

*Visitors: Welcome to Shalom! Please join us for coffee and conversation after worship. If you would like to be on our mailing list or be contacted by someone on pastoral team, please send your name and email to [office@shalommc.org](mailto:office@shalommc.org).*

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**Website** <http://shalommc.org>

Staff: *Brian Bolton*, Pastor; *Valerie Showalter*, Pastor of Youth and Children's Ministries; *Elizabeth Fletchall*, Admin. Assistant.

Pastoral team: *Brian Bolton*, *Marci Frederick*, *Hannah Kelley*, *Sharon Landis*, *Jaime Miller*, *Emily North*, *Valerie Showalter*, *James Ward*

Servants Council Chair: *Anne Martin*; Members at Large, *Elizabeth Fletchall*, *Valerie Showalter*, and *Brian Bolton*; Hospitality Committee: *Tim Godshall*; Mission and Service Committee: *Mary Jean Cross*; Worship Committee: *Melody Mast*; Formation Committee: *Joel Yoder*; Stewardship & Administrative Committee: *Ellen Miller*; Pastoral Team: *Marci Frederick*

**Safe Congregation Committee:** *Kate Clark*, 810-1067; *Ross Erb*, 435-0350; *Anne Martin*, 432-1086; *Brian Bolton*, 830-8381, *Valerie Showalter*, 209-0242; Please contact any member of this committee if you have questions or concerns regarding inappropriate sexual conduct, violence, intimidation, or physical abuse by child-care workers, teachers, or others in the congregation.



## Shalom Mennonite Congregation

Dec. 23, 2018 | Fourth Sunday in Advent—Joy

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*Then, the sweating and  
the pushing.  
Hard work, harvesting  
the seed planted  
months before and  
nurtured in darkness.  
It's a willing sacrifice  
we make, offering our  
bodies to be broken  
open – water bursting  
forth, sweat and pain –  
to birth a miracle.†*

*As disciples of Jesus and lovers of God we seek to be a community where God's love transcends all barriers that oppress and exclude people. These barriers include race, culture, gender, social status, sexual identity and economics as well as misunderstanding and prejudice.*

## **GATHERING**

### **Centering Bell**

**Gathering Song** *O come, O come Immanuel* HWB 172, v 6

### **Welcome**

### **Call to worship<sup>1</sup>**

One: "Then a woman said,

**Many: 'Speak to us of Joy and Sorrow.'**

One: And he answered:

**Many: 'Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.'**

One: And the selfsame well from which your laughter rises was oftentimes filled with your tears.

**Many: And how else can it be?**

One: The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.

**Many: Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup that was burned in the potter's oven?**

One: And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood that was hollowed with knives?

When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow that is giving you joy."

**All: Source of life, bring joy to be born amidst all our sorrows.**

**Hymn** *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee* HWB 71

### **Lighting the Candle of Joy**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

**Scripture Reading** *Luke 1:39-55*  
*Psalms 126:5-6*

### **Children's Time**

**Hymn** *No wind at the window* STS 11

<sup>1</sup> Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

## **Invitation to Reflection**

*What is painful in your life right now?*

*How is your current journey sacred?*

*Where have you found joy?*

## **RESPONDING**

**Hymn** *My soul cries out* STS 124

### **Prayers of the People**

Loving God, **we offer you our prayer.**

**Passing the Peace** *Peace before us*

**Offering** *My soul is filled with joy* STJ 13

## **SENDING**

### **Introductions & Announcements**

**Benediction** *Hope is a candle* STS 15, v1-4

**TODAY** Speaker: *Brian Bolton*; Worship Leader: *Emily North*; Music Leader: *Duane Bontrager*; Children's Time: *Valerie Showalter*; Visuals: *Ruby Friesen Zehr*; Prayers of the People: *Brian Bolton*

### **Worship Calendar | Upcoming Speakers and Events**

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve—5 p.m. | Lessons and Carols

**Dec. 30** Children's Christmas Story & Cookie Potluck

**Jan. 6** Brian Bolton | Epiphany

**Jan. 13** New Member Litany & Congregational Meeting

**Jan. 20** Brian Bolton

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

† Each Sunday in Advent will include references to an advent poem, "The Midwife's Story," and associated woodcut artwork by Margaret Kyle. These are included in a weekly study guide published by Northstone Publishing and available at a link at [shalommc.org](http://shalommc.org). This week's worship includes references from Week 3A "Preparing the Way is Work." Tomorrow's Christmas Eve reflection will be drawn from Week 4A: "Savoring the Birth," on p. 18.

**The special Christmas offering to be received this year is for Midwives for Haiti.** Offerings will be received until Dec. 31. Please write "Midwives for Haiti" in the memo line of your check. (Offerings otherwise unmarked go toward Shalom's operating budget.) See Shalom e-News for more information on their mission.

**Dec 30—Carols, Children's Story, & Cookies**—Shalom has a tradition of an even more informal service the Sunday after Christmas, when you are invited to bring leftover Christmas treats (sweet breads, cookies, snacks), poinsettias or other cheer, and join in one more time of singing carols together. An extended Christmas story will be shared for all to enjoy and reflect upon.

**New Member Ritual | Sunday, Jan. 13**—At least 16 Shalomers have expressed a desire to move or establish their long-term membership with Shalom, and so we're dedicating much of our January 13 worship service to that ritual. Anyone else is invited to join in that day or at a later date—just be in touch with [Brian](#) or [Valerie](#) with interest or questions. It's a ritual we can do just about anytime. In addition to the annual covenant membership ritual in October, long term membership is another concrete way of naming a transition or a threshold in one's sacred journey of faith and community. We look forward to hearing and embracing those who join that day!

**Formation Classes are on break** through Jan. 6. **We look forward to seeing you again on Jan. 13!** During the same time period, there will be no childcare provided. Families are welcome to use the Quiet Room at the top of the ramp, if an alternative space is needed for little ones.

**Save the Date:** Parents of children aged 0 to grade 5 are invited to gather **Sunday, Jan. 13 at 9 a.m.** We'll discuss hopes for living and worshipping together at Shalom. Reps from Formation and Safe Congregation Committees will be present for questions! Child care (and formation classes) provided.

We would love for all of our **women's mentor/mentee pairs** to join us for a **pancake breakfast** on **Sunday, Jan. 27 from 9-10 a.m.** We will meet in the classroom down the hall from the sanctuary. Each pair can sign up to bring a favorite topping or to help prepare the food. (Link in the Shalom e-News.) We look forward to a time of eating and fellowship! Email [brendan.erb@gmail.com](mailto:brendan.erb@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **Budget Report**

|               |             |              |              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Dec. offering | \$16,237    | YTD offering | \$178,633.00 |
| Monthly need  | \$14,521.80 | YTD need     | \$170,844.40 |

**Dec. 16 Attendance**—167; Regular offering—\$2,913.00  
"Midwives for Haiti offering"—\$350.00

### **Worship setup**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday—*Joel Yoder*

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday—*VACANT*

### **Offering & Mic-setup**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday—*Joel Yoder*

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday—*Ellen Miller*

### **Snack schedule & Coffee clean-up**

Today—*Valerie & Justin*

Next Sunday—*Christmas Cookie Potluck- Style Snack*

### **Greeters**

Today—*Faye Yoder*

Tomorrow—*Godshall/Showalter*

Next Sunday—*Hannah Kelley*

### **Formation**

*On break until Jan. 13*