Bither

Last Sunday (10/6), we continued our study on the Sermon on the Mount as Brian engaged Matthew 5:38-48, which is the passage in which Jesus promotes non-retaliation and enemy love.

This Sunday (10/13), Brian will continue the series on the Sermon on the Mount by engaging Jesus' teaching about praying, fasting, and giving in Matthew 6:1-17.

This week's prayer list:

- Church: The church we are praying for is **Piedra Viva Menonita**, which is a Spanish-speaking church in our Conference, located in Elkhart, IN. They have asked that we pray for their spiritual growth, especially the growth of those who were recently baptized, as well as a meaningful advent season in which the Lord will inspire them and help them communicate the mystery of the incarnation of God.

- Organization: Our organization in focus is **Faith in Place**, which 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

FMC has invited us to collect non perishable items to send to those affected by the recent hurricane Helene. Along with food we are invited to donate other items such as cleaning supplies and new clothing. If you would like to donate the last day to do so is Sunday, October 20.



Wild Church will meet at 10 a.m. on October 16 at Skiles Test Park. The park is located at 6828 Fall Creek Road in Indianapolis. If you have a lawn or camp chair, please bring it. There are a couple of picnic tables there but having chairs will allow us to form a circle. Those who do not have chairs can sit on the benches of the picnic tables. We will be thinking about doves in the Bible and nature. Bring stories that you have related to doves. Wilma

FEATURED PERSON OF COLOR BIO

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, this week features

Ralph Lazo

Ralph Lazo, a Mexican-American who grew up in the racially diverse Temple Street neighborhood of Los Angeles, was born in 1924. Ralph's mother died young, and his father spent a lot of time on the road for work, so Ralph often ate dinner at the homes of his Japanese-American friends and spent time playing basketball on the Filipino church team. This patchwork quilt of cultures made up his chosen extended family.



When Ralph was 17, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, quickly drew the U.S. into WWII and clearly demarcated its "enemy." With war hysteria at its height, U.S. Roosevelt evoked national security to authorize the internment of people with Japanese heritage in "War Relocation Camps." Ralph watched posters go up in his community's churches with instructions for internment, as friends he had grown up with were forced to leave against their will. "These people hadn't done anything that I hadn't done except go to Japanese language school," Ralph stated.

Over 110,000 people of Japanese heritage were interned; 62% of them were American citizens. To many Americans at the time, Japanese internment was a justifiable wartime measure for protecting the home front. But to Ralph, internment was an unacceptable act of discrimination against his innocent, law-abiding neighbors. As he helped long-time friends pack up their homes and sell their belongings for next to nothing, Ralph only grew more incensed at the injustice.

In May 1942, he told his father he was going to summer camp and slipped aboard a train headed to Manzanar internment camp in California's Owens Valley, one of ten war relocation centers. The camp's cramped living quarters were surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers topped with blinding searchlights. Uniformed military police patrolled the area. Cots and straw-filled mattresses furnished tiny rooms overflowing with large groups, and the communal latrines had no partitions for privacy. Temperatures in the summer soared to 110 degrees, while winters dipped below freezing with blistering winds that swept across the barren landscape. Here Ralph lived among the Japanese like one of them, his heritage never once questioned by government authorities because of his brown skin. He sent a few letters home before his father realized where he was and permitted him to stay.

Ralph stayed in the internment camp for two years in solidarity with his friends—a prisoner by choice, acting from his conscience. He remained the only non-spouse, non-Japanese who voluntarily relocated to Manzanar. His true heritage was only discovered when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in August 1944. Until the end of the war, Ralph served in the South Pacific and was awarded a Bronze Star for his bravery. But no one gave him a medal for standing up for his beliefs.

After the war, Ralph returned to Los Angeles, where he graduated from UCLA and earned a master's degree from Cal State Northridge. A quiet and modest man until he died in 1992, Ralph spent the rest of his humble life teaching, mentoring disabled students, and encouraging Hispanics to attend college and vote. Never one to give up on his convictions, Ralph also helped raise funds for a class-action lawsuit to win reparations for Japanese-Americans interned during the war, which resulted in a 1988 law that awarded surviving internees \$20,000 each. Signed by President Reagan, the law S.1009 of the 100th Congress offered an apology on behalf of the U.S. government and stated that internment was based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."

Picture: Ralph Lazo (left, in striped shirt) was the only known person of non-Japanese ancestry who volunteered to live in an internment camp. While some viewed his action as a years-long ruse or proof of enemy sympathies, Lazo saw it as an act of solidarity.

"When 140 million Americans turned their backs on us and excluded us into remote, desolate prison camps, the separation was absolute — almost. Ralph Lazo's presence among us said, 'No, not everyone.'"

~ William Hohri, internee with Ralph Lazo at Manzanar

<https://www.lowellmilkcenter.org/programs/projects/view/the-voluntary-prisoner/hero>



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.

Journeying Together is a weekly email newsletter of Shalom Mennonite Church:

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Vision & Accountability Team: Nizeet Agular, Charity Bauman, Sam Bixler, Frank Kandel, Grace Rhine,
Brian Bither, Craig Oury