

RESPONDING

Hymn *Don't Be Afraid* VT 596

Blessing for Return from Sabbatical

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 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!* VT 752

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

**Online and in-person participants are welcome to share a prayer concern, or light a candle at the side table. Raise your hand and a mic will be brought to you. We respond to 'Loving God,' with 'We offer you our prayer.'*

Melody Mast, Worship Leader/Visuals

Joel Ross, Music Leader

Steve Jones, Becca Bauer, Eric Olson

Getty, Musicians

Georgia Metz, Children's Time

Brian Bolton, Sermon/Prayers

Theda Good, Zoom Host

Peter Fairfield, Herb Myers, AV

Duane Bontrager, Mics

Georgia Metz, Maria

Swartzentruber, ST

Today

9 am: Story Time Orientation for all Story Time volunteers

10 am: Worship. New School Year Blessing, and a blessing for the Bolton Hershberger family as they return from sabbatical. Plus the return of nursery and Story Time!

Coming Up at Shalom

Aug 23, 2 pm: Memorial Service for Carroll Yoder, with Reception to follow

August 24, 10 am: Worship. Staffed nursery for children through age 5 is available.

Aug 24: Youth Retreat @ Caroline Furnace

Sept 12-14: Congregational Retreat @ Brethren Woods

Announcements

Shalom Congregational Retreat: Save the date for our annual retreat, Sept 12-14 at Brethren Woods! Please RSVP. Retreat is free for all; we also welcome contributions to help offset the cost.

Safe Church Training: There will be a Safe Church training on September 13, from 9-12 at Park View Mennonite Church. This training fulfills requirements for our Approved Adult status.

Budget Summary (August 11 2025)

ACTUAL

Weekly Offering	\$ 5,234.55
August	\$ 16,336.80
YTD	\$174,467.11

BUDGETED

Weekly Offerings	\$ 6,160.58
Average Monthly	\$ 26,695.85
YTD	\$197,138.56

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.

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.



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 Address: 1110 Smith Ave, Harrisonburg VA 22802

Mailing Address: EMU, Campus Box 8, 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: Katie Mansfield

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

Shalom Mennonite Congregation

Rest. Remember. Renew.

Redeemed in Exile: Called By Our Names

August 17, 2025

GATHERING

Centering Bell

Gathering Songs *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table* VT 801
Draw the Circle VT 802

Welcome

Call to Worship

Adapted from VT 866

One: Open our ears

All: to hear your calling.

One: Open our eyes

All: to see your movement among us.

One: Open our hands

All: to do what is needed.

One: Open our minds

All: to the beauty of what is true.

One: Open our hearts

All: to the hope and joy of the next steps on our journey.

Hymn *My Love Colors Outside the Lines* VT 582

HEARING THE WORD

Kindergarten Blessing

See Insert

Blessing for the New School Year

See Insert

Hymn

I Saw a Tree by the Riverside

VT 514

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon

Kindergarten Blessing

One: Today we celebrate our children at Shalom,
especially this kindergartener.

Many: Children remind us how to play, to have delight and wonder. They challenge us to think in new ways and be open to new ideas.

Parents: We are grateful for you and your place in our family.

Many: We are grateful that you are part of our Shalom family.

One: We ask God to bless your learning at home, at school,
and at play.

**Many: We love you and want to grow with you.
We will celebrate your successes
and stand by you when you fail.**

One: As Jesus blessed the little children, we bless you, young friend.

ALL: May you grow in wisdom, faith, and love.

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Blessing for the New School Year

One: Source of all Wisdom, at the start of this new school year,

Many: Bless us as learners, teachers, and seekers.

One: Give us strength to grow in body, mind, and spirit.
Help us to be curious about your creation.

**Many: Keep us mindful of others who are
learning and growing alongside us.**

One: Give us courage to explore the gifts you have given us,
and in gratitude, freely share them with others.

**ALL: God, Source of all Wisdom, bless each of these students of
life this year.**

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Blessing for Return from Sabbatical

One: You took time to rest.

All: May we all take time to rest.

One: We missed each one of you: your presence, your humor,
your creativity, your caring words and looks and actions,
your engagement and effort.

And we managed to keep on keepin' on.

We give thanks for shared leadership and community.

**All: You are critical members of our beloved Shalom
community, and we honor that re-entry may take some
time. We've got this.**

One: We welcome you back with open arms, eager hearts,
curious ears, healing prayers, our own stories of grief and
joy, and welcome tables.

All: Your presence among us is a treasure.

**We are grateful for the renewal that allows us
to continue the journey together.**

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