

Prayer of Confession

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often miss the good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.**

RESPONDING

Hymn *You're Not Alone* VT 779

Prayers of the People

Children ages 5-11 are welcome to go to StoryTime following prayers, while we sing VT 777, Seeds.

SENDING

Introductions, Announcements

Sending Song *Sing a New World into Being* VT 809

Benediction and Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Andrew Payton, Worship Leader
Melody Mast, Music Leader
Brian Bolton, Speaker
Krista Showalter Ebst, Prayers
Jan Emswiler, Visuals
Ross Erb, Children's Time*

*Lori Hostetler, Candlelighting
Monique Tshibola, Daniel Zook,
Allison Yoder, AV Tech
Andrew Yoder, Offering/Mics
Maria Swartzentruber, Daniel
Showalter, ST*

Advent Season

As we move through our Advent & Christmas series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy.

Today at Shalom

9 am: Parents' Circle

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

~ (after prayers) Children's Storytime

4-6 pm: Youth Christmas Party @ EMS

Coming up at Shalom:

Dec 10, 7 pm: Worship Team

Dec 11, 7 pm: Women's Group, at the home of Cathy Smeltzer Erb: 455 Monte Vista Drive, Rockingham. Newcomers welcome!

Dec 15, 8:30 am: Christmas Pageant practice

10 am: Christmas Pageant during worship

4 pm: Caroling (meet at EMS)

5:30 pm: Christmas Party @ EMS.

Sign up to bring finger food via the link in the newsletter.

Dec 24, 5 pm: Christmas Eve Service @ EMS

Announcements

Next Sunday, December 15: Join us for the children's Christmas pageant during worship at 10 am! Then, meet us back at EMS at 4 pm for caroling and 5:30 pm for the potluck Christmas party.

College students: Please pick up a finals-week care package and a scarf of your choice from the foyer after worship! Good luck on your finals and have a wonderful winter break, with love from Shalom.

Budget Summary (December 1, 2024)

<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGETED</u>	
Weekly Offering	\$4,211.74	Weekly Offerings	\$5,672.00
December	\$4,211.74	Average Monthly	\$ 24,579.00
YTD	\$258,814.44	YTD	\$272,256.00

Attendance: 133, **Zoom:** 11, **Youtube:** 12

Shalom welcomes donations online (scan the QR code or go to shalommc.org/give), via mail, or in-person using the offering box in the foyer. Each week in worship we'll bless our gifts at the end of Prayers of the People.

Visitors: Welcome to Shalom! If you would like to be on our mailing list or be contacted by someone on the 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

Rest. Remember. Renew.

December 8, 2024 | Second Sunday of Advent

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: Austin Sachs

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: Ellen Miller, 540-383-4209, Georgia Metz, 540-830-8490, Ross Erb, 540-435-0350; Doug Root, (814) 233-9870

GATHERING

Centering Bell

Gathering Song *Wisdom from on High is Dawning* VT 238

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting

One: How does a weary world practice peace?

Many: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

One: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

Many: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

One: There are a million ways to practice peace. (*light candle*) So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

Many: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

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

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Time

Scripture

Luke 1:24-25

Hymn

Unexpected and Mysterious

VT 229

Sermon