

# SHARANTELLA

## Mental Health IS Health

Join us May 10<sup>th</sup> for Mental Health Sunday



Earlier this year, Shalom achieved recognition by the UCC Mental Health Network as a W.I.S.E Congregation. So, yes, that's a big deal — we'd been working on it all last year! It is certainly cause for celebration.

However, that only means that we have a lot of continuing work to do. As always, an accomplishment is only just the next beginning. To be a community that supports flourishing life for all people, 2026 will be a year of seeking out new ways of being together that honor and celebrate the neurodiverse gifts that each of us bring.

Please join us for Mental Health Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate Certification and continue to cultivate our WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) congregation!

-W.I.S.E. Committee

Shalom

United Church of Christ

May 2026 Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS- TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS  
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## May Birthdays

Gretchen Makinson 2  
Jonathan McNabb 5  
Abel Brodahl 7  
Luana Beary 8  
August Gibbons 11  
Larry Berg 11  
Jan Norman 12  
Isaac Robertshaw 12  
Nemy Pierre 14  
Julie Ziabltsev 15  
MJ Hilker 22  
Diane Vanderburg 29  
Shari Hallman 30

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## Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

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### True Civilization

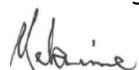
An interviewer once asked the great anthropologist Margaret Mead what first clue she looked for to indicate she had found an ancient civilization. The reporter was expecting to hear about a certain tool or utensil or piece of pottery, and was therefore shocked when Ms. Mead answered, “a healed femur.”

Civilization isn’t just about discovering fire or making tools, or even about highly advanced technology, urbanization, organized government, or record keeping. A person who breaks a thigh bone (in ancient times or now) cannot survive to collect food or escape danger unless they have assistance. So a healed femur indicates that someone stopped to help the injured person—seeing that they stayed safe and well-nourished while the bone healed. A true mark of civilization is when individuals are able to look beyond themselves and their own needs or wants, to focus on meeting the needs of people around them.

Many of us chose our profession because we wanted to help others and make the world a better place. Perhaps an even greater indicator of civilization comes from what we do beyond the job for which we are paid. How we spend our discretionary time and money reveals a lot about us as individuals and as a culture.

In a society where ugly behavior, hatred, and bigotry are condoned at the highest levels, it is all the more important to model a different kind of “culture” where everyone is valued. We only progress as a culture when all of us progress, not just the few at the top at the expense of everyone else, especially those at the very bottom. Why is there even a top and a bottom in the first place? Ranking seems like more of a failure of civilization than a measure of success. What would it mean for us to remember Margaret Mead’s understanding of “civilization”—looking beyond ourselves to treat others with dignity, compassion, and care?

Imagine how much we might accomplish when we join together in true civilization to help ensure that the entire society is flourishing.

Shalom, 

# Looking Back

## Maundy Thursday

2026 Maundy Thursday had a tremendous turnout. Thank you to Joyce Bean who organized and directed the dramatization of "Have You Seen My Son" and to all the cast members, musical talent, and tech experts who made this happen. Thank you to all the wonderful cooks and bakers for providing the soup and bread supper. If you didn't get the chance to watch this service, click [HERE](#).



## Easter

What a wonderful Easter Sunday this was.

The morning started off with Church Life cooking the eggs and ham and the congregation bringing in fruit and bread for the "Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast."

Congregants also brought in flowers and displayed the flowers on the altar at the start of the service. So many young children joined for Children's Chat, and many participated in playing in the Fellowship Hall with volunteers during the service while the older youth hid 1,000 eggs in the yard. The service concluded with Reg leading us in the Halleluiah Chorus.

Following the service the younger children completed the task of finding all the eggs hidden in easy and very hard-to-reach places with the help from the hiders and other adults.

What beautiful day!



## Other April Events

**Jim Dyson's Celebration of Life** took place on April 11<sup>th</sup> with over 100 people in attendance. Church Life provided a cake in remembrance of him.

**Earth Day Sunday** was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> and led by Pastor Melanie. She had a special project for the children during Children's Chat where they learned about recycling, composting, and taking care of our beautiful planet. We used our new projector to display the words for "Prayers from Earth, Water, and Animals," read by different voices, followed by "A Prayer from People," read by the congregation. There was also a video created by Lynne Townsend Photography that played during the sermon.

The youth group planted stunning plants during a youth group evening, for congregants to take home for their gardens.

Earth Day Festival at the Reach Museum was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> with over 1000 visitors.

Many Shalomites were in attendance as well as many of us who have electric vehicles promoted how to make your own impact on the environment with your next car purchase. Fellow Shalomite, Bruce Rathbone, with the Tri-Cities Citizens' Climate Lobby, Sustainable Tri-Cities, and the REACH museum staff worked diligently behind the scenes to make this such a successful event.



**Shalom Movie Date at AMC Theater** was a successful outing. Around 30 adults and children enjoyed our own movie theater where we viewed "Super Mario Galaxy."

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# Looking Forward

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## Camp Sunday

Camp Sunday will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. Please join us for this very fun Sunday. Bring a camping themed treat or snack for refreshments. Dress in your camping gear and N-Sid-Sen shirts if you have them. You will hear from youth about their camp experience and enjoy songs from camp. Offerings for that Sunday will go towards the restricted campership fund that will be used to help youth go to camp. Click [HERE](#) to see more camp events and fundraising activities!

## Interested in Volunteering on Sunday Mornings?

We are starting a new way of scheduling volunteers using our church management site, Breeze. We will be sending out sign-up sheets directly to those who are interested in different roles who have had instructions in those roles. We began with the liturgist role first and will add other roles as we pull together lists of volunteers for those roles.

**How do you get added to the role that you are interested in?** Fill out [THIS FORM](#) and we will reach out for instruction/training if applicable.

**How do you sign up for Sundays?** After filling out the above form, you will begin getting invitations to sign up for the weeks you are available. Emails that are sent to you are personal sign-ups and should not be forwarded as they will only sign up the person the invitation was sent to. The sign up sent to your email is very easy to use. Click the Sunday you want and then click submit. No need to add your email or name.

**Will you get reminders?** Yes! You will first get reminders to sign up. When you have signed up for a Sunday, you will receive two reminders. The first will be sent on the Monday before the Sunday you signed up for, and then one more the day before with any special instructions for that role.

**Can you get reminders through text?** Yes! You will be asked on the form to opt in for text messaging. You will begin getting text reminders to sign up, as well as reminders for upcoming days you have signed up for.

## Peace Village –August 3-7

**Registration IS open!** Spots are filling up and we don't want you to miss out on this great opportunity. Click [HERE](#) for more information and go to the bottom of the page for the link to register.

**We NEED Leaders!** We need Leaders who are Interested in teaching or leading a class about one of the foundational principles or teaching a craft or fun activity.

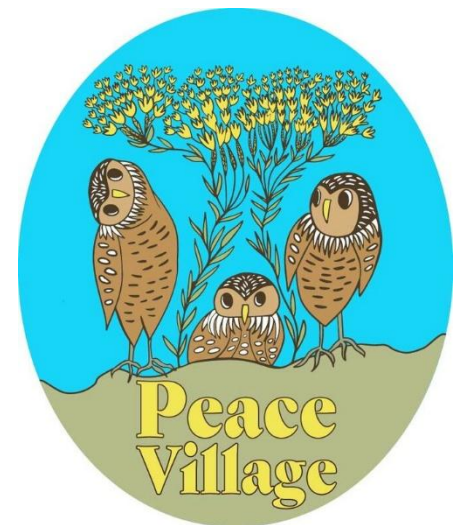
**We NEED extra hands for Leaders!** Children are active, curious, and adventurous! We will be needing extra hands for all ages to help during lessons and throughout the day.

**We NEED a Volunteer Coordinator!** This person is in charge of communicating with the volunteers, preparing materials, and organizing support for teachers and the leaders. Lauralee will be helping with distribution of information to volunteers and scheduling.

**We NEED more members for our Security Team!** This team will meet to review plans for Peace Village to assess for risk. During the event they will provide security during drop-offs and pick-ups to assure authorized adults are there.

## May 24<sup>th</sup> Movie Night - "McFarland USA"

Mike Stipe, Christopher Pfeiffer, and Andy Plymale are hosting a Shalom movie night. Join us at 6 pm on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, while we watch "McFarland USA" – *Track coach Jim White (Kevin Costner) is a newcomer to a predominantly Latino high-school in California's Central Valley. Coach White and his new students find that they have much to learn about one another, but things begin to change when White realizes the boys' exceptional running ability. More than just physical prowess drives the teens to succeed; their strong family ties, incredible work ethic and commitment to their team all play a factor in forging these novice runners into champions.*



## *Animals at Shalom*

You may have noticed recently the presence of dogs during worship and other events at Shalom. While many Shalomites are animal lovers, others have significant allergies and/or are fearful of animals. Some issues have arisen with emotional support animals who are not as well trained as service animals. In our effort to be welcoming to all people, we recognize that animals may be essential for some people to feel comfortable in our building. But we also need to be respectful of members and guests who are allergic or for whom the presence of animals causes concern.

To that end, our WISE team for mental health designed a policy that was approved during the April 2026 council meeting. This policy strikes a balance between many conflicting needs by allowing all service animals, as well as approved emotional support animals who are well behaved and kept at the handler's side at all times. Unfortunately, general pets cannot be accommodated except at special events like the "blessing of the animals." Service animals and approved emotional support animals, with their humans, are welcomed in the narthex as well as in the section of the sanctuary by the organ. This way, those who are not comfortable around animals will have an "animal-free" zone in which to worship, while those with service or approved emotional support animals will also be welcomed in the sanctuary.

Feel free to view the policy [HERE](#). This is a work in progress, so thank you for your patience as we work through this challenge to accommodate everyone's needs and be the open, welcoming and affirming congregation we desire to be.

## *Call for Musicians for Summer Special Music*

The Shalom Choir will take its usual summer break June 14th through August 30th, so the congregation gets to enjoy Summer Special Music. Those among us who have musical talents can share their musical gifts in worship of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to sing or play an instrument, either solo or as a group, we would love to have you as part of a Sunday worship service. The music doesn't have to be long, complex, or professional. For example, in the past Youth have shared their recital pieces. Click [HERE](#) to fill in all dates you are available, or fill out a sheet in the Narthex

## *'Lom Summer Lessons- Share Your Passion*

This summer we will bring back weekly get-together sessions to get to know each other, socialize, and learn a thing or two. As before, these get-togethers are meant for everyone – all ages, intergenerational! The socials will include a lesson, activity, or class led by fellow Shalomites.

Right now, we are looking for people with talents or passions they want to share. This could be baking, making something that is out of the ordinary, meditation, gardening, social justice actions, crafts, dancing, or whatever. If you would like to lead or teach a lesson, click [HERE](#) to sign up. The day of the week and time will vary depending on the leaders' availability. If you have questions, reach out to Lauralee Sorenson at [shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org).

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## **Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action**

*Contact Gretchen Hormel to join the JSA Zoom meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.*

## *Senior Life Solutions*

Tanya Van Ham and Marina Martin of Lourdes Health Senior Life Solutions were the guest speakers at the April JSA Committee meeting. "Lourdes Health Senior Life Solutions is an intensive outpatient group therapy program designed to meet the unique needs of individuals typically 65 and older, experiencing depression or anxiety related to life changes that are often associated with aging." People can come in for an assessment (516 W. Margaret St., Ste 7, Pasco, WA) if they have noticed changes. They can also be referred by their friends, pastors or others. They will meet first with an online psychiatrist who will coordinate medications with their physician. Then there is group therapy for three hours, up to three days a week, in person. Sessions include videos and a chance to talk to each other about their own experiences. The program is nationwide, and takes all insurance, but not all are accepted. Medicare covers 80%.

Marina is the patient coordinator. She said patients benefit from reduced anxiety and depression, fewer doctor visits, and more. They have 1-2 team goals they work on at a time. As progress is made on the goals, the meetings usually taper off over time. Once they graduate, there are quarterly after-care meetings.

## ***Faith Action Network News - May 1st is International Workers' Day***

This a day recognizes the struggles of working people right here in the United States and is an important national day of action that is dedicated to uniting laborers, immigrants, and community organizations in the streets. This year, organizers are calling for a day of “No School, No Work, No Shopping” to disrupt the takeover of our country. Here in Washington—and across our country—workers, students, and families will be marching, rallying, walking out and taking action together to demand: ICE out of our communities, investments in workers, and expanding our rights - not corporations and billionaires, and free and fair elections.

Note: If you can't fully participate in the “No Work, No School, No Shopping” on May 1st, consider what actions you can take. For example, you could shop at local businesses instead of big box stores or get groceries ahead of May Day. Together, we can show where real power lives in this country: with workers, not billionaires. Follow [this link](#) to make a pledge on how you will participate this May Day.

Here is a list of some May Day events:

- Sunnyside: March for our People, Our Land and Our Future! (3:30-4:30pm) March starts at South Hill Park (1521 S 1st St), followed by Community Celebration (4:30-7pm).
- Spokane: (4:00-6:00pm) May Day Youth Rally and March, Riverfront Red Wagon. Join youth leaders from across Eastern WA organizing for justice and a future that works for all of us. If you can participate fully, we encourage you to join the call to disrupt business as usual. If you can't—because of work, school, or responsibilities—you still have a role to play.
- Yakima: March & Demonstration Gather at 3:30 pm at Yakima Valley College (W Nob Hill Blvd/16th Ave) followed by a 4 pm March to Miller Park (513 N 3rd St.). 5:15 Gathering at Miller Park with resource booths, speakers, entertainment, food.

Let's show up to support workers and immigrants at marches across the state!

## ***Trans Advocacy Leadership Lab - Saturday, May 2, 1-3 p.m. in Kennewick***

Click [HERE](#) to register (Specific location disclosed upon registration confirmation)

- Learn about current protections and emerging threats facing Trans people in WA State
- Develop messaging skills that connect your personal story to effective advocacy
- Gain support and tools to have meaningful conversations with the public about these issues.

Click [HERE](#) to see and share flyer

## ***Interfaith Potluck - Welcoming the Stranger - All Are Welcome!***

Sunday, May 31, 5-7 p.m.

Please bring a labeled dish to share (no pork, shellfish or gelatin) and a non-perishable food item to donate to Tri-Cities Food Bank.

Community Unitarian Universalist Church – 2819 W Sylvester St, Pasco

More information: [tricitieinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:tricitieinterfaith@gmail.com) or [\(509\) 545-6777](tel:(509)545-6777)

## ***Notes from David Bell's presentation on Sunday, April 19th***

David Bell spoke about The Center for Indigenous Ministries near Toppenish and connected to the Yakama Nation. The center is dedicated to help North American people to learn, understand, and advocate for justice for U.S. and Canadian indigenous peoples. The center hosts a variety of events including an indigenous book study, a winter talk, and restorative gatherings. Go to their website to learn more: <https://centerforindigenousministries.org>.

David and his wife, Belinda, also recommended that we visit Just Living Farm (<https://justlivingfarm.org>). The farm helps provide funding for The Center for Indigenous Ministries and is dedicated to Artful Land Care: Dedicated to Good Food, Good Ecology, Good Conversation. They sell sustainably raised beef, and the farm is respected as part of our area's community and ecosystem. Gretchen Hormel will host a carpool for anyone else who is interested in visting Just Living Farm sometime this summer. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Hormel as soon as possible at [ghormel@outlook.com](mailto:ghormel@outlook.com).

## ***PNC - UCC Vigil for Peace in Colombia***

Sunday May 24th at Noon, the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches will join by zoom from their sanctuaries with people in Colombia working for Peace in an extremely difficult environment.

Our vigil will continue action that began with our promise in the 2021 PNW UCC Annual Meeting and the Disciples of Christ Annual Assembly to stand in partnership with the people of Colombia. We are continuing a UCC commitment to the people of Colombia made at the 2001 UCC General Synod 23

This is the draft vigil program:

1. Worship (songs for peace)
2. Prayer
3. Analysis regarding the challenges the incoming government will face 2026-2030
4. Testimonies of those impacted by peacebuilding work
5. Final Prayer

The Vigil will occur one week before the May 31st First Round of the Colombian Presidential Election. We anticipate the event will last 30 to 60 minutes.

Please check the updates to see if Shalom will participate in the Zoom vigil. To participate individually from home, please reply directly to Steve Clagett, [clagett@comcast.net](mailto:clagett@comcast.net).

## ***Yard Sign - "Stop the stigma! Mental Health IS Health"***

May is Mental Health awareness month. Shalom is intent on shining the light on all aspects of mental health. Our congregation is intent on being welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged (WISE) for those facing mental health challenges. This sign will be posted throughout May on Shalom's front yard. It's part of Shalom's effort to inspire our congregation, grab attention, and bring new people through our doors.



## ***Shalom volunteers for the One Parish One Prisoner program***

Shalom now has seven volunteers for the One Parish One Prisoner (OPOP) program! Volunteers will provide support through friendship to a prisoner who will return home to the Tri-Cities this Fall.

Candice Baughman, Parish Mobilizer for the OPOP program, will support Shalom volunteers through this two-year journey. The first step will be an orientation scheduled sometime soon. Are you interested in volunteering? We welcome more to register at: <https://undergroundministries.org/register>.

If you have any questions about this program, do not hesitate to talk to Gretchen Hormel, with Shalom's Justice & Social Action Committee.

## ***Last push for end of school year snacks!***

School ends early in June, so May will be our last month of snack support at Hanford High School. Continue to bring in those high protein meat sticks, high fiber applesauce cups, and all the other savory chips, crackers, and crunchy granola bars. The students enjoy them and snacks really help them get through the day. Let's make an extra effort to help them through the end of the school year. There is a bin in the Narthex labeled "HHS Snack Support" ready to receive the ready to eat, single serving snacks.



If you have questions or would like to provide a cash donation to buy snacks, reach out to Phyllis Baxter or Gretchen Hormel. From all those hungry teenagers, Thank you!

# Camp News

Summer Camp is coming up quickly! Camp Sunday will be May 31<sup>st</sup>

If you haven't signed up your youth for camp, you can do so by visiting the N-Sid-Sen website [HERE](#).

**REGISTER TODAY**

**PILGRIM FIRS**  
camp & retreat center

**You & Me Camp | July 5-8**  
grades 1-4\* with an adult

**Kids Camp | July 5-8**

**REGISTER AT [PILGRIM-FIRS.ORG](http://PILGRIM-FIRS.ORG)**

**CAMP IS A PLACE TO LAUGH, SING, PLAY, AND PRAY TOGETHER!**

**We can't wait to see you there!**

**N-SID-SEN**  
Camp & Retreat Center

**You & Me Camp | July 19-22**  
grades 1-4\* with an adult

**Kids Camp | July 22-25**

**Intermediate Camp | July 12-18**

**Junior High Camp | July 12-18**

**Senior High Camp | July 19-25**

**Family Camp | July 26-Aug 1**

**Camp Together | August 2-8**

**Women's Retreat | May 15-17**

**REGISTER AT [N-SID-SEN.ORG](http://N-SID-SEN.ORG)**

**\*ENTERING GRADES**

## Other Shalom Retreats and Events

Click [HERE](#) to see all the other retreats including **GIVING BACK CAMP (aka work camp)** June 14-20 where we have the chance to volunteer to care for and restore camp N-Sid-Sen. There is no camp fee for Giving Back volunteers!

Lyn Lang will be attending the **Women's Retreat** May 15-17 and has a few seats in her car for those who need a ride.

## Need a Campership?

Click [HERE](#) to fill out the form to request a campership through Shalom. Please register before requesting a campership.

## Flamingo Flocking Fundraiser

Our annual Campership Flamingo Flocking fundraiser is here! Throughout the month of May and into early June, our youth group will be spreading some fun by "flocking" homes with bright pink flamingos.

Want to surprise a friend or neighbor? You can request a flocking! Prefer to keep your yard flamingo-free? You can also purchase flocking insurance to protect your home.

Sign up sheets will be available after Sunday services all through May—just connect with Michelle Sinnes to learn more and get involved.

This is one of our biggest fundraisers supporting camperships for our youth. Donations are welcome and appreciated, with all flockings offered on a donation basis. Thank you for helping make camp possible!

## Save the Date, help plan September Church Retreat at N-Sid-Sen

Our fall retreat will be coming up Sept. 18-20, so, first—put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend. It's a fun way to develop and deepen relationships and connections with others in the congregation, in a relaxed and beautiful environment.

Also, it's not too early to begin planning our theme and activities for this year. We are looking for a small group to work together with our sister congregation from Pullman to create our plan for the weekend. Think you might be interested? Contact Pastor Melanie at [pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org).

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## Shalom Community

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### Shalom Community Google Group -

The Shalom online community hosted through Google Groups is a free and optional program for Shalom members and friends to engage directly with each other for informal discussions, sharing information about events, and developing connections. Although we can use Google Groups to remind each other of meetings and happenings at Shalom, the focus is on opportunities to support and connect with each other outside the church. For example, you might share a photo of a newborn grandchild, request a ride or assistance, announce a community event, let folks know you have an extra ticket to a ball game or concert, or share something of value you'd like to give away.

To see past posts, click [HERE](#). If you are not a member, you will be unable to read this page. Please read the [Covenant of Participation](#) and contact Shalom United Church of Christ for permission to join. Click [HERE](#) to learn how to use this Google Group after you join.

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## Ongoing Activities (youth activities are highlighted in Pink)

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### SUNDAY

**Sunday Morning Service** — Please join us in person or online at 10:00 am. The Worship Service can be accessed directly from our [website](#), Worship Service email, the BoxCast app (on an Amazon Firestick, Roku, or Apple TV device), or our [Facebook page](#).

**Ginny's Room/Nursery** — From 9:00 am through the end of Feedback (about noon), infants through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are invited to stay with our friendly youth staff in the nursery in Ginny's Room.

**Learning Community** — Children meet in the Learning Community across from the ADA bathrooms following the service. Grab some treats and join the fun. Email Michelle at [youth@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:youth@shalomunitedchurch.org) for more information.

**Refreshments after Worship** — Coffee and tea will be served, alongside treats brought from the congregation, after worship. *Look under "Chances to Volunteer and Serve the Church" if you are interested in bringing in treats.*

**Feedback Conversation- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm** — Join us in the Fellowship Hall after the service. On the first Sunday of the month there won't be Feedback, to give all a chance for fellowship after the service. For more information or questions email [Shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:Shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org)

### MONDAY

**Sacred Text Reflections- 10:00 am** — Join the insightful discussions following the lectionary scripture. Contact Kay Hendrickson for details. [Kayh428@gmail.com](mailto:Kayh428@gmail.com); (509) 531-6449.

**Bridge** — Join us for a game of Bridge and socialize each Monday from 1-4 pm.

**Pub Theology** — Pub Theology will meet 6:30 pm-8:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month at Round Table on G. Way in Richland. Pub Theology is a great time to engage with people in conversation about philosophical perspectives and life experiences. If you would like more information contact Lorinda Ferland, at [lorindaferland@yahoo.com](mailto:lorindaferland@yahoo.com).

**Monday Evening Bible Study** — The bible study is taking a break while we look at new programming and identifying another day and time.

## TUESDAY

**Refuge and Respite** – Shalom’s Mindfulness Meditation group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. Contact Lorinda Ferland, Haley Ann Mead, or Cath Hopkins for more information.

**Stitchery Social Group- 7:00 pm** — Would you like to socialize with friends while engaging in activities like knitting, sewing, weaving, or crocheting? A gathering of like-minded individuals takes place at Shalom in the Library every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Bring your projects and join us. Call Mary Fraser for more information.

## WEDNESDAY

**Deadline for submissions to updates** — Click [HERE](#) to use the Google Form to submit information for the update by noon on Wednesdays.

**High School Youth Group** — the High School Youth Group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Michelle Sinnes, [youth@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:youth@shalomunitedchurch.org), for more information.

**Shalom Choir Rehearsal**— The choir meets on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

## THURSDAY

**Weekly Update** — is delivered in the morning by email. To be added to the email list, contact the office.

**Shalom Handbells Rehearsal**— The group meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm at Shalom.

**Grief Support Group**— The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 2 pm at Shalom. All who are dealing with the death of a loved one or another serious loss are invited to attend. Contact [pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org) with questions and the meeting location.

**Psychic Exploration** — The group meets on the second Thursday of the month. For more information contact Pastor Melanie at [Pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:Pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org).

## FRIDAY

**Third Friday Book Group** — The Shalom Third Friday Book Group will meet in the Shalom library at noon on May 15th to discuss “Astoria: Astor and Jefferson’s Lost Pacific Empire: A Tale of Ambition and Survival on the Early American Frontier”, a non-fiction book by Peter Stark. Bring your lunch and join the conversation. For more information, contact Brenda Dau at [brenda@bdaumail.com](mailto:brenda@bdaumail.com).

**Puzzle Club** — Join us every second and fourth Friday at 6:30 pm for Puzzle Club! Enjoy coffee, tea, friendly conversation and good music while you assemble one of our many puzzles—or bring your own! Work individually or with a partner or two! We’ll supply puzzles of all types and skill ranges—so don’t fret!

## SATURDAY

**Saturday Morning Mystics- learning, self-discovery & fellowship 11:30 am**— Please call or text Dana Sprenkle MID for more information and the link to join.

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## Join a Committee

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### SERVE ON A COMMITTEE!

Shalom’s committees are bustling with activity, continuously relying on the dedication of volunteers to drive their efforts forward. Each committee is eager to welcome new members, excited for the fresh ideas, new perspectives, and the enthusiasm they’ll bring. There are numerous opportunities to make a meaningful impact, both in significant and subtle ways. If you’re unsure where your talents might shine brightest, consider attending multiple meetings. Feel the welcoming atmosphere, engage in lively discussions, and discover where your contributions can truly flourish. Your involvement could be the spark that lights the way for new initiatives and enduring friendships.

**Christian Education** - The CE Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm in the Learning Community at Shalom.

**Church Life** - Church Life meets on the first Sunday following the service in the library.

**Justice and Social Action** - The JSA meets online on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. To get the Zoom link, contact Gretchen H. [GHormel@outlook.com](mailto:GHormel@outlook.com)

**Outreach/Inreach** - The Outreach/Inreach Committee meets online on Wednesdays at 10 am. To get the Zoom link, contact Diane V. [dianevanderburg@gmail.com](mailto:dianevanderburg@gmail.com)

**Property** - Property meets on the first Sunday following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

**Worship** – The Worship Committee meets at Shalom and online on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at noon in the library. To get the Zoom link, contact the office, [shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org).

**W.I.S.E.** - The WISE (Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged) Task Force meets at Shalom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 3:00 pm in the library.

**Shalom Council** – While you must be voted on by the congregation to be on council, everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. Shalom’s council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Shalom and online at 6:30 pm. To join on Zoom, contact the Shalom office [shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org](mailto:shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org)

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## Chances to Volunteer or Serve the Church

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### SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS!

All treats, fruit, veggies, and finger food for Sunday refreshments after the service are donated by the congregation. Church Life Committee will provide coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Sunday morning refreshments during the fellowship hour after the service are a beloved part of Sunday mornings and we want to thank all of you who have donated finger food. Cash donations in the basket on the table go towards the coffee, teas, and creamer. If you have questions, call Mary Fraser at (509) 539-9807.

### WE NEED YOU! CONSIDER JOINING THE VIDEO AND SOUND CREW

We have a fun and exciting opportunity for you to help with Sunday services. Not only do Sound and Video techs make services available online but also those who are watching from the Narthex. This is a great behind-the-scenes task, perfect for anyone who doesn’t necessarily enjoy the spotlight. Contact the office to schedule your training.

### SUNDAY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who has already agreed to serve this month. Please consider helping in this way. As we transition to volunteering through Breeze, most roles are still available to sign up using Sign-Up Genius, and you will receive a reminder before that Sunday. ([Click HERE- to sign up](#)). Also online are descriptions of the responsibilities ([Click HERE for descriptions](#)). Grab a fridge magnet from the front table in the Narthex that has the QR code to the sign-up, so you can easily sign up right from your phone. Take a look at "[Interested in Volunteering on Sunday Mornings?](#)" for more information.

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## April Council Meeting Summary

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### COUNCIL MEETING — April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**OLD BUSINESS: WISE** has received our certification and is planning for Mental Health Sunday to present it to the congregation **Animals in the Building** policy was approved by council. **Peace Village:** a logo has been approved and registration is now up. They are looking for more volunteers.

**NEW BUSINESS: Summer Socials** will happen this summer. **A Dessert Dash** will take place on Stewardship Sunday in November at the same time as the potluck. **The Fire Inspection** identified areas that we need to address, including how we have previously concealed the riser in the library and signage.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** 40 % of pledges are paid; a bequest or life insurance policy needs to be written up as we have for memorial donations. Endowment funds have difficulties associated with them, including having a large amount in the funds before we can use it, and when we do use it, we can only use a percentage.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Worship services this past month included special services for Holy Week and Easter. Melanie has provided pastoral care, officiated at a memorial service, initiated a video social media post, supported the Peace Village steering team, and met with individuals for "get to know your pastor" visits. Melanie attended the PNC annual meeting, and remained active in community events, including the No Kings rally March 28.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Easter Sunday was a great success with the activities for that day as well as turn-out. April 18<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at AMC theater for the "The Mario Galaxy Movie." Youth Group has plans for celebrating Earth Month and other special activities.

**CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE:** In March Church Life provided coffee and teas for the fellowship hour with delicious goodies that generous members of the congregation brought. We gratefully thank everyone who brought treats and healthy alternatives to share! Other activities in March that CL assisted with include the soup suppers for the Lenten film series.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

**JUSTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE:** During the committee's 3/19/26 meeting, Chuck Wood with Indivisible Tri-Cities shared information about the organization and let us know how we can volunteer. His presentation also included information about the No Kings III rally on 3/28/26. We are meeting on the third Thursday of each month on Zoom at 6:30 pm. April's meeting will be held on 4/16/24 and our guest speaker will be Tanya Van Ham with Lourdes Health Senior Life Solutions. We also look forward to David Bell, Center of Indigenous Ministry, presenting after Sunday Service on 4/19/26.

**OUTREACH/INREACH COMMITTEE:** The Outreach/Inreach Committee continues to respond to the joys and concerns of our congregation and welcomes visitors on Sundays.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** The new projector needs electrical work to install the projector on the wall in the sanctuary. Council approved the electrical work. The committee helped with setup and take down for Maundy Thursday.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Stewardship Committee cared for Shalom's special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing on March 15. By the end of March, those donations have totaled \$1,150. With an additional pledge commitment received in March, pledges for Shalom's 2026 budget now total \$225,000. By the end of March, we received payments totaling 41% of the total commitments, according to Rachel Reeder.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** The months of March and April perhaps proved to be our busiest of the year thus far. These months have included Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. On just Easter Sunday alone, we had over 130 attendees, which is great. These two months have required much planning by and participation of the Worship Committee.

**The next Hybrid Council meeting will be on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Shalom Library and on Zoom.**

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## Ongoing Opportunities to Give

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### **Disaster Relief:**

Help others in need across our nation and throughout the world, by donating to the UCC Disaster Ministries by selecting "Emergency USA" or "International Emergency" at: [www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/](http://www.ucc.org/giving/donate-now/general-donation/)

### **Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition (TCIC):**

Help TCIC's work in assisting individuals on a one-to-one basis as well as large group advocacy. Donate by sending checks payable to: Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition at 5425 N Rd 68 Suite D #130 in Pasco, WA 99301

# Thank You for Your Support



Click here to use Tithely

<https://give.tithely.ly/?formId=515ecc7c-6865-11ee-90fc-1260ab546d11>

Checks can be sent to 505 McMurray Street, Richland, WA 99354

## Options for giving include:

- ✓ Shalom's 2026 General Fund to support Shalom's programs for all ages
- ✓ Support for our United Church of Christ denomination through the Strengthen the Church special offering
- ✓ Support for our youth to attend camp at N-Sid-Sen
- ✓ Remembering a loved one with a gift to Shalom's Memorial Fund

In Tithely, choose from the menu of options under "Give to:"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2026 General Fund</li> <li>• Strengthen the Church</li> <li>• Campership Fund</li> <li>• Shalom Memorial Fund</li> </ul>	With your check payable to Shalom UCC, add an appropriate memo.
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## Treasurer's Report

### Shalom Finances at a Glance

March 31, 2026

Shalom's Annual Budget for the General Fund expresses our shared vision for 2026:

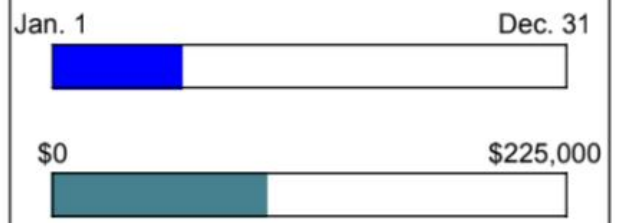
	Actual March	Actual Year-To-Date	Annual Budget (1/1/2026)
Income	\$47,747	\$111,068	\$289,000
Expense	\$27,034	\$76,713	\$356,080

Thank you to all who continue to fulfill their pledges to the church and also contributed to the recent One Great Hour of Sharing collection for the UCC national church. We encourage anyone considering financial gifts to Shalom as part of their end-of-life planning to reach out to Treasurer Ty Beaver or Giving Coordinator Rachel Reeder. They can help ensure those contributions are used to your wishes and determine how to acknowledge your generosity to Shalom.

Shalom's Total Financial Missions Giving is a combination of spending from our annual budget along with special offerings and designated gifts handled through our restricted funds.

	March	Year-To-Date
Through Annual Budget	\$1,192	\$3,576
Through Restricted Funds	\$1,150	\$1,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,342</b>	<b>\$4,826</b>

With 25% of the year passed, 40% of 2026 pledges to the annual budget have been paid.



*The Newsletter was created by Lauralee Sorenson and edited by Rachel Reeder and Lora Rathbone.  
Thank you to all who contributed information and pictures.*