

Blessing of Higher Education Graduates, cont'd

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 unflagging hope and joy in all that you do.

Storytime Song *Seeds* VT 777
Children ages 5-11 are welcome to go to Storytime during song.

Prayers of the People
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.'

SENDING

Introductions, Announcements

Sending Song *As We Rise, O God, to Meet You* VT 39

Passing the Peace
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Andrew Payton, Worship Leader
Joel Ross, Music Leader
Brian Bolton, Speaker
Georgia Metz, Prayers
Kirsten Beachy, Dale Gehman,
Children's Time
Bethany Versluis Fairfield, Visuals

Leland Ropp, Zoom
Nate Clark, Christopher Clymer
Kurtz, AV
Theda Good, Offering/Mics
Cindy Miller, Tim Godshall, ST

Today

9:00 am: Adult Formation - JooYeon Kim & Daniel Showalter

10:00 am: Worship, childcare available through age 5

11:15, following worship: Snackluck

3:00 pm: Youth group at the office (1110 Smith Ave)

Coming Up

April 27, 7 pm: Children's Team

April 29, 6 pm: Climate Potluck @ Shalom office

May 1, 10 am: Intergenerational Gathering @ VMRC

May 3, 9 am: Baptism Class, session 3

May 3, 10 am: Worship, childcare available through age 5

May 3, 4 pm: Nate Miller's Memorial Service @ Brethren Woods

Our Graduates:

Eastern Mennonite University

Leah Beachy	Maria Longenecker
Ivan Betancourt	Hollyn Miller
Daisy Hamsher	Joshua Stucky
Sara Kennel	Kate Stutzman
Naomi Kratzer	Sean Swartley

Other

Rebeca Barge, JMU, PhD
Charlotte Shristi, Massage

Seminary

Karen Suderman
Mike Ramer

April 19 - Budget Summary

ACTUAL

Weekly Offering	\$23,505.49
April	\$41,002.48
YTD	\$107,174.20

BUDGETED

Weekly Offering	\$6,483.69
Average Monthly	\$28,096.00
YTD	\$107,739.09

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, 1200 Park Rd, 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: Melody Mast

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

April 26, 2026 | Extending our Borders

GATHERING

Centering Bell

Gathering Song *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

VT 9

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather together, guests at God's table.

Many: Nourish us, God, with the bread of life.

One: We gather together, sheep of God's pasture.

Many: Guide us, God, into life abundant.

One: We gather together, members of God's family.

Many: Dwell with us, God, now and always.

Hymns *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* VT 640

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Time

Scripture Acts 2:42-47, John 10:6-10

Special Music *My Shepherd* John Asa Hertzler

Sermon

RESPONDING

Hymn *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us*

VT 718

Blessing of Higher Education Graduates

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.