



Gather. Glorify. Grow. Go.

Shalom Baptist Church Newsletter

March 2026



THE SHALOM NEWSLINE

"For now the winter is past; the rain has ended and gone away. The blossoms appear in the countryside. The time of singing has come...: Song of Songs 2:11-12"



Church Staff

Rev. Mark Miller.....Senior Pastor
Jean Dart.....Minister of Music & Worship
Kathy Seay.....Children's Ministry Director
Adam Crigger.....Interim Youth Director
Jeff Farrier..... Church Musician
Kelly Bittler.....Ministry Assistant

Contact Us

8116 Walnut Grove Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111
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Church Office Hours
Monday: 8:30am-5pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30am-4:30pm,
Thursday: 8:30am-2pm

Mark's Minute

In his book, Let Me Say That Again, Pastor Maxie Dunnam says:

“Love is a decision. It is something we do—an act of the will that gives itself unselfishly for the good and enrichment of another.”

The word, “love” gets tossed around a lot these days. I love pizza. I love to golf. I love my wife (not in that order, of course). Have you noticed how often “love” is cheapened in our society. Love is mistaken for “like”. Love is mistaken for attraction. Love is mistaken for lust. Sitcoms treat one-night stands as normal...and marriage as disposable. “Love” is tossed around frivolously and carelessly. Certainly, the picture of the old married couple sitting at the dinner table, eating in silence, perpetuates the idea that “TRUE LOVE” is a foreign concept:

The husband, focusing on his food says: “Could you pass me the potatoes, please?” His wife looks over at him, pauses for a moment, and then, out of the blue says, “Do you love me?”

He responds, “Of course I do. What kind of crazy question is that?”

She then says, “I want to hear it.”

“Hear what?”

“I want to hear you say, ‘I love you’”

“I love ya,” he says halfheartedly.

“No. Say it like you MEAN it.”

“I LOVE ya! Now would you pass me the potatoes?”

What is “true” love? Dr. Dunnam says it is “a decision”. We must CHOOSE to love. “To love” is an action—it takes effort on our part. Love is not forced, coerced, or chosen for us. If I had said to Tiffany, my wife, when I first met her, “You BETTER love me” there would have been no first date.

“Agape love” is to love like God loves. It is unconditional love...a love that is not dependent upon the circumstances nor dependent upon how much love you or I get back in return. That kind of love “gives itself unselfishly for the good and enrichment of another.” Love involves giving of yourself. Love involves selflessness...

...And love involves RISK. To love is to risk. Not long ago, a widow was telling me about how wonderful her marriage relationship had been. Tears came to her eyes when she shared how difficult it had been since her husband had passed away. Why was that so hard? Because both of them had taken a risk to love the other deeply. Both of them had taken the risk to unselfishly give to the other.

God certainly took a risk to love us... we are a rebellious bunch, likely not thanking Him enough, often taking for granted what He has done for us, and sometimes even blaming Him for the things that happen to us in our lives. But He still loves us—and when Jesus hung on that cross, that was evidence enough of how much risk our Father took to love us! “For God so LOVED the world that He GAVE...” (John 3:16). “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13). Love truly. Love deeply. Love risky. I love you and am privileged to serve alongside you!

Pastor Mark



March 4th
SLOPPY JOE SANDWICH

March 11th
HERB CHICKEN THIGHS

March 18th
BAKED ZITI

March 25th
CHICKEN PARMESEAN

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
\$2.00 for children
\$15.00 per family

Each week reservation cards will be in the bulletin. Please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate or call the church office with your reservation by 3:00pm Monday and leave a message.

Shut-In of the Month:

Bonnie Custalow

**7119 E Brooks Farm Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111**

Please remember Bonnie this month by sending her a card. It means so much to our Shut-Ins, that they are remembered and that we still care.



Meet our Deacon for the month of March:

Doug Tomlin





formally



The Sisters in Service Circle will meet Monday, March 9th at 10:00 in the Co-Ed classroom. All ladies are invited!

The Beloved Circle will meet Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 pm at the home of Lori Glass.

The Souper Bowl contest brought in 315 cans of soup for MCEF and Moments of Hope. The 1st place Golden Soup Can Trophy went to the Friendship Class, for the third year!!! The 2nd place Silver Soup Can Trophy went to the Canfield Class! **Thank you, Shalom!**

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, May 3rd, 2026: Rise Against Hunger packing event will be held in our fellowship hall. We will pack 14,000+ meals for those in our world in need. Sign-up sheets will be available soon. We will need a set-up crew, packers and clean-up crew.

Saturday, December 5th, Dover Annual Christmas Tea will be held here at Shalom. If you would like to help, contact Ann McFaden.

**Week of Prayer &
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**

Churches observe the Week of Prayer for North American Missions by praying for missionaries, their families, and their ministries. These missionaries need you to step into their stories through your prayers as they often face opposition, discouragement and battle loneliness. **The week of prayer is March 1st-8th.** The offering for North American missions was named after Annie Armstrong, whose devotion to Christ led her to a life of service and leadership. She organized women to pray, to give and to meet the needs around them. Offering envelopes are available in your offering box and in the church lobby. **Our church goal is \$3,500.00. We will be collecting through the month of March.**





**Monday, March 23rd
7:00 pm**

Just Breathe is a group of caregivers who are experiencing some of the same tears, joys, concerns, frustrations & prayers. Join us for an hour to let go and "Just Breathe"



March Collection

Sock it to'em for Jesus. Our sole purpose for the month of March is to collect crew socks for men, women & children-any size. Please place socks in the blue grocery cart outside the fellowship hall.



Father, You are the provider of everything we have, and as we cruise into March we pray that everyone who wears these Holy socks will be reminded of Jesus message, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me". John 14:6



The Cancer Support Group meets every **4th TUESDAY** of the month at **11:00 am.**

**Next Meeting
Tuesday, March 24th
11:00 am**



Strength in the Journey

Strength in the Journey is a ministry for those who have lost their spouse and are seeking the support of others navigating a different path in this life's journey. You are welcome to join our next meeting on **Monday, March 16th at 11:30 am.** We will have a guest speaker, Ted Tussy, retired associate pastor of Cool Spring Baptist Church. Bring your lunch and enjoy our fellowship time together here at Shalom.



From the Office:



- Church Council Meeting-Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 pm.
- **Daylight Saving Time Begins on Sunday, March 8th.**
Spring forward!
- April Newsletter entries are due Wednesday, March 25th.
- Monday, April 13th-Life Line Screening



Raceway Ministry

We are in need of six strong abled-bodied people who are willing to serve the Lord by setting up and taking down tables, chairs, and pop-up canopy tents on:

Thursday, August 13th
11:00 am-2:00 pm

Saturday, August 15th
7:00 pm-8:00 pm

Please contact Kari Smith if interested in helping with this ministry opportunity.



We will continue our study of Genesis during March on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am in the Co-Ed classroom.

We welcome your participation as we grow in our relationship with Christ.

We have purchased 10 tickets for the Ignite Men's Impact weekend on March 13-14 at Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA. This conference starts on Friday evening and concludes at 5:00 pm on Saturday. If you are interested in attending or need more information, please talk to Ken Hein.

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, March 10th - Dinner at Riverbound at 6:00 pm.
- Saturday, April 11th - Men's Breakfast at Shalom at 8:30 am.
- Sunday, May 5th -Wednesday, May 8th - Bland Ministry Center spring trip. Open to both men and women as we "GO" and serve others.
- Saturday, May 23rd - Fun, Fishing, & Fellowship at Dr. Jeff Wilson's lake in King William



KIDS CORNER

SAVE THE DATE

CHILDREN'S EASTER EVENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

10:00 AM-1:00 PM



Egg Hunt, Bounce Houses, Petting Zoo, Cup
Cake Walk and other fun events!



We are collecting individually wrapped
Easter candy. Please place your donations in
the white cart located at the welcome center
in the church lobby.



AN OVERNIGHT RETREAT

MOM & ME

FOR ELEMENTARY GIRLS & THEIR MENTORS

April 24th & 25th

Contact Kathy Seay if interested
in going!

Save the Date
Touch-A-Truck & Resource Fair
Saturday, June 6th

Rain Date: June 27th

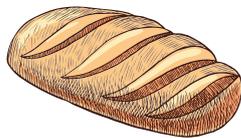


SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 22ND-26TH

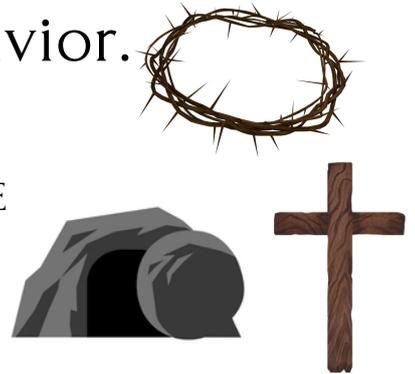




Join us for Holy Week as we remember and worship our risen Savior.



MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 2 – TENEBRAE SERVICE
APRIL 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

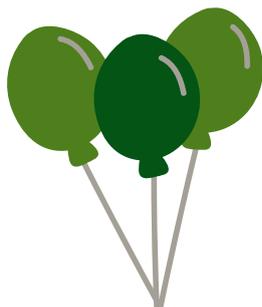


MORE DETAILS TO COME. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING TOGETHER!



March Anniversaries

1st	Jim & Dawn Luginbuhl
19th	Kevin & Christy Lane
20th	Glen & Millie Daniel
23rd	Leif & Gretchen West
26th	Roy & Janice Carswell
28th	Rebekah & Chris Taylor
	Gary & Liz Whitt
29th	Brian & Kathy Seebeck

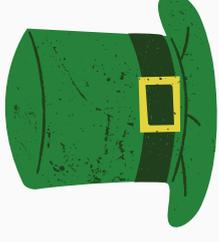


March Birthday's

5th	Deborah Wright	19th	Judy Coiner
7th	Betty Leadbetter		Mary Lee Wilberger
9th	Millie Daniel	20th	Randy Crew
	Margaret Higgins	22nd	Peggy Lambert
10th	Brenda Beish	23rd	Leyna Duval
	Joan Durvin	24th	Virginia Clark
11th	Kimberly Sullivan	25th	Bonnie Custalow
12th	Charity Baker	26th	Sonya Blommel
15th	Carson Brooks		Bill Mick
	Robyn Chewning	28th	Allen Layne
16th	June Cross	29th	Trish Woodson
	Mitzi Hubble	30th	Byron Blake
17th	Sheryl Snellings	31st	Chuck Rush



MARCH 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved (Special Events) 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 12:30pm Church Incorporation Committee Meeting 3:00pm Tenebrae Rehearsal 3:30pm Girl Scout Meeting	2 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Small Group Bible Study (Bowles)	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	4 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Living Waters Bible Study 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 4:30pm Children & Youth Pickleball 5:30pm Adult Pickleball	6	7 Fellowship Hall Reserved (H. McGehee)
8 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 1:30pm Deacon's Meeting 3:00pm Tenebrae Rehearsal	9 10:00am WMU Sisters in Service Circle Meeting 11:00am Staff Meeting	10 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Men's Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Men's Ministry Dinner 7:00pm Stewardship Meeting	11 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Living Waters Bible Study 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30am GBC Preschool-Fellowship Hall 4:30pm Children & Youth Pickleball 5:30pm Adult Pickleball	13 Ignite Men's Impact Weekend	14 Ignite Men's Impact Weekend
15 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 3:00pm Tenebrae Rehearsal	16 11:00am Staff Meeting 11:30am Strength in the Journey Meeting 6:00pm Small Group Bible Study (Bowles)	17 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Properties Committee Meeting	18 8:30am GBC Preschool-Fellowship Hall Reserved 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Living Waters Bible Study 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 4:30pm Children & Youth Pickleball 5:30pm Adult Pickleball	20	21 Noble Warriors Men's Conference
22 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School 3:00pm Tenebrae Rehearsal	23 Shut-In/Hospital Visitation Day 9:00am Feedmore Truck Meeting 11:00am Endowment Committee Meeting 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm EMT Meeting 7:00pm Just Breathe Caregiver Support Group	24 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 11:00am Cancer Support Group Meeting 6:30pm Personnel Committee Meeting	25 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Living Waters Bible Study 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 Raisin' Canes 9:00am GBC Preschool-(Inclement Weather Facility Use for Program) 4:30pm Children & Youth Pickleball 5:30pm Adult Pickleball	27	28 10:00am Children's Easter Event
29 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:20am He/Brews Cafe 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:15pm Young Adult Sunday School	30 11:00am Staff Meeting	31 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Walking in the Gym 9:45am Men's Choir Rehearsal	1 5:30pm Supper 6:15pm Bible Study 6:15pm Children's Ministry Program 6:15pm Living Waters Bible Study 6:15pm Praise Team 6:15pm Youth	2 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	3 Good Friday	4



Shalom Baptist Church

8116 Walnut Grove Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Shalom's Calendar QR Code:

Open your camera on your smart phone. Move your camera so the QR code is in the frame. You'll see the code's URL appear, tap on it to open that URL.

