November 2026

SHARANTELLA

Shalom United Church of Christ Newsletter

JEFFERSON GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is beginning soon.

MORE INFO ON PG. 5





All of Us Need All of Us

2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The new campaign has begun

MORE INFO ON PG. 6, 8, & 10

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

Check out what Shalom has been up to, and take a look at what we plan to do next!

Do you want to be a part of the journey?

There are so many ways to get involved in BIG and small ways.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

The holidays are quickly coming. There are many events you will want to add to your calendar

MORE INFO ON PG. 8



Table of Contents

Sparks, Spirit & Shalom 3
Our Hidden Superpower 3
Looking **Back** 4
Click Here to See the October Slideshow 4
Door Décor Winners 4
Shalom **News** 5
Jefferson Giving Tree Coming in November 5
Christmas Service Survey Results 5
Remembering Barbara Loucks 5
November Birthdays 5
Justice & Social **Action** 6
Deadline to Vote is 8 pm on Nov 3 6
Voting Support Table Helped Shalom Countdown to Nov 3rd 6
"All of Us NEED All of Us" November Yard Sign 6
15 Years: Many Faiths Fighting for Justice 7
November HHS Snack Update 7
W.I.S.E. Committee Meeting 8
Mental Health First Aid Training 8
Upcoming **Events** 9
Holiday Events to Come 9
All Of Us Need All Of Us -- Stewardship Sunday and Potluck 10
Windows into Worship- Interfaith Potluck 10
Ongoing **Activities** 11
Get **Involved** 12
Serve On A Committee 12
Other Ways to Serve 12
October **Council Meeting Summary** 13
Giving and Finances 14
Ongoing Opportunities to Give 14
Shalom Finances at a Glance 14

Visit Us!

Sunday Service 10 am ● Office Hours- Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am – 12 am ● (509) 943-3927
shalomunitedchurch.org ● 505 McMurray St., Richland, WA 99354 ● shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org

Follow Us!

Facebook ● Instagram ● Youtube

Sparks, Spirit & Shalom

by Pastor Melanie



Our Hidden Superpower

I wonder how many of us remember the old television commercial for a deodorant that warned "never let them see you sweat." Maybe as long as we've been a nation, the United States has promoted a culture of rugged individualism, fierce control, and toxic self-reliance–free of any weakness or vulnerability.

For many of us, this culture is the air we breathe, to the point that we don't even notice it, nor realize we are making a choice to live this way. We paste on a smile even when we are not feeling well, afraid to let anyone see that we are ever anything other than happy. We worry about being "burdens," deny our needs, and never ask for help. Success is all on us, so we keep pushing harder and harder, for fear that others will judge us if we lighten up. As a result, our culture is riddled with workaholism, perfectionism, and numbing mechanisms–all carefully orchestrated to distract us from our own vulnerabilities and hide them from others.

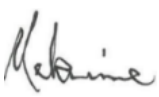
This is especially sad to me because vulnerability is our superpower. Vulnerability is daring to show up as our true self, with our unique quirks, our imperfections, and our authentic emotions. It allows people to see the real us, and invites them to offer the real them, which is our best hope for experiencing true joy, love, belonging, and empathy.

Of course we don't share indiscriminately, but we can share our stories, risks, and personal thoughts with others who are willing to share similarly with us, while ignoring the critiques of those who stay in their safe zones.

II Corinthians 12:9-10 says, '"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' … For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

When we are "weak" together, courageous enough to expose our real selves with each other, that is when we become strong, authentic, loveable and loving. That is what helps us become the beloved community. That is my hope for all of us at Shalom, that we can live into an even stronger, more vulnerable, authentic, beloved community.

Shalom,





Looking **Back**

Click Here to See the October Slideshow

October was filled with moments where we came together in service and fellowship.

On Oct. 10th congregants gathered at Shalom to revamp the property inside and out. Over 20 people, including our neighbors from Twin Rivers Community Center attended the Fall Work Party.

On Oct. 18th we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Lorraine Ceniceros, Acting Conference Minister. Rev. Lorraine spoke at the pulpit and led Feedback following the service.

Door Décor Winners

Committees and leadership came together to decorate doors for the well attended Halloween Trick-or-Treating Halloween Party, and a contest was held for the best door décor. Here are the results:

1st Place- Administration

The administrator's door was decorated with an interactive Cookie Monster where you could feed Cookie Monster to get cookies. Lauralee, Shalom's Administrator, works in the background with leadership and the congregation looking for new ways to bring Shalom together. Regular tasks like the newsletter, bulletin, periodic reviews, and the annual report are created by the administrator, with the support of the many talented congregants. If you have interest in supporting the administrator as a back-up when she is away speak to Lauralee Sorenson.

2nd Place- Finance

The Finance Committee decorated their door with an image of a dragon protecting their lair, and handed out chocolate gold candy. The Finance Committee works throughout the year, responsibly counting Sunday offerings and mailed payments, recording donations and pledges, and making regular deposits at our financial institution. On top of their routine counting and depositing, they offer support at all fundraisers by accepting money and giving receipts following IRS rules and guidelines. Unlike other committees, Finance Committee is limited to its elected members (including the Finance Chair, Stewardship Chair, and Treasurer), and all on the committee must be members of the congregation. If you have interest in serving on this committee, speak to the Nominating Committee for future elections.

3rd Place- Property

The Property Committee decorated their door in an anatomically correct skeleton. What made this door stand out was trick-or-treaters were invited into the room to participate in a game of sorts to get their candy. The Property Committee is a hard working group of members who consistently keep up with the needs of the building and the grounds of the church. They are the unsung heroes for why our church looks great inside and out all year long. They are always looking for new members to join their crew. If you have any experience in handy-work or have knowledge of landscaping, or just a general interest, consider joining this committee by speaking to Bruce Kerr.

Shalom **News**

Jefferson Giving Tree Coming in November

Shalom has the opportunity to support families in need this holiday season through the Jefferson Giving Tree. The tree isn't set up yet, but watch for it by the front door in the middle of November. There will be 3 tags for each child. The tags represent a NEED, usually clothes; a WANT, some sort of toy or fun item; and a READ, that would be a book. When you take a tag, write your name on the sign out sheet next to the tag number so we know who is buying what for whom. All gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 6. The return date is included on the tags. The tag you take off the tree lists the tag number, family name, gender and age of the child. It also lists what the child requests and the family suggests for the gift, such as size, color, or interests. Please wrap the gift before returning to Shalom. We need to keep track of all the gifts, so the tag you take from the tree must come back attached to the wrapped gift. If you would like to provide a gift but are unable to get to Shalom to select a tag off the tree, you can call or email Phyllis at 509-205-5848 or phyllisabaxter@gmail.com. She will hold back a few tags from the tree to make them available to anyone who can't make it to the church to select a tag. Shalom has been very generous over the years in providing this Christmas joy to our local neighbors in need. Thank you! If you have any questions, talk with Phyllis Baxter.

Christmas Service Survey Results

The Shalom Worship Committee offered a survey this fall to determine how people feel about changing the traditional Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve service. They asked if we preferred doing a different service, what time is best, and so on. Over 35 surveys were returned, and the results show people want to stay with the Lessons and Carols service. Therefore we will stay with our tradition, but it will be updated with altered texts and readings for this year!



Remembering Barbara Loucks

Beloved congregant, Barbara Loucks passed away October 20th, 2026. She is remembered by her partner Jim House, two children, Ang & Katie and their partners, and her two grandchildren, Sebastian & Kai. She lived a fascinating life. Her obituary will be posted on the Compassionate Cremation Society website.

We will celebrate Barb's Life at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time on January 2nd, 2027 at Shalom United Church of Christ in Richland, Washington and via Zoom.



November Birthdays

Geralyn Retzel 6
Juan Uriostegui 9
Jake Oram 10
Vince Sprenkle 11
Chuck Wojnowski 13
Abel Uriostegui 13
Cody Sinnes 18
Megan Thompson 19
Tami Arntzen 25
Paige Hopkins 25
Zane Arntzen 26
Boyce Burdick 27

Justice & Social **Action**

Faith Action Network Washington (FAN) Seeks Local Input for Upcoming Legislative Session

Pastor Melanie, Mickey, and Gretchen were able to represent Shalom at FAN's Tri-Cities Regional Gathering held on Oct 27th. Representatives from Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Pasco and Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Kennewick also attended.

Cluster/Regional Gatherings are organized by FAN and the faith communities in our Network of Advocating Faith Communities (NAFC) during the interim time between legislative sessions (June through November). Smaller, geographically grouped cluster meetings enable advocates to meet face to face (when possible), share their community's justice actions, plan regional collaboration, and strategize how to highlight policy concerns with their own legislators and the wider community. The three main goals for the gatherings are:

1. To build closer relationships among the faith communities and individuals of conscience of the specific Cluster/Regional group, and especially within Legislative Districts,
2. To jointly help shape FAN advocacy and action priorities, and
3. To strategize together on advocacy plans and events for the coming year, and to begin to reach out to your legislators and FAN.

Advocacy "buckets" include the following:

1. PURSUE ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND ENSURE BASIC NEEDS
2. CULTIVATE CLIMATE and ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
3. REFORM OUR CARCERAL SYSTEM & STRENGTHEN POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY
4. FOSTER RIGHTS, BELONGING & PLURALISM

For more information, do not hesitate to visit FAN's website at fanwa.org.

"All of Us NEED All of Us" November Yard Sign

November's yard sign is inspired by the 2027 Stewardship Campaign. For the next few weeks the Stewardship Committee will speak on what this message means for Shalom.



This sign will be posted throughout the month of November 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.

Deadline to Vote is 8 pm on Nov 3

Even though the deadline to vote is Tuesday, Nov 3rd, everyone is encouraged to vote NOW and to use a neighborhood ballot drop box. If you need any help with your ballot, including a way to get your ballot to a ballot drop box, do not hesitate to contact Yvonne, Lora, Mickey, Gretchen, or Quinn.

Voting Support Table Helped Shalom Countdown to Nov 3rd

Justice & Social Action had Voters Pamphlets on hand and other resources for those who attended Sunday Service on October 25th. There was a steady stream of visitors at the Voting Support Table before and after the service. People asked questions about the three initiatives and judicial races. Everyone is encouraged to vote now and to use a neighborhood ballot drop box.





15 Years: Many Faiths Fighting for Justice

The Faith action Network Annual Dinner was held in Seattle and online, October 18th. The Justice and Social Action committee had a watch party in the Tri Cities. We sent a donation so that Shalom was recognized at the dinner. Long time supporter Rick Steves matched donations up to $50,000. He believes in the power of FAN to bring justice to our state.

Dr. Joyce del Rosario, FAN Executive Director, led by telling us she did community development work, which can bring instant gratification, but she felt like it would never end. She said protesting matters, voting matters, and advocacy work matters, because it is what is needed to change the system. So, we need to have more activists across the state. Others from FAN reminded us that our faith tells us to show up, stand together, and keep working for justice.

Senator Saldana was the keynote speaker. Here are excerpts from her speech. She said that there is no separation of church and state, in that there is no separation of her faith and her daily action. "We need to make sure our humanity is always in relationship with others." To remember first thing, "do no harm". She thanked the people with FAN for carrying our faithful voices to Olympia. "If we have faith that we are truly aligned with who we are meant to be, it opens the doors for others to be who they are meant and called to be… it creates openness that allows us to see things that we wouldn't have been able to see otherwise."

"The work may seem so small and incomplete- that is the devil trying to dissuade you from not recognizing our graciousness, your amazingness. In this moment, this community, remember we are part of something bigger than ourselves. We don't grow in a straight and narrow path. This is how Justice happens. It's more of a dance - up and down, backwards and forwards, is how we flow. Your engagement in Olympia matters more now than ever."

November HHS Snack Update



Snacks continue to roll in for the Hanford High School Snack support. Thank you! Before the first day of school, 321 snacks were delivered and another 253 were delivered in October. The selection of snacks you all are providing is great. There's something for everyone. Providing snacks makes a meaningful difference for these kids. Food insecurity is a real thing for too many families. The school district does what it can through free and reduced meal programs, but these snacks fill the void between meals where growing kids need something to tide them over. Thank you for the ongoing support for Hanford HS students! If you have questions or would like to support the snack program in other ways, reach out to Phyllis Baxter.

The WISE Committee graciously asks that you save these dates!



W.I.S.E. Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 8, 2026
What: The WISE Committee has drafted a Job Aid of Roles & Responsibilities for those Shalom members identified as Mental Health Emergency Responders. Please join WISE Committee Members for an informal, interactive question & answer forum about that volunteer activity.
Who should attend: All Shalom Medical & Mental Health Emergency Responders…and any else one interested in participating!
Where: Shalom Library
Time: 12:00-12:30pm (or when we're done)

Mental Health First Aid Training

Saturday, December 5, 2026
What: Mental Health First Aid Training — Sponsored & presented by Lutheran Community Services
Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach participants how to recognize the signs and symptoms of developing or worsening mental health and substance use challenges, provide initial support using the ALGEE Action Plan (Approach, Listen nonjudgmentally, Give information and reassurance, Encourage professional help, Encourage self-help), and connect someone with appropriate professional and community resources. It's intended to complement, not replace, existing mental health education or crisis response plans.

Who should attend: Anyone interested in Mental Health First Aid at Shalom (this includes Shalom Emergency Medical Responders & WISE Committee Members). All others interested and willing are welcome!!
Where: Shalom Fellowship Hall
Time: 8:am - 3:30pm
RSVP — **We need a minimum of 10 people please!!** Please contact Lauralee in the office at shalom@shalomunitedchurch.org for additional information and to register.

Upcoming **Events**

Holiday Events to Come

Stewardship Sunday- Nov. 15

Join us for Stewardship Sunday followed by a celebration potluck. Look on the following page for more information.

Totenfest- Nov. 22

Totenfest is a day when Shalom remembers those close to us who have died in the past year.

Thanksgiving at Shalom- Nov. 26

Shalom will host another Thanksgiving Dinner and all are welcome. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please arrive about 1:30 . We will eat at 2 pm. Please bring something to share. Turkey will be provided.

Canticles of Christmas—2026 Advent at Shalom

First Sunday: Canticles of Christmas--Song of Isaiah- Nov. 29
Second Sunday: Canticles of Christmas--Song of Zechariah- Dec. 6
Third Sunday: Canticles of Christmas -- Song of Mary- Dec. 13
Fourth Sunday: Canticles of Christmas--Song of the Angels- Dec. 20
Fifth Sunday: Canticles of Christmas--Song of Simeon- Dec. 27

Hanging of the Greens service- Nov. 29

Join us for the first Sunday of Advent where will decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex during the service for the second year of Hanging of the Greens

---

Annual Columbia Basin AGO Christmas Choral Festival!- Dec. 6 at 4 pm

Shalom will join the Choral Festival for this celebration of the Christmas season hosted by Central Church in Richland. Join us and support choral singing and the festival's offering for the local food bank.

Christmas pageant after morning worship followed by Birthday Party for Baby Jesus- Dec. 13

Stay after the service for the Annual Christmas Pageant organized by the Education Committee, followed by celebrating Baby Jesus' birthday hosted by the Church Life Committee

---

Longest Night Worship Service- Dec. 21 at 5 pm

Join us at Shalom UCC as we honor this observance with a service of "The Longest Night." Come enjoy beautiful contemplative music and words of comfort, to give peace to your spirit this holiday season.

Lessons and Carols at Shalom- Dec. 24 at 6 pm

Join us for the Lessons and Carols service. Look on page 5 for more information on this Service

All Of Us Need All Of Us -- Stewardship Sunday and Potluck



We'll celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 15th, and we invite you to bring your pledge card to the worship service that day. Pledge cards will be mailed the week before. You can bring your pledge on Stewardship Sunday. Or, if you prefer, you can mail in your pledge using the enclosed envelope, deliver it to the church office during the week, or pledge electronically on the secure Breeze website.

We'll gather our pledges during the offertory and come together afterward for a potluck celebration in the Fellowship Hall. A sign up sheet is available on the signing table for the potluck. Thank you for being a part of Shalom – All Of Us Need All Of Us!

Windows into Worship- Interfaith Potluck

Join the Tri-Cities Interfaith Alliance for an evening of food, friendship, and windows into the worship traditions of our neighbors!

Our Sikh hosts will share chanting, Shalom United Church of Christ will offer a danced benediction, and we'll experience brief contributions from other faith traditions represented around our tables. All faiths and backgrounds are welcome! Please bring a vegetarian dish to share. Our hosts request no meat, fish, poultry, or eggs. Otherwise, be creative!

Location: Guru Nanak Sikh Gurudwara, 4490 Ava Way, Richland, WA

A few things to know:

- Shoes are removed in the entrance hall at the front door.
- Head coverings are requested for everyone. Scarves will be provided, or you may bring your own.

Would your congregation like to share a brief worship tradition? Please email a short description of your proposed contribution to Melanie Childers at pastor@shalomunitedchurch.org for advance review and approval.
We'd love to see you there!



Ongoing **Activities**

Sunday

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

Ginny's Room/Nursery — Children from infants through Preschoolers (or up to 5 yrs old) are welcome to join Ginny's Room from 9:00 am - end of the Feedback.

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 "Get Involved" on page 12 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.

Historical Jesus Study Group —6:00-7:30 pm in the Shalom library, we will watch The Historical Jesus, featuring lectures by Bart Ehrman. Each week we'll plan to view two of the 30-minute lectures, followed by conversation and discussion. No group on the 4th Monday of each month.

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. 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 2nd and 4th Tues. in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm. Contact Lorinda F. for more info.

Stitchery Social Group- 7:00 pm —Individuals engaging in activities like knitting, sewing, weaving, or crocheting meet 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 rehearses 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 meets on Thursdays from 6-8 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 November 20th, to discuss discuss "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. A charming, witty, and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. 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.

~HIGHLIGHT~

Shalom's Choir meets for rehearsal every Wednesday at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join!

Get **Involved**

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

Other Ways to Serve

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 on a monthly basis for each role. 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).

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 to those online but also to 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 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.

Open Elected Positions

The Nominating Committee is continuing the search to fill the open Nominating Committee elected member position. If you are interested please contact Gretchen M or Matt D

October **Council Meeting Summary**

Council met on October 8th at 6:30 pm in the Shalom Library and on Zoom

Task Force Updates

Aesthetics Task Force (Subgroup of Property): New signs will be ordered for the mailboxes and kiosks.

Promotion Team (Subgroup of Outreach/Inreach): The Oct. sign has been placed in the front yard, and there are plans underway for future signs.

Old Business

Endowment and Bequests: The endowment policy is being reviewed by the Treasurer for necessary changes to be brought to council.

Shalom/Pullman Retreat at N-Sid-Sen: The weekend was well-attended with 27 coming from Shalom and 25 from Pullman. "A good time was had by all."

New Business

Offering Temp Position: Property Committee presented to council the proposal to hire a congregant to execute needed tasks that would otherwise have a significant cost. Shalom council made a motion to approve hiring a temporary position after getting approval from the treasurer that there are extra funds to cover the cost.

Open Positions to be filled: David V has been nominated for the elected member of Stewardship. Nominating Committee is meeting with prospective chairs for Worship.

Bylaws Update: Bylaws need to be reviewed to propose making it possible to permit members of the Nominating Committee to be elected to the Council as well as conducting a general review to update the Bylaws.

Reports

Treasurer: September brought in our lowest income amount for the year thus far, bringing us close to tapping into past years' surplus for the last three months of this year. Expenses were comparable to prior months. Input for a draft 2027 budget needs to be submitted by the end of October.

Pastor Report: During September, Melanie continued pastoral care, preaching, and worship leadership, led the church in welcoming six new members and commissioning the One Parish, One Prisoner team, and assisted with church retreat leadership at N Sid Sen.

Church Life Committee: The committee aided in the the Mission Possible dinner. They continued their regular work in preparing for refreshments for Sundays.

Education Committee: Learning Community on Sunday morning has fewer kids attending than during the summer. Teachers are signed up and are there each Sunday – thank you! The Historical Jesus study group is meeting Mondays, 6:00-7:30pm in the Library. Christmas Pageant planning is happening. Youth who are interested in participating on December 13 should let us know so we can get them scripts and included in rehearsals.

Finance Committee: The offering was faithfully counted and deposited.

Justice and Social Action Committee: Information on JSA projects and a raffle for a pizza to recruit new members was provided during Kick-Off Sunday. The Yakima regional meeting of FAN was held Oct. 6, at which JSA made a donation. TCIC needs volunteers; they do not need to be bi-lingual. They meet at 6:30pm on the 3rd Mondays via Zoom. OPOP team held its commissioning at Shalom during the Sept. 27th service. Another volunteer is welcome. Mission Possible: Shalom hosted the last meeting with good attendance. Nov. election: UCC, FAN, and Indivisible resources are providing events to encourage voting.

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: Cleanup day Oct 10 9 am-noon – with coffee and donuts.

Stewardship Committee: Planning for fall campaign continues. The theme has been chosen

Worship Committee: - The committee went over plans for the holidays, special guests, and special Sundays.

Giving and Finances

Ongoing Opportunities to Give

- ✓ Shalom's 2026 General Fund to support Shalom's programs for all ages
- ✓ Neighbors in Need, a special offering of the United Church of Christ
- ✓ 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
- Neighbors in Need
- Shalom Memorial Fund

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

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

Click HERE to use Tithely

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



Shalom Finances at a Glance

September 30, 2026

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

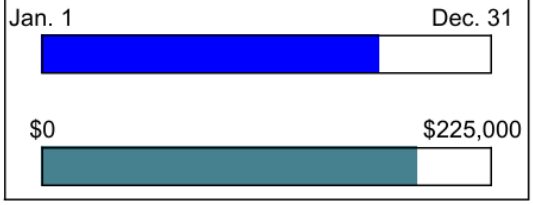
	Actual September	Actual Year-To-Date	Annual Budget (1/1/2026)
Income	$11,283	$253,603	$289,000
Expense	$28,359	$246,287	$356,080

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, 19 youth and adults were able to visit N-Sid-Sen this summer and fall for camps and retreats! Thank you for supporting the Campership Fund and please think about supporting it in the coming year. New to Shalom and wondering about pledges? Talk to Ty or Rachel about how pledges help Shalom plan and support everything from staffing to programming to community support. Every little bit helps!

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

	September	Year-To-Date
Through Annual Budget	$3,142	$15,497
Through Restricted Funds	$946	$3,281
Total	$4,088	$18,778

With 75% of the year passed, 86% of 2026 pledges to the annual budget have been paid.



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