

SHARANTELLA

September 2026
Newsletter

Kick-Off Sunday September 13th

At the Leadership Retreat in August, Shalom Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and Committee Members came together to plan for the year ahead. The retreat concluded with building our own 'God is Still Speaking' comma.

Following the September 13th service, join us in the Fellowship Hall and learn about what's to come from the committees themselves.

Each table will be occupied by a different committee and will include treats. There will also be a table for the Administrative Director, where 2026/27 directories will be available to those listed in the directory.



Shalom
United Church of Christ
September 2026
Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS- TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
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September Birthdays

- 1 Caitlin Rathbone
- 2 Cindy Stratman
- 2 Reba Rees
- 3 Hayden Sprenkle
- 4 Rowan Clipper
- 4 Paul Westin
- 6 Olin Arntzen
- 9 Diane Pfaff
- 10 Gretchen Hormel
- 10 Lauralee Sorenson
- 19 Fern Rees
- 20 James Strong
- 10 William Strong
- 24 Libby Watrous
- 24 Jobetta Beaver
- 26 Ian Barret
- 28 Paul Reeder
- 29 Liz Todd
- 30 Johann Wietsma

Looking Back

August 16 Focus on Animals

Thanks to all who participated in our tribute to and blessing of the animals in mid-August, including our puppet performers--Molly Holleran, Lyn Lang, Atticus Noyes, and Elena Beaver. Some congregation members expressed an interest in seeing the way Pastor Melanie strung together animal idioms for the beginning of the August 16th sermon. Here it is for those who would like to see it:

You animals. Beasts! You are a snake in the grass, a weasel, a rat, a lemming... what a leech!

You drink like a fish, then you monkey around, start up the horseplay, you're always pigging out. You're happy as a lark and proud as a peacock, but you've got ants in your pants and bees in your bonnet, while I'm working like a dog, trying to herd cats, and being watched like a hawk.

Somebody here is a bull in a China shop while others do the lion's share of the work by taking the bull by the horns. If you chicken out, then you'll be the black sheep. I'll be outfoxed if you send me on a wild goose chase, but once we deal with the elephant in the room we can get it straight from the horse's mouth and party till the cows come home.

If the cat's not got your tongue you could carry on like this forever...



Thank you from the Pastor

Thank you so much to the Shalom congregation for the joyful celebration of my first year anniversary as your pastor! I so appreciated the beautiful lei, the card and plant for my office, as well as the delicious cake. More important than all that, however, is the day-to-day connections we are making and partnerships we are forging as we continue Shalom's ministry in the Tri-Cities and beyond. I'm thrilled to be on this journey with you all!

Shalom Hosted August Tri Cities Interfaith Potluck

The evening began with a potluck of delightful variety.

Many people attended from Christian traditions (Shalom, Lord of Life Lutheran, New Hope Missionary Baptist), Muslim, Jewish, Bahai, and others. Panelists described what education looks like in their tradition or faith community, and the goal/purpose of the education they provide.

They also shared their role and the biggest challenges they faced with education in their faith community.



Looking Forward

Shalom Friends coming to Tumbleweed Festival September 4-6

The Tumbleweed Music Festival is a free, open-air, community acoustic music festival which is traditionally held on Labor Day weekend each year, at Howard Amon Park in Richland, WA. See below for events held by Tom Rawson and Ellen van der Hoeven, who will lead our Sunday worship music on September 6th.

* Storyteller Tom, 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Sept 5, River Stage--I'm telling some classic folk tales and singing some fun songs in what the festival has deemed a "Kid Friendly" performance.

* Ellen van der Hoeven, 5:45 p.m., Saturday, Sept 5, Community Center Stage--Ellen will do mostly her fabulous originals, as well as a few traditional gems.

* Tom Rawson, 1:15 p.m., Sunday, Sept 6, North Stage--I'll be sharing my usual mix of humorous stories, user-friendly songs, and acoustic folk philosophy that's guaranteed to produce big smiles. Tune up your vocal chords; you'll need 'em!

Goodbye and Hello to Shalom Leaders

Starting on September 1st, we say goodbye to those who are stepping out of their leadership roles and hello to those who are joining their leadership roles. Our biggest thank-you's to Rachel Reeder, Cyndy Sharer, Phyllis Baxter, Amanda Sinnes, and Blake Harrop for your leadership as Shalom's Officers and At-Large. Welcome Matt Douglas, Sandy Westin, Phyllis Baxter, Amanda Sinnes, and Gretchen Hormel for stepping into your new leadership role as a Shalom Officer and At-Large. Thank you, Ty Beaver, for continuing in your Shalom Officer role. Thank you to Gretchen Hormel, Diane Vanderburg, and Tim Lord, for your leadership in your committee. Welcome Phyllis Baxter, Eva Moos, and Quinn Smith to your new position as chairs of your committee. Thank you, Bruce Kerr, for continuing to chair your committee. Thank you to Carolyn Fazzari and Sandy Westin for serving as an elected committee member. Welcome Jaymi Papenfuss and Jim Pierce to your newly elected committee member roles. Thank you to Michelle Pirotte, Jill Berg, Mickey Beary, Mike Stipe, Teri Harrop, Paul Hendrickson, Joyce Bean, and Katie Cort for continuing to serve as an elected committee member.

Come meet all of us on Kick-Off Sunday, September 13th, in the Fellowship Hall following the service, where Shalom leaders share with the congregation about our plans for the year and beyond and share with us how we can support them to fulfill Shalom's goals.

Shalom Christmas service survey

Worship Committee will be offering a survey to see if you would like to continue to have the Lessons and Carols-inspired Christmas service. Maybe you would like it to continue, but not on Christmas eve, or you would like new readings and other updated aspects. Be looking for the survey in the September newsletter updates. There will also be a paper survey at the Worship table on Kick-Off Sunday.

Please see *Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action, Youth News, and Camp News* for more upcoming events and activities!

Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

The Other Side of the Sneeze Guard

Many of my first jobs landed me in the food service industry. I had a stint cashiering in a grocery store during high school, spent a December during college working ridiculous hours at a honey ham shop, served on the banquet staff at my college, and spent two of my college summers in the serving line of giant dining halls.

There were a few perks to these serving line jobs, most notably that it was day-shift work, and also that you could sometimes snag leftover desserts to satisfy your late-night cravings. ... when the food was worth eating, that is.

The drawbacks to these jobs were numerous. Standing on my feet over a hot chafing-dish and cleaning up other people's messes all day was challenging. Mopping and sweeping the dining hall day in and day out, and learning to tell what day it was according to the smell emanating from the kitchen, made my days feel monotonous and boring. And trying to use those impossible right-handed scoops in the serving line was always annoying for this lefty.

But by far the most discouraging part of the job for me was being in the middle position on the serving line. The first server was able to offer a choice of meat. The last person plopped on benign rolls and a dessert. But the person in the middle had to serve up the veggies. When I was that person in the middle, a constant barrage of insults was hurled at me: "Don't put that broccoli on my plate", or "Ooh, what is that slimy stuff?" or "No way, I'd rather go hungry." After two hours of this, a person's self-esteem starts to suffer. I had to work really hard not to over-identify with the collard greens and brussel sprouts that everyone detested.

Just this year, Legacy Healing Center, a nationally recognized mental health treatment provider, analyzed responses from more than 536,000 U.S. workers through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) in order to rank the most stressful job categories. Other studies have shown similar results, consistent over 25 years: Healthcare support roles lead the list, followed closely by community and social service professionals and personal care and service roles. Food preparation and serving workers showed up fourth in this most recent study, with 20% of its workers reporting high levels of emotional strain from their job.

One thing all these occupations have in common is service to the public, which is almost always a risky business. But really, any job can become stressful and any job environment can become toxic. All it takes is one micromanaging supervisor or one overbearing coworker to make an otherwise pleasant environment corrosive.

One of the most-often quoted Christian Scriptures is also present in nearly every sacred text across numerous faith traditions. We know it as the Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). Perhaps this should be especially true for those on the other side of the sneeze guard.

May we remember that all of us in this global community need to walk a few steps in each other's shoes in order to respect the hardships of every professional endeavor, as well as the private crises that we likely never see.

Shalom, 

Take Action- Through Justice and Social Action

Contact Quinn Smith to join the JSA Zoom meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Rest is Resistance

You are not defined by the quality or quantity of the work you do. Push back against the capitalist culture to make time for rest - rest through creativity, movement, and dreaming to refresh the body and mind. And while you're at it, look into the book by Tricia Hersey, "Rest is Resistance: A Manifesto."

This sign will be posted throughout the month of September on Shalom's front yard. It is part of Shalom's effort to inspire our congregation, grab attention, and bring new people through our doors.



Snack Support for Hanford High School Students

Shalom was asked again if we could provide snacks and grab & go food items for students at Hanford High School. Growing teens have trouble focusing in the classroom when they're hungry. Snacks they can grab between classes, at lunch, and after school will go a long way toward helping those on the margins and most at risk as food insecurity rises. You can help by purchasing and bringing snack items to Shalom. There is a box labeled "HHS Snack Support" in the Narthex by the JSA boards. Please purchase items that are single-serve, ready to eat, and do NOT need refrigeration. Students have access to a microwave and instant hot water, but "grab & go" items are what they really need. Think like a teenager! Granola bars, Fruit bars, Fruit snacks, Apple sauce cups, Bags of potato chips and other chips, Cheez-Its, Goldfish, Trail mix or nut mixes, Beef or Turkey jerky, and Cup o' Noodles. If you have questions, contact Phyllis Baxter at 509-205-5848.



Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition update

Tri-Cities Immigrant Coalition welcomes new volunteers and is now holding monthly onboarding events at their new office in Richland: 1516 Jadwin Avenue, Suite 125 at 11 am on the last Saturday of each month.

Please take a look at TCIC's updated website

(<https://tricitieimmigrantcoalition.com>), for ways to volunteer. There also 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.



If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to Mickey, Gretchen, or Lora.

Tri-Cities Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness - Mission Possible - Understanding Homelessness in the Tri-Cities

Several churches in the Tri Cities, including Shalom, are part of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness. They are each hosting an event in September with the goal "To educate on what is being done to address homelessness and its causes, to advocate, and to inspire the community to take action." This is the schedule:

All Saints' Episcopal Church - Sept 1, 5pm. 1322 Kimball, Richland. Parish Hall - Soup and bread supper

Speakers: Amy Person (Data) and Sarah Baumgartner (CHIP) from B-F Health District along with representatives from Richland and Kennewick police departments. They will discuss current statistics and discuss the County Health Improvement Plan

Lord of Life Lutheran Church - Sept 10, 5:30 pm - dinner provided - Speakers at 6:30pm.

640 N. Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick

Mike Rizzitello, Development Services Director, City of Richland to discuss zoning, and Anthony Muai, Planning Director, City of Kennewick will focus on local zoning, where Section 8 housing and shelters are permitted, and examples of Section 8 housing developments, along with information on the Walla Walla Sleep Center and Housing funding.

Kennewick First Lutheran Church Sept 15, 5:30 - 7:30 pm - light snacks

418 N. Yelm, Kennewick

Speakers: Carole Allenbaugh on shower ministry and Conestoga Huts, a presentation from Soul Soup, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart will do the Narcan training and give an overview of harm reduction. Conestoga Huts will be available for viewing.

Meadow Springs Presbyterian Church - Sept 18, 3pm. Heavy Hors d'oeuvres - Speakers at 3:30pm.

325 Silver Meadows Drive, Richland

Jon Schlenske: presentation on the Recovery Center and recovery housing, Tabaski Snipes on Continuum of Care, and resources supporting addiction, youth and broader needs among the vulnerable.

Shalom UCC. Sept 29, 5:30pm. Soup and Bread supper; Panel at 6:30pm

Matthew Navarro, City of Richland, along with his team

Richland, Benton Franklin Health District and the VA, will discuss their efforts to assist those who want to exit homelessness.

Click [HERE](#) to see the Mission Possible! flyer

Youth News

Visit the Education Table on September 13, Kick-Off Sunday, in the Fellowship Hall

- Learn more about what we have planned for the Youth this year!
- Fill out registration paperwork to assure you're on distribution lists to receive activity updates.
- Come learn about ways to be involved in the Shalom community.

Mark your calendars for September 26 and October 24.

- Everyone – youth and adults – are invited to Game Night for all ages on **Saturday, September 26, 5:30-8:30pm**. If you're a parent or guardian, you can either drop off your kids and have a date night or stay and play games with them. Pizza and beverages will be provided.
- Again, everyone is invited to our Halloween Fun Night and Taco Buffet dinner on **Saturday, October 24, 6:00-8:00pm**. Wear your costume, come prepared to decorate mini pumpkins, and join in more fun to be planned. There will be a sign-up sheet for the Taco Buffet items as we get closer to the date.

High School Youth Group starts Thursday, Sept 17

Stay tuned for more information, but block your Thursday night, 7-9pm, for High School Youth Group. Most meetings will be at Shalom, but occasional fun “field trips” off site will occur.

Sunday Morning Youth Activities

- Starting Sept 13, Ginny’s Room opens at 9:00 am. Infants through preschoolers are welcome to stay until the end of Coffee Hour and Feedback (noon).
- Children Kindergarten through 5th grade begin the service with their parents/guardians in the Sanctuary or Narthex. Children will be called up for Children’s Chat with the Pastor 15-20 minutes into the service. Children are welcome to participate. After the Children’s Chat, they will be lead to the Learning Community classroom across from the ADA bathrooms.
- Older youth in grades 6th through high school are welcome to participate in the worship service in the Sanctuary or Narthex.

From Broken Pieces to Peace: A Youth Stewardship Project

During the month of May, culminating in the final week of school, our youth participated in a creative, hands-on project centered on the themes of brokenness, healing, intention, and peace.

The project began with the youth breaking apart wooden pallets. This physical activity provided a tangible way to explore and express difficult emotions such as frustration, anger, grief, loss, and disappointment. Rather than discarding the broken pieces, the youth gathered them and worked together to transform them into a new frame.

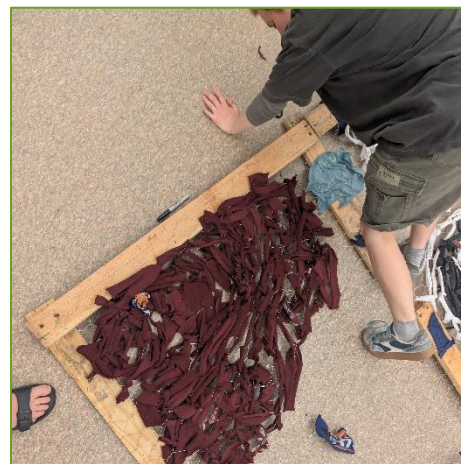
Chicken wire was added to the frame, creating a structure for the next stage of the project with donated old T-shirts and sweatshirts. Each contribution represented a good intention — a prayer, hope, word of encouragement, or meditation for healing and peace.

The project followed three movements: Broken Pieces, Good Intention, and Peace.

We began by acknowledging what is broken, moved toward intentionally choosing what we want to bring into those broken places, and ultimately created something new by weaving the individual pieces together.

This project connected deeply with our church's stewardship theme of “Weaving Together.” It reminded us that stewardship extends beyond caring for our physical resources. It also means caring for one another, sharing our gifts, creating space for difficult emotions, and recognizing the value each person brings to our community.

The project provided our youth with an opportunity to participate in meaningful stewardship through creativity, reflection, and collaboration. The finished piece serves as a visual reminder that brokenness does not have to be the end of the story. When we bring our individual pieces, intentions, gifts, and experiences together, we can create something that holds beauty, meaning, and peace.



Camp News

Retreat planning underway--Your help needed

If you have skills and experience with wilderness survival, foraging, the desert fathers and mothers, or the book Braiding Sweetgrass, please let Pastor Melanie know at pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org. We may need your expertise for the upcoming Shalom retreat!

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 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 red)

SUNDAY

Christian Education Study Group — We will meet one more time this upcoming Sunday, September 6th, 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. The 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](#).

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. **Beginning September 13th, Ginny's Room will open at 9:00 am** for parents/guardians to be able to attend choir.

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.

Shalom Choir Rehearsal— Choir rehearsals begin Wed., September 2nd, 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— Stay tuned for when rehearsals will resume

High School Youth Group Youth Group will begin meeting on Thursdays starting Sep. 17th from 7-9 pm. Contact Michelle Sinnes, youth@shalomunitedchurch.org, for more information.

Grief Support Group— The grief group has concluded, but Pastor Melanie is always available for one-on-one support at Pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org.

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 September 18th to discuss Fredrik Backman's novel, "My Friends", a funny and deeply moving tale of four teenagers, whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later. 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 Quinn S. 7quinnsmith@gmail.com

Outreach/Inreach - The Outreach/Inreach Committee meets online on Wednesdays at 10 am. To get the Zoom link, contact Eva M. eva.moos@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.

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

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](#)).

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.

August Council Meeting Summary

COUNCIL MEETING —August 13th, 2026

TASK FORCE UPDATES: Emergency Team Update working through the different positions and checking that they are filled each Sunday, with the Sweeper role as the designated person to make sure roles are filled. **Peace Village** was a big success and leaders shared their experience during the service on the Sunday following the day camp.

Emergency Warming/Cooling Shelter Only a few people came. Now that we know the process it will be easier in the future. **Aesthetics Committee** Renée S has begun taking more pictures to be added to the hallway photo gallery; pictures can also be used for the directory. **Promo Team** put out "It's hot! Come chill with us!" yard sign for the month of August.

OLD BUSINESS: Special Vote: the vote was unanimous to elect Quinn Smith for JSA chair and extend health benefits to full-time salaried employees. Council approved spousal vision and dental benefits. **Endowments and Bequests:** Ty, Judi, Anna, and Lauralee will meet now that Peace Village is over.

NEW BUSINESS: Shalom/Pullman Retreat at N-Sid-Sen: Registration is open! The planning team is looking for volunteers to help with the planning process.

TREASURER'S REPORT: With the vote to extend benefits to full-time salaried employees, it will be critical to generate further pledges or other revenue to make sure this commitment can be sustained. We should also encourage Shalom members to continue providing their current pledges to minimize drawing on the church's reserves to backfill any shortfall as we finish out the year.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Melanie spent a week as camp pastor at N-Sid-Sen in July and a week teaching at Peace Village in early August. She assisted with the opening of Shalom's cooling shelter, officiated at a memorial service, completed the summer Broadway worship series, celebrated her first year as pastor at Shalom, and, just for fun, learned how to play pickleball.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Every Sunday in the summer there have been children in Ginny's Room (infants through pre-school) and Learning Community (K-5). Peace Village was a success with 39 children attending and over 40 volunteers! High School Youth Group will begin the week of Sept 14.

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 provided refreshments for Pastor Melanie's one-year anniversary and treats for people and their pets for Blessing of the Animals. Church Life will also play a critical role at the Interfaith Potluck.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

JUSTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE: JSA did not meet in July. 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. The Cooling Center opened for the first time for three evenings in July – on a Tues., Wed., and Thur. 5 to 9 pm. The task force will meet and discuss what was learned during that time.

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: It has been a busy time for the volunteers at Shalom. During Peace Village, members came and cleaned the church, emptied garbages, and restocked the restrooms. The harvest of the gifted plum tree was completed and cleaned up after. Some of the fruit was given to food banks and women’s shelters. Spots on the carpet have been cleaned, and general cleaning of the whole carpet has begun. Doors have been fixed, audio-visual systems improved, and grounds work done.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: The committee will begin meeting soon to start planning for the 2027 Stewardship Campaign.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Planning for the next few months, including the worship committee booth at Kick-Off Sunday, has begun. A Christmas Eve Service survey will be sent out in September for feedback on the service and if we, as a congregation, want any changes.

The next Hybrid Council meeting will be on Thursday, September 10th at 6:30 pm in the Shalom Library and on Zoom.

Ongoing Opportunities to Give

Options for giving include:

- ✓ Shalom’s 2026 General Fund to support Shalom’s programs for all ages
- ✓ Support through Shalom’s Campership Fund to help Shalom youth and families attend camp at N-Sid-Sen
- ✓ Major Maintenance / Improvements, a restricted fund to save for Shalom’s facility needs

In Tithely, choose from the menu of options under “Give to:”	• 2026 General Fund • Campership Fund • Major Maintenance / Improvements (MMI)	With your check payable to Shalom UCC, add an appropriate memo.
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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/

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

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