



# Shalom Mennonite Congregation

February 26, 2023 | Lent 1 - Parables

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## GATHERING

Centering Bell

Gathering Song

*Let us Build a House*

VT 36

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymns

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

VT 156

*Spirit, Open my Heart*

VT 636

## HEARING THE WORD

Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

Children's Time

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

## RESPONDING

**Litany of Response**

One: Jesus invites us into the upside down kingdom of God, where the first are last, the table is widened, and we find the presence of God moving in the most unlikely places. But sometimes we are unable to see God at work. When our ways are too narrow and our paths are too comfortable:

**Many: Give us eyes to see as you see.**

One: When we are confused and afraid:

**Many: Give us ears to hear the good news that you are here among us.**

One: When we neglect to extend welcome and mercy to all:

**Many: Give us open hands and hearts.**

One: In our parable today, we hear the call to be merciful with others as you are merciful with us.

Silence for reflection

Hymn

*Open Our Eyes, Lord*

VT 732

**Prayers of the People**

Hymn

*Come and See*

VT 282

*During this time, children and youth are invited to come to the front for StoryTime. Please make sure children bring coats with them.*

**Offering**

*Gentle God, When We Are Driven*

VT 150

## SENDING

**Introductions, Announcements**

**Sending Song**      *Jesus help us live in peace*

VT 719

**Benediction and Passing the Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Brian Bolton, Speaker*

*Jane Peifer, Worship Leader*

*Margaret Wenger Johnson, Children's  
Time*

*James Fairfield, candle lighter/ bell  
ringer*

*Ross Erb, Barb Root, Georgia Metz,  
leading Children's StoryTime*

*Allison Yoder, Dayna Olson-Getty, leading  
Youth Chat and Chew*

*Maria Swartzentruber, snack provider*

*Melody Mast, Music Leader*

*Carrie Yoder, Tech*

*Ruby Friesen Zehr, Visuals*

**Announcements**

**Parents: Lent at Home kits** are available for pick up in the brightly colored bag at the back of the worship space.

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**Parents' Circle in the library next Sunday 11:30-12:15**, youth and children will have their own spaces to talk and play together during this time. Children will go outside so please make sure they are wearing warm clothes!

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**Lent Wednesday night study** on wrestling with peace and violence kicks off on Wednesday March 1 with a discussion on Christian pacifism led by Dr. Ted Grimsrud. 7 pm via Zoom, look for the Zoom link in your newsletter!

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**Climate Task Force Exploratory Meeting:** Tuesday, March 7th (correction to the newsletter, which listed it as March 9th), 5 pm, @ the church office (1086A Smith Avenue).

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**Budget Summary (February 19, 2023)**

**ACTUAL**

Weekly Offering	\$8,411.27
Feb	\$20,483.06
YTD	\$33,866.00

**BUDGETED**

Weekly Offerings	\$5,499.69
Average Monthly	\$23,832.00
YTD	\$43,997.54

*Visitors: Welcome to Shalom! 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). You can also scan the QR code to fill out a survey about yourself or give to Shalom.*



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**Covid/Flu Policy** - Masks are optional at our gatherings, but please join virtually if you are sick or mask if you are unsure or being cautious.

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Shalom Mennonite Congregation is a welcoming and inclusive community rooted in Jesus' radical call to love, justice, and peace.

We seek to grow our welcome and inclusion as we deepen our spirituality, build meaningful relationships, work for peace and social justice, and cultivate diverse community connections.

Visit our website at [shalommc.org/vision](http://shalommc.org/vision) to find out more about who we are, what we do, and what we strive for. You can also read there about our commitment statements regarding inclusion of Many who identify as LGBTQIA+, and our policy and practices around maintaining an environment that protects children from abuse.

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**Office and Mailing Address** 1086A Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802  
**Phone** 540-432-1659

**Staff** Pastors: Brian Bolton, Georgia Metz, Krista Showalter Ehst; Communications Specialist: Carrie Yoder; Bookkeeper: Jooyeon Kim; Facilities Setup Coordinator: Norys Robles; Nursery & Safe Congregations; Administrator: Ellen Miller.

**Congregational Chair:** Tim Godshall

Please contact any member of the Safe Congregation Team 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: Tim Godshall, 540-908-8194, Georgia Metz, 540-830-8490, Ross Erb, 540-435-0350; Brian Bolton, 540-830-8381