

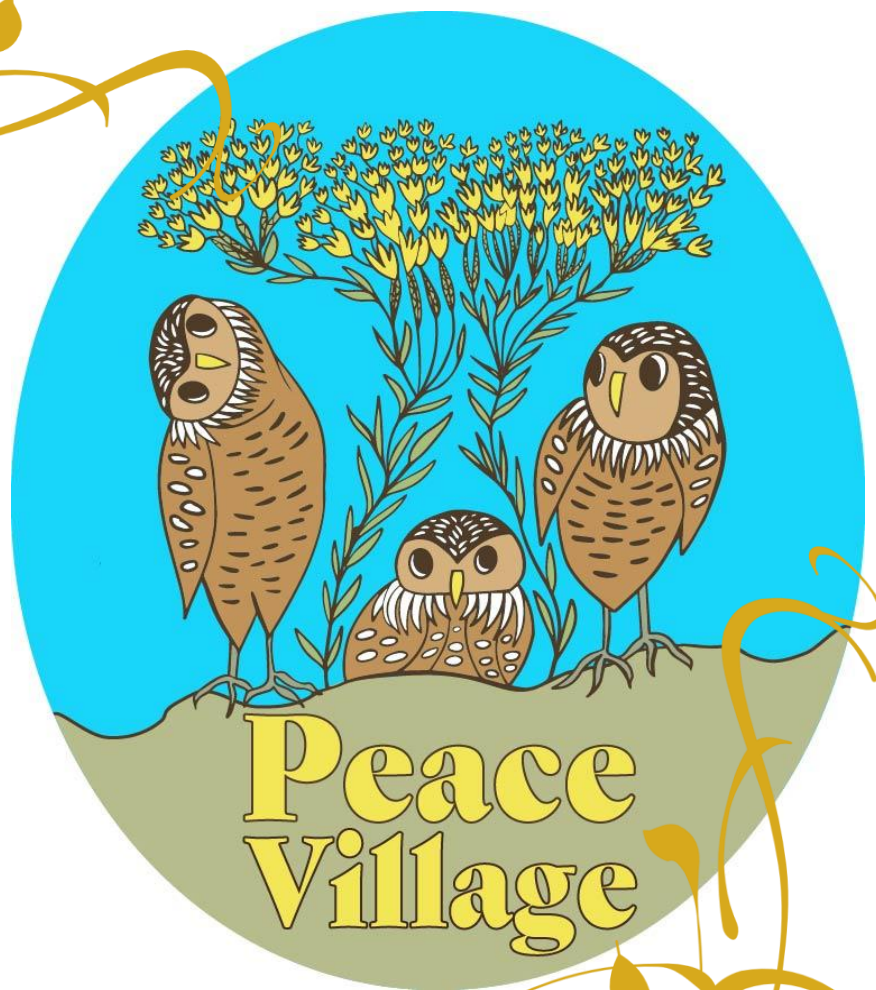
August Highlights

Peace Village Aug 3-7 *Looking Forward*
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Interfaith Potluck at Shalom *Take Action*
with *Justice and Social Action* pg. 6

Emergency Cooling Shelter *Take Action*
with *Justice and Social Action* pg. 6

Shalom/Pullman Retreat – Registration is
Now Open *Camp News* pg. 7 & 8



SHARANTELLA

Shalom

United Church of Christ

August 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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Looking Back

Final Curtain Call on the Gospel According to Broadway

Jim Pierce preached the final sermon in our 2026 “Gospel According to Broadway” series on July 26. Thank you to all who organized, performed, and provided sets for our summer worship series. We had amazing musicians supporting the summer themes, and Margaret Dunn donated her creativity and costumes to provide visual aids that added so much to our worship experience. And we are ever appreciative to Ben Walley for his beautiful music every Sunday! Worship is a sensory experience, and what a gift to be able to use more than one of our senses during worship.

2026 Gospel According to Broadway Recap

- Les Miserables, focusing on shame, forgiveness, and redemption, with music by Eva Moos and Andy Plymale.
- Man of La Mancha, asking questions about the fine line between madness and genius, with solos by Richard Reuther, Juan Carlos Molina and Jeanette Lujan.
- The Lion King, where we found respect for the circle of life, our ancestors, and finding our place in the world, with music by Brittany Hilker and Ben Walley.
- The Sound of Music, where we examined finding one’s true calling in life and standing up for one’s values, with music and drama by Jim Coleman, Joyce Bean, and Molly Holleran.
- Fiddler on the Roof, trying to balance tradition and newness, with music by Sebastian Martinez-Newell.
- Wicked, led by Jim Pierce, revisiting themes of good, evil, and friendship, with music by Molly Holleran and Elise Reel.

Also, Dana Sprenkle filled the pulpit July 12 speaking about high-control religions, with music by Molly Holleran and Chuck Wojnowski.

The worship committee has received positive feedback about this series; if you have additional comments or suggestions you’d like to offer, please speak to Pastor Melanie, Tim Lord, or anyone from the worship committee.

August Birthdays

2- Betty Daughtry
3- Brenda Hollingsworth
4- Steve Pfaff
8- Megan Oram
14- Matt Douglas
14- Sandy Westin
17- Mike Brown
18- Brittney Howard
19- Mike Stipe
20- Avery Berkey
21- John Mahoney
23- Ashton Milam
23- Dmitri Zibletsev
28- Maggi Nielsen
28- Gina Rees
28- Richard Reuther
29- Elisabeth Neely
30- Christopher Pfeiffer

JustLiving Farm - a journey exploring capital “I” Indigenous and lower “i” indigenous

On a hot July summer morning, four members of Shalom enjoyed a day trip to JustLiving Farm outside of Granger and Toppenish. We met with David and Belinda Bell and their daughters. JustLiving Farm (<https://justlivingfarm.org>) grows and harvests grass hay and raises beef for purchase and sustenance. Their mission is Artful Land Care: Dedicated to Good Food, Good Ecology, Good Conversation. The four Shalomites enjoyed sitting under the shade of magnificent trees near the Bell’s home. We also enjoyed a thought-provoking conversation that continued while we enjoyed the lunches that each one of us brought for the trip. After that, we met a few members of the Bell’s treasured herd while listening to the bull voice concerns about our visit; he was put in a pen while we were introduced to the cows and youngsters.

David Bell not only is a cattle man dedicated to sustainable agriculture, but he is also the Minister for Indigenous Justice for the Disciples of Christ church. This is how JustLiving Farm is connected with the Center of Indigenous Ministries. You can find a position paper written by David, Church in Conflict: Disciples Struggle with Indigenous, on the [center’s website](#). I recommend that you read David’s position paper. The paper covers the following titled sections:

- Church and Indigenous: Structure v. Natural
- Racialization
- Indigenous
- Indigeneity
- Landscape Theology
- List of Resources

Reading the position paper helped me better understand why the four Shalomites who visited JustLiving Farm on a hot summer day left with deep gratitude for the time dedicated to sitting in a circle, spending time with deep questions and open conversation while nourished by simply sitting under the shade and meeting all of the family members, human and other living beings, on a farm in the Yakima River Valley.

Resource: 2025 Position Paper on Center for Indigenous Ministries website titled, [Church in Conflict: Disciples Struggle with Indigenous](#), written by David Bell.

Article written by Gretchen Hormel, Justice and Social Action Committee Chair at Shalom UCC in Richland, WA - July 2026.



Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

Reflections on Year One

August 1st marks a full year that I have been with you all as pastor of Shalom United Church of Christ. What a remarkable congregation you are! I feel so fortunate and grateful that Cath and I have landed here for this chapter of our lives.

I remember the trepidation of walking in here last August and trying to find a new rhythm to my daily tasks. I traded in my on-call pager, ethics committee management, and performance improvement metrics—as well as the hospital’s constant emergencies—for a mostly more predictable schedule, and a remarkably bright and interesting cast of characters with whom to work, as a parish pastor.

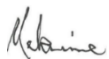
One of my first-year goals was to meet in person one-on-one with all Shalom members and friends. My records show these meetings number around 140 so far, so I believe I have made significant progress on this goal. As far as I know, vacillating between two directories, I think I have issued invitations to all local folks that I haven't actually met with yet. However, I know that some of my contact information is dated or that I have otherwise missed some of you. If you are one of those, please reach out so that we can schedule some time together! These individual meetings have been very important and meaningful to me, and have helped me get to know you all better.

Another goal for my first year was to figure out how to prepare, write, and deliver a sermon every week. That was a new challenge for this veteran hospital chaplain who had never preached weekly before. However, this is also a love of mine that I wanted to be able to do more regularly, and I have very much enjoyed this part of my job. One thing that has helped me is leaning back on my first career (journalism) to be reminded of how to live with and embrace regular deadlines. Thank you for your patience with me in this new endeavor!

To keep Shalom thriving, we have worked hard together this year. We've followed the seasons of the church year, introduced creative services through drama, star words, puppets, journals, mandalas, and Broadway; strengthened connections with the Pacific Northwest Conference of the UCC; enjoyed a weekend retreat, made important decisions together, protested at rallies together, gathered for seven memorial services and even a couple of private wedding ceremonies. We have addressed justice issues through initiatives like WISE, a cooling center, and a temporary shelter provision in our parking lot. We have sung and danced and meditated and wept through our grief and laughed and played together.

At the same time, communities consist of many different people with varying personalities, beliefs and perspectives. Complete agreement on all subject matters is not realistic, and would likely be boring. I do want to be responsive to your needs and concerns. My door continues to be open—for conversation, confidential concerns, or even challenging issues of disagreement. Being compassionately honest with each other is an authentic way to deepen relationships and help us become our best, while staying connected to each other.

I am thrilled to reach the first-year milestone as your pastor. May our work together deepen and strengthen in the years to come.

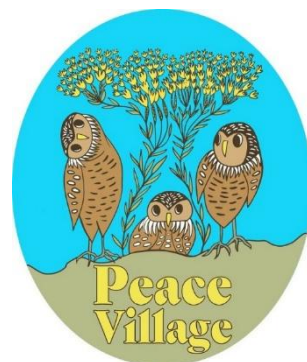
In faith, 

Looking Forward

Peace Village —August 3-7 NEXT WEEK

We are so incredibly excited that Peace Village has arrived. We will be transforming the church in the next couple of days, mostly right at church this Sunday, tomorrow, Aug. 2. Please help us if you are available!

What can you expect as a congregant during the week of camp: The building will be closed to everyone outside of volunteers and registered children from 8:30 am-5:30 pm Mon-Fri Aug. 3-7. If you are in need of something at the church during that timeframe, please contact Lauralee in the office at (509) 943-3927.



Shalom celebrates the animal kingdom August 16

It's been more than a year since Shalom has blessed our animals. So we are planning a special emphasis for August 16. Join us Sunday morning for a worship service celebrating our elder animal kin. Then at 7pm, come back out with your beloved animals you would like to receive a blessing. We will bless our beloved pets, and then enjoy ice cream together out on the lawn. You don't need to have pets or bring pets in order to enjoy the ice cream. Please join us!

Animals at Shalom Policy Reminder

Just as a reminder, earlier this year the Shalom UCC Council approved a policy proposed by the WISE team allowing service and well-behaved emotional support animals on Shalom property. The policy was developed to honor the emotional needs of some people to have their animal with them, while also honoring needs of others who may have allergies or a fear/dislike of animals.

Handlers who bring their service dog or well-behaved emotional support animal to Shalom should keep the animal harnessed, leashed or tethered at all times. The animal should be in the handler's lap or on the floor in close proximity to the handler. The animal's leash needs to be short enough so as not to cause a tripping hazard. The handler is responsible for the animal's behavior and any damages or injuries caused by the animal, and also must properly manage any animal waste.

Recognizing that some individuals may have severe allergies to animals or fear/dislike of specific kinds of animals, the southwest portion of the Sanctuary (by the organ) is designated as an animal-friendly area. The other two sections of the Sanctuary are animal-free areas. Animals also should not be in close proximity to food that is being served and should not eat off the tables.

Feel free to review the actual policy [here](#). Thank you for being kind and courteous and helping us all follow these guidelines so that everyone feels safe and comfortable when worshipping and fellowshiping at Shalom.

Membership Orientation

Several visitors to Shalom have expressed interest in joining our congregation. New members' orientation sessions are being planned, so if you are considering joining, or even just would like to learn more about this congregation and its history and role in this community, let Pastor Melanie know at pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org. There's never any obligation (ever) to join the church. But there are some benefits to being a member. We hope to have the two orientation sessions during the month of August, and look forward to having you join us!

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.

"It's hot! Come chill with us!"

It's hot! Politically hot! Temperature hot! Climate hot! Shalom is the soothing salve to these hotsy burning times! This sign will be posted throughout August 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.

Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition has a new address and updated website

The Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition (TCIC) has a new office in Richland:

1516 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 125

Please take a look at TCIC's updated website (<https://tricitiesimmigrantcoalition.com>), because there are now online applications for their support programs, which include: Emergency Assistance Funding, DACA Scholarship, Legal Consultation Help, and more! Just click on the Community Resources tab on the website to explore all the TCIC can do for immigrants who need support.

The updated website also includes an updated and easy way to donate. The Donate tab is highlighted and is the last tab on the right. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to Mickey, Gretchen, or Lora.



Interfaith Potluck at Shalom on Aug 30

Tri-Cities Interfaith Alliance is an alliance of faith communities throughout the Tri-Cities building inter-religious friendship. A team meets monthly to plan potlucks to build community. The summer potluck is August 30 at Shalom from 5-7 pm. There will be a panel discussion on Educating Young People in our Faith Traditions. 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

Shalom Emergency Cooling Center

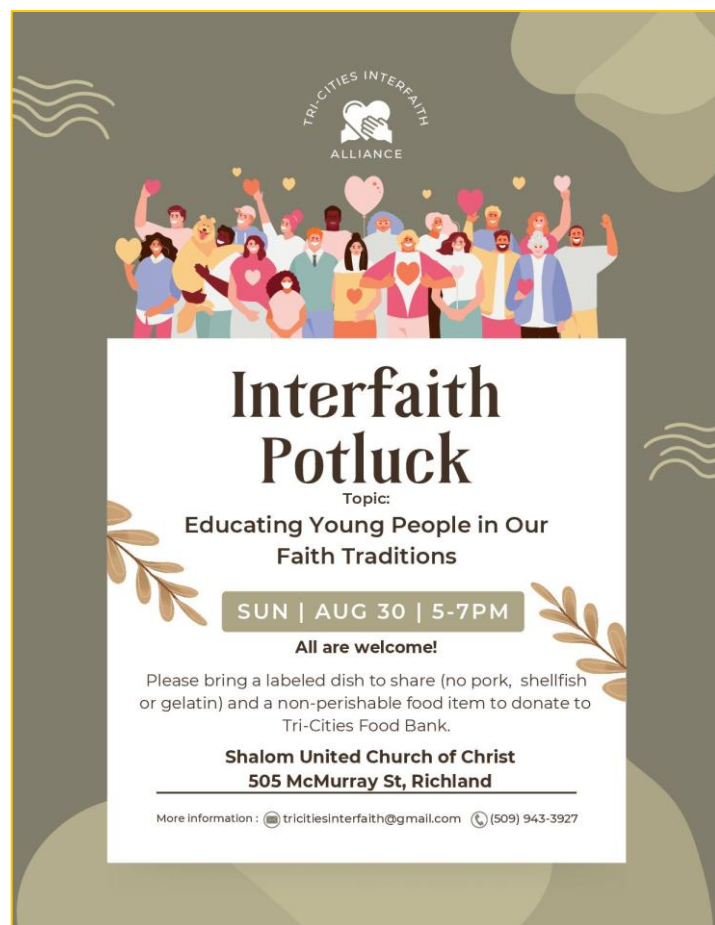
Extreme heat is a major public health concern in the United States. The trend of increasing frequency and duration of heat events is expected to continue in the future. Exposure to extreme heat can cause a variety of health problems, including heat stroke and even death. - Centers for Disease Control.

Shalom made plans this summer to open an Emergency Cooling Center 5 pm – 9pm (2pm - 9pm Sunday), to provide respite from the heat when other city-wide cooling centers are closed. The National Weather Service issued a heat advisory with forecast highs in the Tri-Cities to reach 105 degrees on July 21, 22, and 23, so the decision was made to open. We were ready with jugs of water and Gatorade and snacks set out, tables held choices of games to play, and a phone charging station was set up. Registration and security stations were in place, complete with hired security. Several handouts to learn about how to be safe in the heat were available, along with bags of items (soap, etc.) for the homeless provided by Martha's cupboard.

We made a great effort to get out the word with the help of BF Health District and our temporary homeless neighbors, who turned out to be our only guests. We hope that with continued publicity we will be able to have better success for the next hot spell.

Many thanks to the planning team led by Marilyn L.: Phyllis B., Jim P., Bev W., and Lora R., and to our volunteers Lynn L. and Matt D., and all who provided snacks, financial donations, and helped in other ways.

We also would like to thank the volunteers at Martha's cupboard. www.marthas-cupboard.org This is an amazing service run by Central church where they regularly provide supplies to several charities who reach those in need. These are items not covered by SNAP such as laundry detergent, soap and shampoo, diapers, and so on. Jonda Franklin, the director, sent this message to us. "So admire Shalom UCC's efforts to serve people in the community with a cooling center! Sorry to hear that it wasn't used, but glad you now know that Martha's Cupboard & Central Church is ready and willing to help supply your warming/cooling center when it is open. Please let me know if you identify any other opportunities for us to partner to serve those in need."



Lights for Peace in Howard Amon Park

Nuclear reactors at Hanford (now the Hanford Site) produced plutonium for the Manhattan Project to fuel the first atomic test and the Fat Man atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan on August 9, 1945. The Manhattan Project Historical National Park will host Lights for Peace at the Fingernail Stage in Howard Amon Park in Richland on August 9 at 8:00 pm. This program marks the atomic bombings of Japan in the final days of World War II and to recognize the historical trauma of these events.

Lights for Peace aims to provide an opportunity to remember and reflect on these world-changing events of 80 years ago. The program will feature music from the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers, a guest speaker, and an opportunity to ring a peace bell. Visitors will also have an opportunity to walk a path lit with luminarias for a quiet, contemplative experience based on their own personal reasons for participating.

Howard Amon Park does not offer seating. It is recommended to bring chairs or blankets for seating.

Faith Action Network Meet and Greet

Faith Action Network (FAN) leaders will be in the Tri Cities in early August. On August 6 at 6:30 pm, they will be at the Islamic Center of the Tri-Cities for a Meet and Greet, and to update us on FAN activities. The Executive Director, Policy Director, a board member, and Jess Ingman, North Central Washington Regional Organizer, will be there. All of us are invited. Refreshments will be served.



YOU ARE INVITED

INFORMATION NIGHT

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

HEAR FROM:

- * EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. JOYCE DEL ROSARIO
- * POLICY DIRECTOR KRISTIN ANG
- * COMMUNITY ORGANIZER JESSE INGMAN
- * BOARD MEMBER SABRENE ODEH

THURSDAY
AUGUST 6

6:30-8:30 PM

ISLAMIC CENTER OF TRI-CITIES
2900 BOMBING RANGE RD
WEST RICHLAND

TOGETHER WE ARE A POWERFUL VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL,
BUILDING A MORE JUST, PEACEFUL, AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

FAITH ACTION NETWORK IS A STATEWIDE, MULTIFAITH PARTNERSHIP
STRIVING FOR JUST, COMPASSIONATE, AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
THROUGH COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC ACTION.
LEARN MORE AT FANWA.ORG

Camp News

Shalom Retreat at N-Sid-Sen

The Annual Shalom Retreat to Camp N-Sid-Sen is the weekend of September 18-20. This will be a wonderful time to come together as a church community in a restful setting. We'd love to see you there! As has become our new tradition, we will be sharing space and fellowship with Pullman CCUCC. Lodging will reach capacity. Registration is open now to reserve your space. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Deadline to register is September 11th, but lodging space may fill up before then.

2026 FULL WEEKEND RATES

Cabins

Adults/Teens \$155.00

Youth 8-12 \$140.00

Child 4-7 \$135.00

Spirit

Adults/Teens \$165.00

Youth 8-12 \$155.00

Child 3-7 \$145.00

Syringa Lodge

Adults/Teens \$170.00

Youth 8-12 \$160.00

Child 3-7 \$150.00

Need a Campership for the Shalom/Pullman Retreat?

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

Other Shalom Retreats and Events

Click [HERE](#) to see all the other retreats.

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.

Ongoing Activities *(youth activities are highlighted in yellow)*

SUNDAY

SUMMER CHANGES! 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 — 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 — 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 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 bell choir is now on summer break

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 at noon on August 21st in the Shalom library to discuss Fredrik Bachman’s novel “My Friends”. It tells the story of 4 friends who spend summer days on a pier and become the inspiration for a painting that becomes famous. It is funny and light-hearted at times but explores topics of loss, grief and trauma. 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 with 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.

Christian Education - The CE Committee meets monthly on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm 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 Classroom at the end of the hall across from the ADA bathrooms.

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 regular meeting time is second Wednesday of each month at 4 PM in the library. July's meeting has been moved to Thursday, July 9 at 4 PM.

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](#)).

July Council Meeting Summary

COUNCIL MEETING —July 9th, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES: **WISE** is working on adding mental health emergency position for each Sunday. **Emergency Team Update** working through the different positions and that they are filled each Sunday. **Peace Village** has started trainings and continuing to work on a successful week. **Emergency Warming/Cooling Shelter** is ready to open when the temp is forecast to be over 105°F. **Aesthetics Committee** is updating pictures and signs for mailbox and doors.

OLD BUSINESS: Special Vote: A special vote by ballot will take place to vote for Quinn Smith for JSA chair and employee benefits. **Summer Lessons:** a few lessons were successful and brought in different people. Molly Holleran will hold a few singing lessons following the service.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Income collected so far is more than expenses so far, up to June 30. The emergency warming/cooling shelter is a restricted fund, separate from our annual General Fund budget.

PASTOR'S REPORT: During the month of June, Melanie focused on pastoral care, community outreach, preaching through *The Gospel According to Broadway* series, and planning for summer camps.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Upcoming changes to ages and times of Ginny's Room and Learning Community has begun. Peace Village has 44 children registered. The Christmas Pageant has begun planning.

CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE: Church Life provided regular fellowship coffee and treats following worship most Sundays. Thank you to everyone who brought treats and healthy alternatives to share! Church Life will provide treats and drinks for Diane Dishions Celebration of Life. A number of committee members will be helping the Emergency Warming/Cooling Center.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

JUSTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: JSA did not meet in June. Our next meeting is scheduled on the third Thursday of August, on 8/20/26, at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The Emergency Cooling Center Task Force and Unhoused Task Force are now considered subgroups of JSA. Representatives from both task forces have been providing monthly reports during Council meetings.

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: Alarm system had the yearly inspection done by Advanced Protection Services. The HVAC system is running well. The plums in the front are being picked up. Regular property maintenance continues.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The total of our pledge commitments to Shalom's 2026 general fund is \$225,000 and about 73% of these commitments have been paid, according to Rachel Reeder.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Broadway themed services have received great feedback. Special music has been wonderfully received. Breeze has been working great to fill volunteer positions. Indigenous Persons Sunday will be focused on education rather than a special speaker.

The next Hybrid Council meeting will be on Thursday, August 13th 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 1516 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 125 in Richland, WA 99354

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
- ✓ Financial gifts in support of Peace Village Day Camp, August 3-7 (separate from Registration Fees), an outreach to Tri-Cities kids ages 6-13 (44 kids are registered)
- ✓ Financial gifts in support of Shalom's Emergency Warming / Cooling Shelter
- ✓ Support through Shalom's Campership Fund for our youth to attend camp at N-Sid-Sen

In Tithely, choose from the menu of options under "Give to:"	● 2026 General Fund	With your check payable to Shalom UCC, add an appropriate memo.
	● Peace Village - Donations	
	● Emergency Warming / Cooling Shelter	
	● Campership Fund	

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