

SHARANTELLA NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

Pride Month is Here!

2026 Tri-Pride

Shalom will have a booth again this year at Tri-Pride. Come visit us on June 14th at Memorial Park in Pasco from 11 am – 5 pm.

Take a look under *Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action* if you would like to help with our booth!

Shalom

United Church of Christ

June 2026 Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS- TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
9 AM – 12 AM – (509) 943-3927
505 McMURRAY ST.
RICHLAND, WA 99354
SHALOM@SHALOMUNITEDCHURCH.ORG



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June Birthdays

- Ameera Uriostegui 1
- MaryLu Hubbe 1
- Olivia Wietsma 5
- Glen McNabb 5
- Vaughn Woodward 9
- Judi Johannesen 9
- Wren Wietsma 12
- Michelle Sinnes 13
- Blaze Strong 19
- Jess Todd 19
- Tom Wietsma 20
- Ezra Unterseher 21
- Mari Hubbe-Kellog 23
- Sue Shay Johnson 23
- Jaime Barnard 27
- Jennifer Moore 29
- Jim Pierce 29

Looking Back

Flamingo Flocking is Underway!

Shalom youth began flocking friends and family and had a wonderful time tapping into their covert skills. We hope all who received a flock of flamingos for a few days enjoyed the visit.



Scholarships Given in Honor of Marsha Stipe

The Tri Cities Immigrant Coalition was honored to be present at the Educational Service District 123 Senior Gala, held on May 15 at the HAPO center in Pasco. The Gala celebrated students in the district who are immigrants and are now graduating from high school. Many scholarships were awarded. TCIC awarded \$20K in scholarships, and they were given in honor of Marsha Stipe. It was a moving tribute to her with a biography listing her many accomplishments, including the amazing work she did to establish and grow the Tri Cities Immigrant Coalition.

Camp Sunday!

Wow! What an amazing Camp Sunday! Christian Ed decorated to really pull in the feeling of camp. Many people enjoyed the use of our new projector, commenting on the feeling of connection while looking up without the worry of holding onto the bulletin. The Shalom camp band led us through music from camp. The Shalom choir brought the feeling of singing by the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene. It was so fun watching the kids get into the service, yelling BINGO during the charming sermon from Pastor Melanie and Pip (voiced by Dottie Carrol). We ended the service with the Irish Benediction. The camp themed treats were a hit!

THANK YOU to EVERYONE who made this service happen!



Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

Gifts of the Wilderness

The most remote place I've ever visited was when Cath and I visited the Amazon rainforest of Ecuador. This likely isn't among any top 10 honeymoon destinations, but it was perfect for us! Getting there involved a flight to Quito, then a six-hour van ride to the edge of the rainforest. Once the weather allowed, we flew in a four-seater bush plane for an hour, low above the emerald green rainforest. Finally, we boarded a motorized canoe to travel up-river to reach our destination. Kapawi Ecolodge belonged to and was run by the Indigenous Achuar people as a means of preserving their sacred Amazonian home.

What we encountered during our multi-day stay there was one of the most magical experiences we've ever had — the low impact architecture, swimming and kayaking in pristine rivers, eating local tropical fruits, taking guided jungle hikes, and learning from the Achuar about their rich cosmology as they preserve their lands and live in balance with nature. We were humbled by how well they were managing that balance.

The experience also stretched us: We had to empty our boots each morning in case scorpions had moved in; I was startled by a tarantula in our kayak; and Cath got a stomach bug after accepting too much of the sacred drink called chicha while we were in an Achuar ceremony sharing our dreams. It was a wilderness moment of respect and awe.

Wilderness is prevalent in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Everyone from Moses, Elijah, and Isaiah to Hagar, Ruth and Jesus invariably found themselves drawn to or repelled by the wilderness. The wilderness served as a spiritual training ground of sorts, where people relinquished day-to-day distractions, or were stripped of self-reliance. and learned to totally depend on God, or learned what they were made of, or learned to love and accept themselves just as they were, or felt like they were being tested beyond their capacity to cope. These experiences encouraged growth, respect, deep listening, forgiveness, strength of spirit, and cultivating an inner life. Sometimes it's only in the absence of external distractions that we can connect with our deepest selves. Still today, wilderness serves as a place of both danger and discovery, where we accept new challenges, learn difficult lessons, have our faith tested, find a real rest, and begin to see ourselves and the world around us with new understanding and respect.

Sadly, wilderness spaces are quickly disappearing. We desperately need these places where wild things live naturally, without too much human interference. Individuals, corporations, and governments need to come together to protect and support these spaces. And we need to experience the exquisite beauty, awe, and wonder they inspire.

We focus a lot on sending our kids to camp during the summer. But experiences away from the daily grind, out in the beauty of the natural world, are essential for all of us to maintain our balance in life. Whether it's a day at the river or lake, or a trip of a lifetime, may each of you find wilderness experiences this summer that help you rest. May you be swept up in awe and reverence. May your mind and body find rejuvenation. Perhaps some of you will even hear a new calling from Spirit for the next adventure your life might bring.

Shalom, 

Looking Forward

Celebration of Life for Diane Dishion, July 11, 2026, 11 am at Shalom

Please wear your happy colors. Note: Rueger, Diane's canine friend, will be a special guest. Reception to follow the service.

Adult Christian Education Opportunity

All are invited to a new adult Christian Education study group at Shalom. Beginning Sunday, June 14, we will gather in the Shalom Library from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. for a Great Courses series, *The Historical Jesus*, featuring lectures by Bart Ehrman. Each session will include approximately 30 minutes of video, followed by conversation and discussion. A few example lecture titles include: *The Many Faces of Jesus*, *Fact and Fiction in the Gospels*, and *Jesus in His Context*. We'll plan to meet at this time on Sundays throughout the summer and you are welcome to attend regularly or on whatever frequency suits your interest and schedule.

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Matt Douglas or Melanie Childers—or simply show up. We look forward to exploring this topic as a Shalom community!

All Call for the Gospel according to Broadway

Camp Sunday and Pride Sunday will be hard acts to follow, but the show must go on! There's no business like show business.

Theater has a powerful way of captivating our spirits and our imaginations. The United States has a long history of musical theater, bringing profound stories to life on stage, punctuated by musical numbers that continue to echo in our hearts and minds for years after we first heard them.

Many of these theatrical stories dramatically portray themes that matter deeply to us. These are the themes of forgiveness, and grace, and hope, and love, and resilience, and compassion—profound because of how they resemble our own lives, and captivating in their spiritual overtones.

This summer during worship, Pastor Melanie will be looking at the spiritual messages inherent in several Broadway musicals. If you have a favorite musical you'd like her to include, or some ideas about the spiritual messages they convey—and especially if you'd like to sing something from one of these plays—please reach out at pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org. And join us at Shalom for some fun and poignant lessons from Broadway we can enjoy together.

Places everyone – it's showtime! Beginning June 14.

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



June Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us on June 28th following the service for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be voting on the slate of nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee as well as taking a look over the budget as we get closer to the halfway mark. Stay tuned for more information.

Peace Village –August 3-7

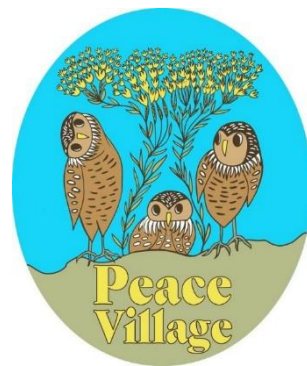
Registration IS open! Spots are filling up and we don't want you to miss out on this great opportunity. Click [HERE](#) for more information and go to the bottom of the page for the link to register.

We NEED Volunteers! [CLICK HERE](#) to look at the different roles we need and let us know where you would like to help!

'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.



Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action

Contact Gretchen Hormel to join the JSA Zoom meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The JSA committee will not be meeting June or July, but will resume on the 3rd Thursday in August.

Tri-Pride Festival is Sunday, June 14th, from 11 am to 4 pm - Thank you for your help

Many thanks for all who have already talked to David Laughery and volunteering to help at Shalom's table at this year's Tri-Pride Festival.

Event Details:

Date & Time: Sunday – June 14, 2026 between 11 am and 4 pm

Location: Memorial Park in Pasco

More volunteers are needed. The sign-up sheet is located on the card signing table that is close to the tea on the beverage counter. This is a fun family event and we look forward to seeing you there on Sunday, June 14th!



Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition Asks for Your Help

During the Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition (TCIC) meeting held on May 18, 2026, it was reported that more volunteers are needed for accompaniment to the Seattle area, including to the Children's Hospital. Rapid Response volunteers are also needed. Training is required for both Accompaniment and Rapid Response. Click this link to view WAISN's website that lists events and trainings: <https://waisn.org/events/>. To learn about other options to receive training, talk to a member of Shalom's Justice & Social Action Committee.

BOLD WITH PRIDE Yard Sign

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's (UCC) designation for congregations, campus ministries, and other bodies in the UCC which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. June is Pride Month, and here at Shalom we celebrate it by being BOLD WITH PRIDE. This sign will be posted throughout the month of June 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.



One Parish One Prisoner Program Kick Off Scheduled on June 16

Candice Baughman, Parish Mobilizer for the One Parish One Prisoner program (OPOP), has scheduled the program kick off and orientation on Tuesday, June 16, from 10 am to 1 pm. Volunteers will provide support through friendship to a prisoner who will return home to the Tri-Cities in October 2027.

Are you interested in volunteering? We welcome more to register at: <https://undergroundministries.org/register>.

You can also contact Candice if you have any questions about the program at candice@undergroundministries.org.

Sign Up to Tour Just Living Farm

On April 19, 2026, David Bell spoke about The Center for Indigenous Ministries near Toppenish and connected to the Yakama Nation. The center is dedicated to helping North American people to learn, understand, and advocate for justice for American 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>. At the end of the presentation, David and his wife, Belinda, invited us to 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, who are respected as part of our area's community and ecosystem. **Gretchen Hormel will host a carpool for anyone who is interested in visiting Just Living Farm sometime in July. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Hormel at ghormel@outlook.com.**

Students Grateful for Snack Support

It's been a great run of providing snack support the the Hanford High School students. Shalom gave 2408 individual snacks this school year. Great work, Shalom, and thank you! We will take a break for the summer. This has been an outreach to the community under the auspices of the Justice and Social Action Committee. If you have questions, reach out to Phyllis Baxter or Gretchen Hormel.



Youth News

Youth Group Summer Break Announcement

Our final Youth Group gathering before summer break will be June 3. Thank you to all the youth and families who participated throughout the year. Your involvement, enthusiasm, and support have made this a wonderful season of learning, service, and fellowship.

We wish everyone a safe, fun, and restful summer, and we look forward to reconnecting when Youth Group resumes in the fall. Have a great summer! ☀️ 🌻 😊

Summer Kickoff Carnival!

Join us following Sunday service on June 7, for our Summer Kickoff Carnival!

There will be games, food, fun, and activities for all ages as we celebrate the start of summer together. The carnival will continue until 1:30 p.m., so come enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, laughter, and community.

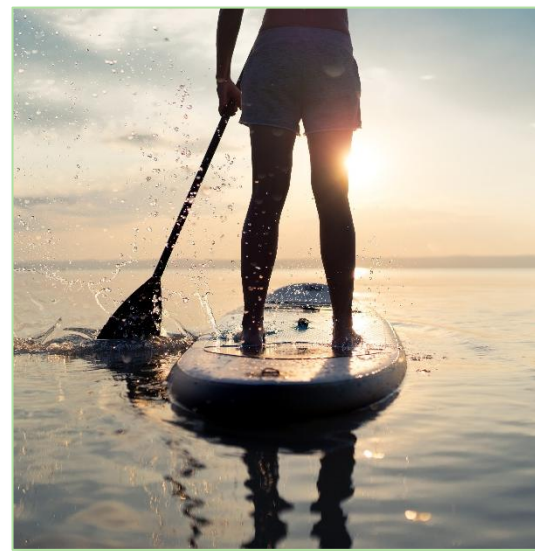
We hope you'll join us!



All-Ages Kayaking & Paddle Board Meetup

Join us for a fun morning on the water at Leslie Groves Park in Richland on Saturday, June 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Bring your kayak, paddle board, and safety gear**—or, if you have an extra board or kayak to share, please consider bringing it along!

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, connect with friends, and build community. **Don't forget your sunscreen, water bottle, and a sense of adventure.** We hope you'll join us for a morning of fun, fellowship, and camaraderie on the Columbia River! All ages and experience levels are welcome.



Learning Community Changes for Summer

During the summer months Shalom is making changes to our Sunday morning Learning Community for children. Kids rising to grades Kinder-5 will begin the service with their parents/guardians in the sanctuary or Narthex. After Children's Chat, which will be early in the service, they will leave with their teachers for the Learning Community classroom across from the ADA bathrooms. **Following the service children will combine with Ginny's Room until their parents/guardians are able to sign them out.**

As usual, Ginny's Room will welcome children rising to pre-school from 9:45 am until noon or when Feedback ends. Parents need to sign children in and out of Ginny's Room.

Check out Looking Back for pictures of the fun the youth have been having Flocking, and Camp News on the next page to sign up for summer camp!

Camp News

It's not too late to sign up for Youth Camp!

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

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!

Need a Campership?

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

Save the Date, Shalom's Fall Retreat at N-Sid-Sen

Shalom's fall retreat is scheduled for September 18-20. Put the dates on your calendar! The retreat is at N-Sid-Sen, the PNC-UCC's Retreat and Conference Center on the beautiful shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The retreat is a wonderful way to create deeper relationships with your Shalom family in a relaxed and beautiful environment. More information will be forthcoming when the registration link is available. In the meantime, for details and if you have questions, reach out to Phyllis Baxter (phyllisabaxter@gmail.com) or Matt Douglas (mattdouglas223@gmail.com).

Camp N-Sid-Sen Apparel Store Now Open!

Show your camp spirit and support our campers by ordering Camp N-Sid-Sen apparel! T-shirts, sweatshirts, and other camp gear are available for purchase through our online store. Orders must be placed by June 15.

Shop here: <https://shalomchurch2026.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Whether you're heading to camp, supporting a camper, or simply love Camp N-Sid-Sen, this is a great opportunity to grab some camp apparel and help build excitement for the summer ahead.

Don't wait—place your order before the June 15 deadline!

The online apparel store has a June 15 ordering deadline.

2026

REGISTER TODAY

PILGRIM FIRS
camp & retreat center

REGISTER AT 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 5-8
grades 1-4* with an adult

Kids Camp | July 5-8

Intermediate Camp | July 12-18

Junior High Camp | July 12-18

Senior High Camp | July 19-25

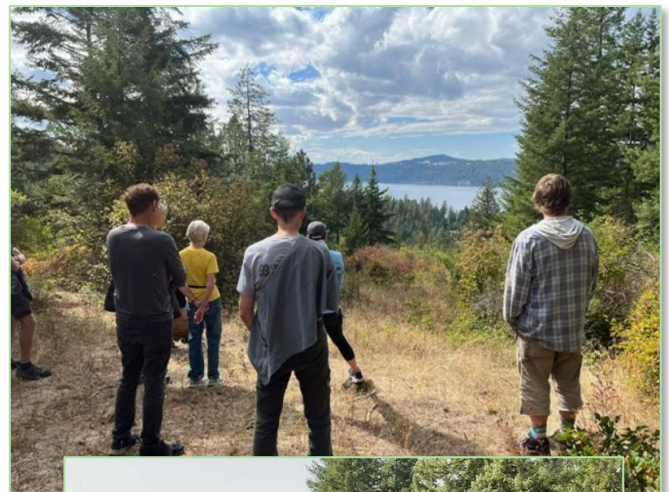
Family Camp | July 26-Aug 1

Camp Together | August 2-8

Women's Retreat | May 15-17

REGISTER AT N-SID-SEN.ORG

***ENTERING GRADES**



Shalom Community

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.

Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival, June 12th and 13th.

FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival at Sacajawea State Historical Park, 2503 Sacajawea Park Road, Pasco.

- Friday 6/12/26 evening 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm - FREE Contra Dance with live music.
- Saturday 6/13/26 3:00 - 5:00 pm FREE Youth music workshop
- Saturday 6/13/26 7:00 - 9:00 pm - FREE concert two PNW bluegrass bands

Discover Pass rules apply for day visitors (or a \$10 day-use fee per car). Remember you can check out a Discover Pass from the Library! There aren't any food vendors there. Bring plenty of water, food if desired, chairs or blankets. More info: [Click HERE](#)



Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival
June 11-14, 2026
Sacajawea Historical State Park, Pasco WA

A Family Friendly Event
Come for the day or come to camp

-Thursday- Camping starts
-Friday 7pm-9:30 contra dance -free
-Saturday 3pm-5pm youth workshop-free
-Saturday concerts- free
7pm : 5 Mile Drive
8pm : Dewhirst-Monroe Quartet

State Park daily \$10 per vehicle parking, or Discover Pass required.
Camping \$15 per person one time registration fee , additional \$15 per vehicle/ night
**Bring your own chairs, food and beverages
No food vendors on site.

Mid-Columbia Traditional Arts and Music Association Facebook: Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival
https://MCTAMA.ORG email: contactmctama@gmail.com 509 492-1555

Ongoing Activities (youth activities are highlighted in blue)

SUNDAY

NEW! Christian Education Study Group — Beginning Sunday, June 14, we will gather in the Shalom Library from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. for a Great Courses series, The Historical Jesus, featuring lectures by Bart Ehrman. Each session will include approximately 30 minutes of video, followed by conversation and discussion.

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](#).

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

Change Coming: Beginning June 14th, children from infants through Preschoolers (or up to 5 yrs old) are welcome to join Ginny's Room from 9:45 am-end of the Feedback.

SUMMER CHANGES! 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 for more information.

Change Coming: Beginning June 14th, kindergarteners through 5th graders will stay in the sanctuary/Narthex until the end of Children's Chat when they will head to Learning Community for lessons and activities during the service.

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

MONDAY

Sacred Text Reflections- 10:00 am — Join the insightful discussions following the lectionary scripture. Contact Kay Hendrickson for details. 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.

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 or Cath Hopkins for more info.

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 submit info for the update by noon on Wednesdays.

SUMMER CHANGES! High School Youth Group — the last High School Youth Group meets on Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:30-8:30 pm. Youth Group will resume in the fall. Contact Michelle Sinnes, youth@shalomunitedchurch.org, for more information.

SUMMER CHANGES! Shalom Choir Rehearsal— The choir is now on summer break.

THURSDAY

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

SUMMER CHANGES! Shalom Handbells Rehearsal— The last rehearsal before summer break is Thur., June 4, at 1:00 pm at Shalom.

Grief Support Group— The group meets on the 4th 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 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.

FRIDAY

Third Friday Book Group — The Shalom Third Friday Book Group will meet in the Shalom library at noon on June 19th to discuss Karen Abbott's "Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy". This non-fiction book illuminates one of the most fascinating, yet little-known aspects of the Civil War: the stories of four courageous women: a socialite, a farm girl, an abolitionist and a widow, who were spies - two for the Union and two for the Confederacy. Bring your lunch and join the conversation. For more information, contact Brenda Dau at brenda@bdaumail.com.

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.

Join a Committee

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

Outreach/Inreach - The Outreach/Inreach Committee meets online on Wednesdays at 10 am. To get the Zoom link, contact Diane V. 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 2nd Thursday of the month at noon in the library. To get the Zoom link, contact the office, shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org.

W.I.S.E. - The WISE (Welcoming-Inclusive-Supportive-Engaged) Task Force meets at Shalom on the 3rd 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 2nd Thursday of the month at Shalom and online at 6:30 pm. To join on Zoom, contact the Shalom office shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org

Chances to Volunteer or Serve the Church

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. Interested in volunteering? How it works: fill out [THIS FORM](#) if you haven't done so already, and you will receive an invite by email (and text if you chose to opt in to receive texts) to sign up. Open up the link to sign up from your email or phone and choose the dates and positions you are available. ([Click HERE for descriptions](#)).

May Council Meeting Summary

COUNCIL MEETING — May 14th, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES: **WISE** is planning a training in Oct. **Emergency Team Update** began meeting again. **Peace Village** continues to plan and received a \$1,000 donation. **Emergency Warming/Cooling Shelter** began work on a draft Operations Manual Shalom Cooling Center. Funding, Security, and Staffing are the main issues to address. **Promo Team** has been sharing on social media regularly and has received good feedback from the yard signs.

NEW BUSINESS: Bylaws Restriction of Nominating Committee: Due to the restriction of nominating committee members nominating themselves onto council, Gretchen is stepping down as the council representative so the committee can nominate her as Vice Moderator. Shalom council voted and approve adding Shalom on **The Lavendar Interfaith Collective** stating that we will do our part for LGBTIQ+ people. Click [HERE](#) for more information

TREASURER'S REPORT: Revenue continues to come in steadily. Rachel and Ty will be looking at revenue through the first part of May to update projections and determine if any budget adjustments are needed to be presented to the congregation.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Melanie took a vacation week during April, but also focused heavily on pastoral care, PNCUCC board work, preaching/worship, and working with several committees and task forces at Shalom. We welcomed seven new members to Shalom on April 12.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Upcoming changes to ages and times of Ginny's Room and Learning Community.

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE: Church Life will participate in special preparations for Mother's Day and Camp Sunday coffee hour.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

JUSTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: During the committee's 4/16/26 meeting, Tanya Van Ham and Marina Martin of Lourdes Health Senior Life Solutions were the guest speakers. 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. 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. JSA's next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

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: Regular repairs and maintenance took place. New electrical work was put in to accommodate the projector for when it's mounted. A new flat screen was purchased for the Fellowship Hall.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The total of our pledge commitments to Shalom's 2026 general fund remains at \$225,000, and about 55% of these commitments have been paid, according to Rachel Reeder. Sunday, May 24, is Pentecost, which marks the annual Strengthen the Church special offering of the UCC. We'll have envelopes available and an announcement ahead of time. Together with the finance team, we're developing a strategy and possibly a special announcement about Shalom's endowment fund giving possibilities.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Technical work was done by Bruce R to put in the projector and moving the positions of the lights for the best image. A new way for volunteers to sign up is in the works. The committee looks forward to special Services such as Camp Sunday, Pride Sunday, etc.

The next Hybrid Council meeting will be on Thursday, June 11th at 6:30 pm in the Shalom Library and on Zoom.

Ongoing Opportunities to Give

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/

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.tithe.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:"

- 2026 General Fund
- Strengthen the Church
- Campership Fund
- Shalom Memorial Fund

With your check payable to Shalom UCC, add an appropriate memo.

The Newsletter was created by Lauralee Sorenson and edited by Rachel Reeder and Lora Rathbone.

Thank you to all who contributed information and pictures.