



# Shalom Mennonite Congregation

May 7, 2023 - Fourth Sunday after Easter

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## GATHERING

**Centering Bell & Candle lighting**

**Gathering Song**                    *Come Thou Fount*                    VT 563

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: People of God, look about and see the faces  
of those we know and love -

**Many: neighbors and friends,  
sisters and brothers -  
a community of kindred hearts.**

One: People of God,  
look about and see the faces of those we hardly know -

**Many: strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,  
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

One: People of God,  
look about you and see  
all the images of God assembled here.

**Many: In me, in you, in each of us,  
God's Spirit shines for all to see.**

One: People of God, come.  
**All: Let us worship together.**

**Hymns**                    *God Speaks To Us In Bird and Song*                    VT 539  
    *Teach Me Thy Truth*    VT 776

## HEARING THE WORD

**Children's Time**

**Scripture**                    Romans 1:1-17

**Sermon**                         *Letter to God Knows Who*

## RESPONDING

**Hymn of Response**   *How many times we start again*                    VT 553

**Blessing for Graduates** (see insert)

**Austin Sachs:** Masters in Applied Economics from George Washington University (December 2022)

**Alyssa Burkholder:** Masters in Mental Health Counseling from Eastern Mennonite University

**Carrie Wenger:** Masters in Divinity, Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Eastern Mennonite University

**Carrie Yoder:** Bachelor of Arts in History and Social Science Secondary Education from Eastern Mennonite University

**Jooyeon Kim:** Masters in Accounting from James Madison University

**Hannah Mack Boll:** Master of Clinical Nursing with a Clinical Nurse Leader Certification from the University of Virginia

**Paloma Saucedo:** Masters in Social Work with a Certificate in School Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University

### **Litany of Blessing**

On this day of celebration and opportunity,  
May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships  
**So that you may live deep within your heart.**

May God bless you with holy anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,  
**So that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
**So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.**

May God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
**So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all of God's children.**

And may God bless you with love  
For yourself, your neighbor, for the earth, and God,  
**So that you will find unflinching hope and joy in all that you do.**

## Prayers of the People

### Offering

Offering Hymn     *Ask The Complicated Questions*     VT 440

### SENDING

#### Introductions & Announcements

Sending Song     *May God Bless You and Keep You*     VT 846  
(we'll sing alternate words in italics)

#### Benediction Litany of Resurrection

One: Christ says we are bearers of good news for the world.

**Many: We will not be ashamed of that gospel.**

One: Christ tells us we are beloved and included.

**Many: We will seek to live assured of that Sacred Love.**

One: Christ says we will bear good fruit.

**Many: We will go, encouraged to share our gifts,  
and encourage others to see and share theirs, too.**

One: The Peace of the Resurrected Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(Greet one another and offer each other Peace)*

*Herb Myers, Worship Leader  
Brian Bolton, Speaker  
Ros Erb, Children's Time  
Stan Godshall, Music Leader*

*Sarah Myers, Visuals  
Georgia Metz, Prayers of the People  
Brandon Chupp, Tech*

### Today at Shalom:

All are welcome to stay after worship for our Snackluck and grad celebration.

### Coming up at Shalom:

**Monday May 8, 10-11:30 am:** Shalom Sage gathering at the fifth floor lounge of VMRC's Park Gables.

**Wednesday, May 10, 7:00 p.m.: Women's Group** gathering at the home of Cathy Smeltzer Erb, 455 Monte Vista Drive, Rockingham. All are welcome!

**Sunday, May 14, 11:30 am:** Parents' Circle, with activities for kids/youth

**Saturday, May 20, 4-7 pm:** Family Picnic @ Starry Meadows

**Budget Summary (April 23, 2023–no budget update this week)**

ACTUAL

Weekly Offering      \$2,666.27  
April                    \$15,822.56  
YTD                     \$78,627.17

BUDGETED

Weekly Offerings      \$5,499.69  
Average Monthly      \$83,520.71  
YTD                     \$93,494.77

*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: Virginia Showalter; 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