

Hymn *Wisdom from on High Is Dawning* VT 238
Scripture Isaiah 40:1-11
Sermon

RESPONDING

Hymn *My Soul Cries Out* VT 412

Prayers of the People

Storytime Hymn *Seeds* VT 777

**Children ages 5-11 are invited to leave worship for a snack & story*

Offering *Everything You Know Melts Away Like Snow*
by Daniel Norgren

SENDING

Introductions, Announcements

Sending Song *Heart with Loving Heart United* VT 813

Benediction and Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Peter Fairfield, Worship Leader

Krista Showalter Ehst, Speaker

Brandon Chupp, Music Leader

Tim Godshall, Musician

Emily Hershberger, Visuals

Bethany Versluis Fairfield,

Children's Time

Brian Bolton, Prayers

Aaron Kishbaugh, Scripture Reader

Erika Babikow, Joe Hochstetler, Amelia

Hochstetler, Candle Lighters

Daniel Zook, AV Tech

Alison Yoder, Zoom Host

Maria Swartzentruber, Daisy Hamsher,

Daniel Showalter, Paulina Valencia,

leading Children's StoryTime

Maria Swartzentruber, Storytime snack

Advent 2023 - God's Promises

This Advent we hold in contrast very difficult circumstances and God's promises of Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. Our prophetic scriptures show that we are not the first to live in these tensions. Like many ancient followers, we wait and work for Shalom justice for all. We grieve and celebrate as we worship the sacred Shepherd who draws near.

Today at Shalom

10 am: Worship. Staffed nursery for children through age 5 is available.

~11 am: (after prayers) Children's Storytime

11:30 am: Mentor/Mentee college care package assembly

3-4:30: Middle School Small Groups

Final Sunday for College-aged Care Package collection

Coming Up at Shalom

Dec 8, 7 pm: Women's Group, meets at Cathy Smeltzer Erb's home

Dec 10, 8:30 am: Christmas Pageant practice

Dec 10: While the children are making final preparations for the Christmas pageant, parents are welcome to gather for Parents' Circle in the Library.

Dec 10: Christmas Pageant during worship

Dec 17, 4:30 pm: Christmas Caroling & Party

Dec 19, 4-6 pm: Youth Christmas Party

Dec 24, 10 am: Christmas Eve Worship in the morning

Royals: Come find Georgia at Common Grounds between 1-3 every Tuesday and she will buy you a drink!

Advent Devotionals: Advent devotionals for adults are available for a suggested donation of \$15.

Shalom traditionally takes a special offering at our Christmas Pageant. This year, we'll continue the themes of our Fall Climate Book Study and contribute offerings towards Creative Solutions for the Environment, a Malawi-based Environmental Non-Profit where Tom Benevento and Margot Zahner have been spending time this fall. You can find more information about this organization in the newsletter.

Budget Summary (November 26, 2023)

ACTUAL

Weekly Offering \$ 6,320.75

November \$16,273.16

YTD \$217,329.34

BUDGETED

Weekly Offerings \$5,499.69

Average Monthly \$23,832.00

YTD \$263,985.23

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. You can also scan the QR code to fill out a survey about yourself or access the giving link for Shalom.



Shalom Mennonite Congregation

December 3, 2023

Advent 2: Amidst Our Weariness, God Promises Love

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.

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 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.

Office and Mailing Address: 1086A Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802

Phone: 540-432-1659

Staff Pastors: Brian Bolton, Georgia Metz, Krista Showalter Ehst; Administrative Assistant: Sandy Wenger; Bookkeeper: Joo 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

GATHERING

Centering Bell

Gathering Song *Prepare the Way! the Prophet Called* VT 220

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn *Comfort, Comfort, O My People* VT 212

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Time

Advent Candlelighting

Voice 1: The grass dries up; the flower withers, but our God's word will exist forever.

Voice 2: Amidst Our Weariness,

All: God Promises Love.

Voice 1: We light this candle to show that we trust in your enduring voice to comfort and guide us, even in death's valleys.

Voice 2: God of Love,

All: We will re-echo your voice from the mountaintops, and welcome you as the shepherd of our salvation.