



Shalom is the Hebrew word often translated “peace” in the Bible. It also carries the meanings of harmony, tranquility, completeness, prosperity, welfare, wholeness, health, safety, reconciliation. Biblically, the word is used to refer to inner peace, bodily wellbeing, relational peace, freedom from war, covenantal peace with God, even wellbeing of the earth. It is also used as a name for God. At least 237 occurrences of this word are scattered throughout the Hebrew Bible. In the New Testament, the Greek word is eirene, which means one, whole, at rest, peace, quietness. Eirene shows up at least 92 times.

Shalom is a peace and wellbeing that touches every corner of life, from the innermost recesses of our souls to the outermost reaches of the planet and everything in between. Most of us have been praying for peace in Israel and Palestine in these last weeks, but we might confess that it’s hard to imagine the kind of safety, wholeness, complete reconciliation that is so deeply our longing. Peace as freedom from war or hostility seems at least possible in this lifetime (sometimes). Shalom, total wellbeing for all humans and all creation, seems impossible to even imagine, let alone experience. And yet we are called to be children of “God is Peace” (Judges 6:23-24), even to be peacemakers ourselves (Matthew 5:9).

What does it look like to foster wellbeing, safety, wholeness, welfare, reconciliation in your corner of the world? What kind of brokenness is calling out for shalom or eirene, the kind of peace that goes beyond simple lack of fighting and reaches into unhealed wounds with salve and hope? It is clear we cannot do it of our own accord. This kind of peace can only come through God’s reconciling Spirit, but that Spirit flows through us as we are empowered to be the body of Christ.

I confess that I struggle sometimes to keep hope. I would love to have answers or blueprints, but I simply don’t. But I see you all and the small and large ways you are seeking and pursuing shalom. In the district, a team of people skilled in listening, trained in conflict resolution, and passionate about the wellbeing of our churches is brainstorming ways to invite leaders from around the district to gain more skills and strength to employ in their communities. This month a group of leaders in the district will gather at Camp Mack to learn peacemaking skills based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and other Civil Rights leaders’ examples. Logansport church continues creating a network of support for people in recovery. Union Grove church starts a paper pantry and learns to know new neighbors with need for shalom, offering of themselves to address both the physical and the spiritual. Manchester church supports refugee families in the complicated process of becoming US citizens. I could go on... but you know who you are.

We want to hear those kinds of stories. Thank you to those of you who have shared with us what you are doing in your area. If your story hasn’t been shared here, send us pictures and information and we’ll make sure others hear of it, for the building up of the body.

By God’s grace and Christ’s love and the Spirit’s power, may shalom be increasingly found among us and in our world.

Laura

Look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District
on our District blog at:

<https://southcentralindianacob.com/blog/>

To subscribe to the blog and get new articles by email,
click the brown gear icon at the top of the website.

Also, follow South/Central Indiana District on Facebook
to see current information and upcoming events.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

The month of November is an unusual time of year. Sometimes the weather will be mild, and other years it can be wet and windy. If you had a garden, all the harvest is done, all the canning, the pickling, and the drying have been done. If you decorated for fall or Halloween, it's time to take down and put away all the decorations. Maybe the leaves have mostly fallen and have all been raked.

After all the chores of fall, it might be a time for an extra breath, a time for a short respite. Maybe a time to change focus before the Thanksgiving season. The world is in conflict, many are in need, Black Friday is looming ever closer, and Christmas is right around the corner. Our schedule is filling up, with no extra time to tend to our real priorities, our relationships.

Let's take direction from the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3-6 " I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." NIV

Isn't that a good place to be? Thankfulness for our co-workers in God's kingdom. We need to petition, to pray, to thank and maybe physically bless our co-workers in the kingdom work. As the month progresses, our plates get fuller, and our calendars get fuller also. Our tension can get stronger and our emotions can overwhelm us. That is the time to lay down our cares, our troubles and our burdens and Thank God for his faithfulness. We can thank God for our friends, our families and our church relationships that He has blessed us with. During this season, We can enter His gates with Thanksgiving and Praise, for God is always Faithful!

Agape from your Moderator

Bruce Dunk
Lower Deer Creek COB

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT <i>as of September 30, 2023</i>		
	<u>September</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$11,463.75	\$65,845.49
Restricted Income	\$45.00	\$6,950.00
Other Income	-\$54,724.54	\$79,845.81
Total Income	-\$43,215.79	\$152,641.30
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$12,484.55	\$110,433.29
Restricted Expenses	\$2,202.76	\$12,572.87
Total Expenses	\$14,687.31	\$123,006.16
Net	-\$57,903.10	\$29,635.14
District Fund Balance		\$1,007,689.55

NOVEMBER DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

November 5 - Join us as we lift up Union Grove CoB and the Southern Ohio & Kentucky District.

November 12 - Join us as we lift up Upper Fall Creek CoB and the Pacific Northwest District.

November 19 - Join us as we lift up Wabash CoB and the Pacific Southwest District.

November 25- Join us as we lift up Eder Financial.

DISTRICT CHURCH UPDATES

- **Anderson** - Is currently in the search process to fill a new part-time ministry position, Leader for Growth and Community Engagement. For more information about this position, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a7uN41DD7o8pDfI0J_cp-3b6B-cfDeIsJr6gRs4bj5s/edit?usp=sharing
- **Eel River Community**—Is seeking to fill a part-time position on their ministry team.
- **Guernsey** - Is beginning the search process; Pastor Jeff Tomson will be resigning the beginning of 2024.
- **Manchester** - is currently putting together a search committee and will soon begin looking for a settled pastor.
- **Peru** - The congregation is beginning the search process after the death of Pastor Phil Troxell. Pastor Matt Myers is serving in the interim.
- **TurnPointe Community** - The congregation is in search for an interim while Pastor Mike Shroyer is on a leave of absence.

NOVEMBER 2023 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

November 2 - Shalom Team—7:00 pm

November 3 & 4 - District Board Retreat -
Camp Mack

November 9 - Ministry Credentialing
Committee - 7:00 PM - District Office

November 10-12 - Kingian Nonviolence
Training - Camp Mack

November 14-16 - Midwest CODE Meeting -
Camp Mack

November 19 - Commissioning of Dan
Kochensparger - 3:00 pm - Andrews CoB

November 23 - District Office Closed -
Thanksgiving Holiday

**Does your congregation have a ministry
or event you'd like to share about with
the rest of the District?**

**Call or e-mail the District Office and
we'll get it in the next newsletter!**

BUILDING SHALOM AROUND THE DISTRICT

Eel River Community CoB Hosts Day of Caring

On September 23 the Eel River Community Church of the Brethren in Silver Lake, in collaboration with the Claypool United Methodist Church, hosted a Day of Caring for residents of the town of Claypool. Flyers distributed through the summer offered free home maintenance for minor repairs and yard work to any Claypool residents. On Saturday there were 18 Eel River Church volunteers and 8 Manchester University students who joined hands to tackle the jobs requested. Projects completed include repairing porch steps, adding a railing beside the steps, paneling a ceiling, trimming bushes and hedges, weeding, painting trim, power-washing siding, and bringing smiles to the faces of Claypool homeowners.

Game Night at Upper Fall Creek CoB

October 1, 2023 marked a one-year anniversary of Game Night at Upper Fall Creek CoB. It started with four children (kindergarten thru 6th grade), board games, a ping pong table and snacks. In a year's time attendance has increased tremendously. There were 18 individuals at our last Game Night, enjoying a fire pit with hot dogs, smores, dodge ball, an egg toss, corn hole, sidewalk chalk, etc.

If you are in the area, join us the 1st Sunday of the month from 4-5:30 pm for fun, games and snacks! We praise God for the success of our new outreach program and pray it continues!



Union Grove CoB hosts Community Paper Pantry

Union Grove CoB started hosting a Community Paper Pantry for the surrounding community this September. The Paper Pantry provides a wide variety of household and personal care products, like toilet paper and paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, all purpose cleaner, etc. and is open from 5:00 - 7:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. In September they served 19 families and in October they served 48 families!

THE MINISTRY EXCELLENCE PROJECT : GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ministry Excellence Project is a Church of the Brethren partnership ministry initiative between the Northern Indiana and the South/Central Indiana Districts. The overall goal of the project is to remove some of the major economic barriers that cause stress on pastors and interfere with their ministry effectiveness and personal well-being.

There are 2 types of grants available through the project:

- **Pastor Appreciation Grant** - this is a matching grant program offering for Pastor Appreciation month in October. Churches can apply for these grants by sending in an application and a match check. The project will match checks up to \$150; if a church sends in a \$150 check, the project will match it and send back a \$300 grant check. To get an application, contact the District Office. Pastor Appreciation grant applications for 2023 will not be accepted after December 14, 2023.
- **Financial Assistance for Pastors Grant** - This grant provides assistance to pastors when their resources are not enough to cover their financial needs. The general categories for assistance are medical & dental costs, inadequate funding for retirement, low salaries & benefits, and educational loans for the pastor and/or spouse that have become a long-term burden. Assistance can help the pastor, spouse, and dependent children. For more information and/or an application contact the District Office or go to: <http://www.ministryexcellenceproject.com/clergy/> The next grant application deadline is December 1, 2023.

Nominations for the 2024 AC Ballot Requested

The deadline for nominations for the Annual Conference ballot is **December 4**. The denomination and its agencies depend on leaders elected at Conference from nominees proposed by the wider church. There are deliberate, purposeful steps to the process of discernment which leads to the Nominating Committee engaging in prayerful discussion of the nominees when it meets in January. The list is narrowed to four names per office which is then sent to the full Standing Committee which votes to further narrow the list to two names per office in order to create the ballot. The delegates of Annual Conference elect those who will finally serve.

We are grateful for the excellent nominations already submitted, but additional names are needed! The offices that are open for 2024 are the following: **Moderator Elect, Program & Arrangements Committee, Mission & Ministry Board from Area 4, Mission & Ministry Board from Area 5, Bethany Seminary Board – Colleges, and On Earth Peace Board**. Detailed information regarding these positions is available at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations>.

We ask that you prayerfully consider the gifted people you know throughout the denomination and in your local churches and districts. Then fill out the simple online form to nominate someone. Be sure to contact the person you have nominated and let them know why you think their gifts qualify them for the role and encourage them to agree to take the next step in filling out the nominee information form on the Annual Conference website.

If you have been nominated and have not yet accepted, we encourage you to prayerfully discern your possible call and willingness to serve the church in this way. Then fill out the nominee information form and return it so you will be included in the pool of candidates who will be considered for the ballot in 2024. That form indicates your acceptance to be considered.

Have you had interest and a sense of call to serve in one of the roles that are open?

Talk to someone who knows you and test that sense. If affirmed, ask that person or another to nominate you!

As we seek a range of candidates who represent the whole church, we pay particular attention to the Call for Accountability in order to include our diversity in terms of age, race/ethnicity, gender, and theology.

Thank you so much for participating in this important process! The Annual Conference office is receiving nominations until December 4, 2023.

Becky Maurer
Chair, Nominating Committee

November Online Ventures Course: “Meet the Matriarchs”

The November online offering from the Ventures in Christian Discipleship program at McPherson College will be **“Meet the Matriarchs”** to be presented **by Bobbi Dykema**. The course will be held on **Zoom Saturday, November 18 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Central Time)**. **CEUs are available.**

In Matthew 22, as he is teaching the disciples about the resurrection to come, Jesus reminds them of his and their connection to their ancestors in the Jewish faith, describing God as “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” It is both a biological and a spiritual lineage to which Christians, Muslims, and Jews to this day lay claim. But the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, did not live out their lives of faith and courage alone. They were partnered by powerful and faithful matriarchs: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, as well as several additional women through whom the promise made to Abraham was borne: Hagar, Zilpah, and Bilhah.

Each of these strong and powerful women are worth getting to know (better), not only through the scriptural texts, but through works of visual and literary art that they have inspired. In this course we will spend time with the matriarchs as they have been envisioned in picture and word, with the hope of strengthening our own faith and courage along the way.

Continuing education credit is available for \$10 per course. During the registration process, you will have the opportunity to pay for CEUs and give an optional donation to the Ventures program.

To learn more about Ventures in Christian Discipleship and to register for courses, visit www.mcpherson.edu/ventures.

**IN CASE YOU MISSED ONE OF THEM IN AN EARLIER NEWSLETTER,
HERE ARE LINKS TO SOME UPCOMING EVENTS THAT YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR:**

- ◆ **Brethren Heritage River Cruise—August 22-30, 2024** - Schwarzenau, Germany – Visit the Founding Location of the Church of the Brethren - Wood Travel Partners -Joshua Wood—Jwood@dreamvacations.com -(765) 274-3986 or <https://travefy.com/website/x6fx26s3ndfv6nuxbarxnn-ywtar32qsqrm3q2>

UPCOMING BRETHREN ACADEMY COURSES

Introduction to Pastoral Care

January 16-19, 2024

Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

This overview will emphasize the importance of formation as a pastoral caregiver, self-differentiation, scope of care, family and congregational systems, confession and forgiveness, death and grief, active listening, and prayer.

This course fulfills a required Ministry Skill unit (Preaching, Worship, Pastoral Care) and fulfills the Bethany Theological Seminary Experience. The deadline to register for this course is **December 5, 2023**.

Questions may be directed to the Coordinator for English-Language Training Programs, Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey at holleau@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1810.

From Reformation to Today

January 24 - March 19, 2024

Instructor: Josh Brockway, PhD

In order to understand Christian faith and practice also means we must attend to time and place. Simply stated, the study of the past helps us comprehend what God has done and continues to do among us. This course will focus on the history of Christianity from the 1500s up to the present day

TRIM students will receive one credit in Biblical/Historical/Theological Studies upon completion. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course. **The deadline to register for this course is December 19, 2023**.

Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

- 1) Mail the registration form, available for the district office, with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374.
- 2) Register and pay online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> There is a 3% service charge when registering online.

Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

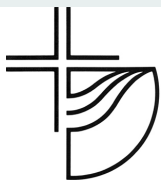
District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

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