



# Shalom Mennonite Congregation

March 12, 2023 | Lent 3 – The Wedding Banquet

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## GATHERING

### Centering Bell

### Gathering Song

*We Are Often Tossed and Driven*

VT 311

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: Hey, friends, it's time for a party!

**Many: Whom shall we invite?**

One: If we invited some deep pockets, it would help our bottom line.

**Many: Whom shall we invite?**

One: Or shall we invite those who are poor, who show mercy, and hunger and thirst for righteousness?

**Many: Whom shall we invite?**

One: The Sacred One has sent the invitation -- all are welcome!

### Hymn

*We Dream of a Turning*

VT 209

## HEARING THE WORD

### Children's Time

### Scripture

Matthew 21:45-22:14

### Sermon

The King Has No Clothes

## 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: Give us these senses so that we may roundly reject the invitation to live according to the creeds of our violent "kings," and instead, follow Jesus -- the one who was cast out, disrobed, and killed for the resistance that is a life lived in grace and love for both enemies and friends.

Silence for reflection

**Hymn** *Open Our Eyes, Lord* VT 732  
**Prayers of the People**  
**Offering**  
**Offering Hymn** *The Love of God* VT 162

**SENDING**

**Introductions, Announcements**

**Sending Song** *The Lord Lift You Up* VT 832

**Benediction and Passing the Peace**

*The peace of Christ be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Brian Bolton, Speaker*

*Earl Martin, Worship Leader*

*Georgia Metz, Children's Time*

*Barbara Moyer Lehman, Music Leader*

*Steve Jones, Daniel Zook, Brian Bolton,*

*Musicians*

*Georgia Metz, Prayers of the People*

*Melody Mast, Aaron Kishbaugh, Joel Yoder,*

*Tech*

*Ruby Frisen Zehr, Visuals*

**Announcements**

**Monday, March 13, 10-11:30 am:** Shalom Sage Gathering, Fifth Floor Lounge of VMRC's Park Gables

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Join our Discover Your Spiritual Type class next two Sundays at 9 am, in the classroom down the hall

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This Wednesday at 7 pm via Zoom, Lisa Shirch will join us to talk about Mennonite response to war in foreign countries and how we might live as people of peace in the face of international conflict. Look for the link in your email newsletter!

**Upcoming Birthdays**

Mar 13 - Irene Beachy Alderfer

Mar 13 - Sallie Beachy Alderfer

Mar 14 - Kelsey Brubaker

Mar 16 - Karen Suderman

Mar 18 - Becky Johnston

Mar 20 - Paul Versluis

**Budget Summary (March 5, 2023)**

**ACTUAL**

Weekly Offering \$21,180.65

March \$21,180.65

YTD \$58,388.97

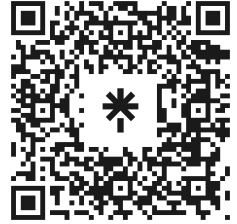
**BUDGETED**

Weekly Offerings \$5,499.69

Average Monthly \$23,832.00

YTD \$54,996.92

*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 access the giving link for 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