

Week of August 23, 2020

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## Sunday, August 23

**10:00 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live, no Public Worship** Guest Preacher Steve Godsall-Myers will preach on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; *A lesson in sowing - the good soil of God's Word*

## For Your Prayers List

- **Kass Landis,** Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Lorraine Landis,** Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Joy Sutter, Moderator for MCUSA**

## Sunday, August 16

Offering  
\$3,300  
ACH Electronic Offering  
\$1,895  
Vanco Online Offering  
\$3,572  
**Total Budget Offering \$8,767**

## Future Salford Events

If you have information or prayer requests for our newsletter, please submit this to the church office by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please submit your email address to [alderferb@salfordmc.org](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org)

## Calling Through the Congregation

Between now and the end of August, the Pastoral Team, with help from a many others, is hoping to reach each household with a phone call. We are interested in hearing how you are experiencing life right now, including how connected, or disconnected, you may be feeling in regards to church.

In this time when we all are needing to be flexible, creative, and careful, your responses will help leaders understand better how to help our church be the church in this time. Watch for a call between now and the end of August. And if you have questions, feel free to contact Dorcas Lehman, Interim Assistant Pastor at [lehmandm@gmail.com](mailto:lehmandm@gmail.com) or 717-330-2620.

## Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet monthly. The Lead Pastor position has been advertised and we are beginning to receive interest from candidates. You can help promote this exciting opportunity by [sharing the job posting](#) with qualified candidates and connected persons in your networks.

COVID-19 has presented our committee with some unique challenges. We are working diligently to familiarize ourselves with best interview practices and staying up-to-date on congregational needs. In addition, members of the Pastoral Search Committee are taking time to explore and reflect on our own biases in order to be aware of and mitigate any impact on the search.

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue this important work.

## Fellowship Picnics at Salford

For those who signed up for a Fellowship picnic, your picnic date will be assigned to you early next week. Look for you assignment to come to you by email on Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We will also send you instructions for the event with your email.

## Church Board Update On the LGBTQ+ Welcome Survey

As reported in the July 26 worship service ([view the announcement here](#)), the board has begun work on reviewing the responses to our recent welcoming survey. We are grateful for the strong response, which provides us with a great deal of information to review. As has normally been the case, the board is taking a break from our usual meeting schedule for the month of August and will meet again in September. We will continue our work at our next meeting and look forward to sharing the results of the survey after the board has fully processed this work.

## Salford Reopening Update and Survey

### Reopening Task Force recommendation at this time

The Reopening committee at Salford – made up of Salford staff, health care

professionals, facility, childcare and AV representatives – met most recently on August 5 to discuss possible in-person worship and activities. Considering public health recommendations from PA state government and the CDC, the task force encourages a continued cautious approach to in-person gatherings at Salford. ***The***

***Task Force recommends that no large group worship or gatherings occur in the sanctuary or other spaces until at least October 18<sup>th</sup>.***

- a) Children's Sunday school will not take place in person this fall. We are exploring multi-age at-home options and will be having monthly themes around the Fruits of the Spirit for families to grow together. We will keep the "church at home" page of our website up to date with Children's bulletins, discussion questions, and other items that connect. Junior and senior youth groups will continue to gather online and in small groups outdoors, following restrictions.
- b) Various adult second hour classes have been meeting online, and we encourage them to continue to do so during this time.
- c) The possibility of some small group gatherings at church is being explored.

**We invite your feedback. Please respond by Wednesday August 26, 2020.**

**[As we seek to maintain both fellowship and safety for all, we value hearing your responses to the following questions, click here for the survey](#)**

### **Salford Reopening committee assessment of current situation**

The Reopening committee at Salford considered the following factors in making their recommendation:

- a) As a result of cooperation by citizens with mask wearing, social distancing, and contact tracing, Montgomery County continues to make progress in containment of the virus. However there continue to be a great number of unknowns concerning the future of the pandemic, including increasing case counts in some regions and the reopening of schools and colleges. The virus does not respect county or other borders.
- b) The PA Governor currently directs that indoor gatherings be limited to no more than 25 persons to mitigate the spread of the virus. While houses of worship have an exemption from this directive, the Re-opening committee does not view indoor gatherings over 25 persons to be wise at this time.
- c) Our building's HVAC systems do not presently allow for introduction of fresh air into our spaces. Group singing is also recognized as one of the most high-risk activities for spreading the virus. The air handling systems within our facility are being further evaluated to explore the possibility of fresh air introduction.
- d) Our virtual Sunday morning worship services have been widely attended and appreciated. Virtual worship will be part of our worship experience for the foreseeable future.

## **This Week at Salford**

### **Sunday, August 30**

10:00 a.m. Salford Worship  
Preaching: Maria Hosler Byler

## **Our Church Family**

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For ***Lester and Louise Alderfer*** as Lester continues recovery in Doylestown Hospital following double by-pass surgery this past Wednesday.
- For ***Sam and Sharon Godshall*** for healing and comfort for Sam during his hospitalization for sepsis and significant decline in health, and for strength for Sharon as she accompanies him
- For ***Steve and Lois Hackman*** as Steve continues at Holy Redeemer Hospital;

may light and love, healing and hope touch them both as Steve continues battling depression

- For **Ed Miller, father of Chris Miller**, as he heals from heart surgery he had on Thursday, **and for Chris** as he spends time with his family in Iowa.
- For **students and their families, teachers and administrators**, as the school year begins in all the forms it will take this year. For a sense of grounding in the midst of shifting and uncertainties; for good routines that benefit everyone; for services made accessible to the most vulnerable students; for grace and strength in each household, particularly where the stress is heightened and new paths forward are being attempted.

This week all congregations in Mosaic Mennonite Conference are praying for the **Delaware Valley MEDA** (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) hub. The mission of MEDA is to provide business solutions to poverty. We are invited to join in prayer for:

- MEDA clients who are experiencing setbacks in their businesses because of COVID-19, natural disasters, and government resistance to their work.
- MEDA president, Dorothy Nyambi, and her staff, as they make important decisions regarding MEDA's work.
- our local Delaware Valley MEDA hub as they strive to increase awareness of MEDA's mission and vision.

To read more about Delaware Valley MEDA, [click here](#).

### ***Birthday Blessings...***

To **Gladys Yoder**, who celebrates her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Journeying together toward Racial Justice**

*Updates on Salford justice initiatives as well as resources to help center a commitment to antiracism as individuals and as a congregation:*

The third meeting of the **Racial Justice Learning Group** takes place this Sun., Aug. 23, 7-8:30p.m. [Here is the Zoom link](#). (Password is Context)

Joel Alderfer will share evidence based on primary resources of local slaveholding practices, and share stories from the abolition, resistance, and Underground Railroad movement in the Montgomery County area. What was the Mennonite involvement in the 18th and 19th centuries? Kerry and Joel will also reflect on what this complex history may mean for us at Salford – as we begin to acknowledge how we (and white Christians in general) have prospered from the institution of slavery and segregation.

**Good Intentions are Not Enough:** Join Mosaic Mennonite Conference on Facebook Live the fourth Thursday of the month for a conversation on the shifts needed for authentic intercultural community building. Hosted by the Conference Intercultural Team. [Watch the recording from the June & July](#) conversations here and participate in the next one **August 27 at 4pm EST via Facebook Live**. Read the article [Good Intentions are Not Enough](#).

**Made for Pax:** is a [new digital, multisensory magazine](#) with vibrant, multicultural leadership focused on the peace of Jesus for our current times.

*Want to share a resource you have learned from or how you have been praying/acting for justice? Contact Jenn at [jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com).*

### **Service & Mission**

**Donation of the Month for August** – School Kits for Mennonite Central Committee.

### **Contents (NEW items only)**

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small (**metal only**) pencil sharpener (one or two holes). If you have trouble finding metal sharpeners, leave them out and MCC will provide them.

Pick up your drawstring bag in the foyer at the Pastors' Entrance (if you are not able to pick up bags, feel free to drop off the kit contents and we will bag them for you).

MCC advises that you can donate separate items for school kits (not complete kits).

If you wish to take advantage of the sales that local stores are offering, MCC can use these items to complete kits at the Material Resource Center.

Place your donations on the benches by the Pastors' Offices. **Please help us reach our goal of collecting 300 kits!**

### **Support for Carmela Apolonio-Hernandez & family**

Last week, Mary and Glen Miller shared in worship about the acts of mercy that Salford members have shared with Carmela and her family over the past year, living in Sanctuary at Germantown Mennonite. Since the family has gone public with their experience of a traumatic assault during a break-in at the church, and suffering significantly from COVID, their cases [have received newfound attention](#).

Carmela called all six target Congress Members' offices to a meeting earlier in August, and their staffers agreed to strategize together about how they could use their collective power to push USCIS to review the family's U-visa applications. Due to public pressure, two of the children's U-visa applications have been approved to be reviewed in an expedited process, which means they may hear a decision within months, rather than years.

**Now it is more important than ever that we keep the pressure on with our members of Congress, since it seems we have "their ears" in a unique way right now.** Carmela's family could be very close to freedom! At the same time, the USCIS staff is going to be slashed by 2/3 in the coming months; this is an attempt to limit their effectiveness in offering visas for immigrants who have applied. So if the family's U-visa applications aren't approved soon, the backlog could grow exponentially. **This moment feels urgent.**

**Please consider taking 5-10 minutes each week to call and/or email your Members of Congress on their behalf.** Contact [jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com) for a simple script. Whether or not you are able to participate in these opportunities, please consider supporting Carmela's family's basic needs and support her leadership: [bit.ly/DonatetoCarmela](https://bit.ly/DonatetoCarmela)

### **8/20/20 Garden Update:**

Greetings fellow gardeners, I know you will not read this in Genesis, But I do believe on the 8th day God created String Beans, the sun rose and the sun set on the 8th day and God said it was good! Our string bean row has come back in large bunches. This past Saturday we picked (Yellow & Green) 48 lbs of string beans and another 46 lbs (Yellow & Green) Wednesday evening. On Saturday I counted 6 volunteers at one time picking string beans. WOOHOO! The plants still look good and we could harvest another 50 lbs this Saturday. The Tomatoes are now in full swing, over 200 lbs harvested Saturday and the Roma tomatoes have started to show up in buckets. So much so we are sending a batch up to Bauman's Apple

butter on Monday for our first Salsa run of 2020. Our zucchini and cucumbers are slowly fading into the sunset as they have almost stopped producing. They are either done for the year or just resting, maybe they will reflower and start up soon. I am not sure, they don't talk to me so I can only guess. Our red frying peppers are starting to turn red and we should have a few this Saturday, a very pretty veggie. The rest of the garden is doing very well. The plants that survived the heat wave then the flood are growing very nice. I measured our pole beans and they have reached the 5 foot mark and continue to climb the trellis. We are on course to harvest some new veggies by the middle to end of September and all the way to frost the middle of October.

Thank you to everyone who helps out with the garden. I do miss giving live garden updates to my Salford friends each week, so I hope this E-mail is keeping the congregation informed on what is happening with the garden. What you read is only a small sample of the activity and work that goes into this mission. There are many involved at different levels that help to make this all come together and I appreciate all of their help. **Steve**

## News & Notes

**Fall Rejoice devotionals** and **Fall Adult Curriculum** have arrived in the church office. They have been placed on the table in the foyer by the Pastors entrance. Please come to the Pastors Entrance and you can gain access to pick up your copies. If you would like these mailed or delivered to you, please contact the church office.

The Salford worship services are now being live-streamed on both **Facebook Live** and **YouTube** at the same time. To find the YouTube stream at the appropriate time: go to youtube.com, search and select "Salford Mennonite Church," and find the video with a red "live" tag on the corner. This Sunday the live-stream will begin at 9:50 pre-service and 10:00 service.

## Mennonite Church USA News

Support Mennonite congregations that are actively involved in dismantling racism, addressing police brutality, reimagining policing and combating poverty through **Mennonite Church USA's mutual aid Justice Fund**. To donate, visit <http://mennoniteusa.org/give/>

In "**A note to people who are white, like me,**" Mississippi pastor Hugh Hollowell Jr. blogs about his call to return to his home state and the importance of facing discomfort in confronting white supremacy in our communities and ourselves. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/to-people-who-are-white-like-me/>

In his blog, "**Green spiritual direction,**" retired pastor Ruben Chupp looks to nature and Scripture for spiritual direction. Read more: <http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/green-spiritual-direction/>

## Beyond Salford

**Freed Up Financial Living online budgeting class, September 10, 17, and 24, 7-9pm** Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Join us for this three-week online class—learn Biblical principles of money management and create a budget you can stick to. Cost is \$25/family for the required workbook. Class size is limited--Register by September 3. Learn more and register at [www.everence.com/souderton](http://www.everence.com/souderton) or 215-703-0111.

**The Mennonite Heritage Center** is seeking **stories** on life during these changing times as part of Anabaptist History Today, a collaborative Anabaptist storytelling project of 16 historical organizations. Upload videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork, poetry and personal reflections at <https://aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/share-your-story>.

**Living Branches** is hosting their first ever **Virtual Hymn Sing** on Sunday, August 23 at 6:00 pm. In lieu of a freewill offering, donations can be made online for the Agape Fund at [livingbranches.org/donate](http://livingbranches.org/donate) or sent to Souderton Mennonite Homes, ATTN: Fund Development. Everyone who gives a \$100 donation or more will receive a complimentary Gaither Vocal Band: Hymns CD. For more information, visit [livingbranches.org](http://livingbranches.org).

Alicia Adams with Family Services runs the project **HEARTH program (helping elderly adults remain in their home)** The project is looking for someone to be a friendly visitor (volunteer) for a home bound elderly women in Hatfield. This program pairs the home bound elderly (usually isolated) with volunteers who can visit occasionally. With covid visits take place outside. If you have interest in volunteering as a visitor with this program, contact the church office and we will put you in touch with Alicia.