

August 29, 2021

Sunday, August 29
10:00 a.m. Indoor
Worship at Salford
and on Facebook and
YouTube Live, Interim
Assistant Pastor
Dorcas Lehman will
preach on selections
from Genesis 37; *The*
Sins of the Father

11:15 p.m. Special
Second Hour: A Civil
Rights Journey with
Jean and Steve
Godsall-Myers will
meet in the Gathering
room for all interested
adults

For Your Prayers List

- **Kass Landis,**
Souderton
Mennonite Homes
- **Lorraine Landis,**
Souderton
Mennonite Homes
- **Mennonite**
Mission Network

Sunday, August 22
Offering
\$3,520
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,965
Vanco Online Offering
\$4,854
Total Budget Offering
\$10,339

Future Salford Events

- August 29 – Meet
the New Pastor
Evening with Dave
& Anita Greiser
- September 12 –

An update from the pastors, Friday, August 27th

Dear Salford family,

During July, many of you answered phone calls from the pastors and 16 volunteers in a calling-through-the-congregation initiative. You told us a lot about your lives. Though we don't have room to share the wealth of stories here, we thought you might enjoy a summary of themes we heard.

In this second round of calling, most people said they are doing as well as can be expected and are glad to be back with family and friends. Many of you have returned to in-person worship, and more expect to return in September. "I just love this church and hope to get it back to the same feeling that was there before Covid," one person said.

Many hope that second hour classes will be available to all ages, and that children and youth ministries will be well-supported. Some feel concerned that there may not be enough volunteers, as many are evaluating how much time and energy to commit to church and to other things.

Changes, such as meeting both indoors and outdoors, have redefined what church is for some. Let that creativity flow, some said. One person feels that what's going on now in terms of options is fantastic.

Some of you believe that returning will be "a fresh start" for all, and you hope that many will take courage and re-engage, so that Salford will remain strong, caring, and resilient.

Some of you are newer arrivals to Salford, either during the pandemic or shortly before. And while each story is unique, you have told us you find Salford to be a community where you can be nurtured in congregational life as you interpret how to live the gospel in this time and place.

Many named that the virtual services have been inspirational and very well done, keeping you connected. Some want to "keep them going forever," while a few worry that live-streaming might make us lazy and keep us from coming to church when we could. Some highly value zoom for connection, while others spent so much time working virtually, that you didn't have energy to log on for second hour or smaller group conversations, which left you feeling temporarily less connected.

Numbers of you named that you highly value congregational singing and community-wide meals or other congregation-wide social events. Someone suggested an all-congregation book read to pull everyone together, and various informal smaller group meetings, such as Voices Together hymn sings, or interest groups, or outdoor picnics or pot lucks.

Those of you who got involved with needs or joined a group felt that effort increased your sense of connection, whether through committee work, relating to children and youth, assisting with worship, joining the new justice learning group, or other behind-the-scenes tasks that keep things going.

A number of you said you feel really good about the way Salford has responded to the big issues, like racism and the pandemic, and you hope that many will commit and re-engage with the discernment work on visioning. "I feel incredibly

New Second Hour Season Begins

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

appreciative of how Salford has handled this time, and appreciate the welcoming process,” someone said.

One person feels “Salford is a little more liberal,” but wants to be open to change. Another said that while he disagrees with the welcoming statement, he will stay engaged, because “this is my church.” Some of you told us that you do not expect to return or you are still deciding. While you love the people and have no ill feelings, you feel disappointed with the direction of the church, and no longer feel this can be your church home. Others told us you are aware that some may be leaving, and you feel very saddened. If they go, you also hope we can find graceful ways to say good-bye.

Some of you told us that the biggest stressor in this year has been conflict within your extended families. You are still dealing with different opinions about mask wearing and Covid and political divisions, and you are struggling to find good ways to relate well.

Overall, many of you said you feel very good about Salford, and hopeful. You want people to know that you love Salford! We heard many ways that you have cared for each other day by day, through sickness, surgeries, dying, loneliness, depression, anxiety, stress, job changes, retirements, anniversaries, moves, decision-making, weddings, pregnancies and births. You have lifted up each other in prayer and action.

You told us you feel the transition is going very well with Dave as Lead Pastor. You appreciate his preaching, leadership, and clarity of voice. You also told us how much you have appreciated the pastoral team and the entire staff, for exceptional leadership during this time. “Continue to tend us as we all emerge,” someone said.

Your pastors and leaders want to keep listening. And we say thank you: to all the callers who listened and passed along what you heard (we couldn’t have done it without you), and to each person who responded (we couldn’t have presented this window into congregational life without you).

In this second round, we found it harder than last summer to reach everybody. If you have not had an opportunity to talk with a caller, and would like that conversation, please reach out to Dorcas Lehman at lehmandm@gmail.com or text or call 717-330-2620. And if you have questions or want to talk about anything you read here, contact Dorcas or any of the pastoral team.

Questions asked:

Question 1: We have all come through this highly unusual time, and now things are beginning to open up. How are you (and your household) doing at this point in time?

Question 2: How has the return to the building changed things for you, as some of us gather for worship in person, and some continue to gather remotely? How connected or disconnected to Salford do you feel now? Has that changed during the pandemic?

Question 3: Given where you are right now, what do you value and what would you hope for in this summer and fall in congregational life?

Question 4: Is there anything else you want to say? Is there something you would like your pastors to know?

-Pastors [Dave Greiser](#), [Beth Yoder](#), [Maria Hosler Byler](#), and [Dorcas Lehman](#)
Click each person's name to send them an email.

Salford Church Board Announcement

On Tuesday, August 17, the Salford Church Board held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. At that time, Pastor Beth announced her decision to retire from her pastoral role in November 2021. Pastor Beth shared about her journey through the past few years, including meaningful time of reflection during sabbatical. She communicated that the timing feels right to move into the next chapter of life. A personal note from Pastor Beth to the congregation has been placed in your church mailbox and at the Welcome Center. If you would like this note mailed to you, please contact the church office.

With heartfelt gratitude for her ministry among us, the Board accepted Beth's resignation. You may remember that two years ago, Pastor Beth planned to reduce her time. Instead, she stepped up in major ways to respond to the needs of the Salford congregation. Beth led the pastoral team and embraced new opportunities for ministry during the pandemic. Pastor Beth's ministry, creativity, spiritual leadership, wisdom, and friendship has blessed our church family.

The Board expressed deep joy for Beth and Jerry as they begin this new phase – and for the opportunities that this transition will afford. Between now and November, we will plan times to honor and celebrate together. At the same time, the Salford Church Board in collaboration with Pastor Dave and the pastoral team will look ahead to identify pastoral leadership. We invite your prayers for guidance and discernment during this transition. Let gratitude be the pillow of our prayers, and faith the bridge to welcome what is God's 'it is good' among us.

With gratitude and love, The Salford Church Board

Exploring Church Membership

Beginning Sept. 12, we'll begin a second hour group for anyone exploring membership at Salford. What is Anabaptist Christianity? What does it mean to be a member at Salford? This is a time to bring your questions and to enrich our congregation from your own spiritual journey. We'll be reading and discussing the book *Anabaptist Essentials* by Palmer Becker. Meetings will be in the Seekers classroom Room # 206 on the second floor.

Reopening Task Force Update

The Reopening Task Force met on Tuesday Evening, August 24th to review Covid pandemic conditions. Based on current conditions, **we recommend continuing as per CDC guidelines that all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals attending indoor gatherings at Salford wear a mask.** This understanding extends to Second Hour classes choosing to meet indoors starting on 9/12/21. Mask wearing is especially important and required to participate in congregational singing, which will continue. The Task Force is pleased with the 90+% of eligible participants at Salford who have gotten the Covid vaccine and are hopeful that the rate of spread of the Delta Variant is slowing in Montgomery County due to the high vaccination rate. We will evaluate what effect we see with Covid spread from the start of the school year and Labor Day weekend. The Reopening Task Force will meet again on September 28 to review the current situation and this guidance. Masks remain optional for outdoor activities at Salford at this time.

This Week at Salford

Sunday, September 5

10:00 am Salford Worship Indoors and Streamed on Facebook and YouTube Live
Preaching: Dave Greiser

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **school children of Salford**, as they receive a backpack blessing this Sunday, with gratitude for the gift of learning and being physically together, and blessings for each one in their excitement and nervousness, disappointments and hopes, and growing resilience.
- For **Becka Romasco's mother Sarah Lyle**, who began chemotherapy to treat her breast cancer on Tuesday and is undergoing further diagnostic testing; for relief from side effects and a positive prognosis. We also give thanks and offer prayers **for Becka and Tyler** as they expect a baby in January.
- For **Rose and Glenn Martin**, as Rose anticipates back surgery at Lehigh Valley Hospital on September 2, and then the long road of at least a month-long recovery. Pray for a sense of peace, endurance, and well-being.
- For **Frank and Holly Moran** as Frank will have valve replacement surgery at Doylestown hospital on September 3, that medical care, community support, and prayers will hold them through the surgery and time of recovery.
- For the **family of Eva Alderfer**, as they gathered Friday at Salford for a memorial service and burial, to remember her life, grieve her loss, and give thanks that, after a long, fruitful life, she is at rest.
- With all congregations in Mosaic Conference, for **Karen and Andrew Bush of Methacton Mennonite Church (Norristown)**, who arrived this summer in Bethlehem in the Palestinian Territories where Andrew is leading the **Bethlehem Institute of Peace and Justice (BIPJ)**. Pray for their work to promote peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

Birthday Blessings....

To **Curt Barthel**, who celebrates his 83rd birthday on September 2, and to **Elizabeth Frederick**, who celebrates her 80th birthday on September 4.

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.

If you prefer to donate money toward this project, MCC MRC of Harleysville will purchase and assemble kits on your behalf. Please make checks payable to "Salford Mennonite Church" and mark your donation for "MCC school kits"

Place your donations on the donation of the month table by the nursery in the main foyer. **Please help us reach our goal of collecting 300 kits!**

Garden update, 8/19/21: Greetings fellow gardeners, the heat of August and the bugs of summer are taking their toll on the garden. Our summer string beans are finally at their end, the tomatoes have dropped off to normal levels of production and the zucchini has stopped producing. We will be in a small lull until our fall veggies show up in about 2 to 3 weeks. Green peppers have slowed down but are still producing nice size fruit. This week we dropped off our first batch of Salsa for 2021. This batch was HOT and our Salford taste tester George Gaugler gave it a thumbs up! We will be delivering the MILD batch on Monday.

The weather looks wet for Saturday so I am not sure what all we can get accomplished. We shall see how the rain goes. Thank you to all who help out in the garden. Steve, 215-872-6616 rsblank@verizon.net

Faith Formation Spotlight

Backpack Blessing this Sunday: Kids of all ages - have your backpacks (or other school items) ready during children's time for a blessing for the new school year. Everywhere we go, God goes with us!

Helpers Still Needed: As we resume Sunday School for children on Sept 12, **we need at least 1 more helper** for Oct & Dec, 3rd-5th grades. Contact Jenn to learn more (jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com; 267-380-0273)

Sunday School Parents Meeting: All families beginning Sunday School in the fall should plan to participate in a meeting on Zoom, this Sunday Aug. 29 at 1pm. Contact Jenn with questions or if you can't make it. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86816516139?pwd=bWMwcGZ5Z2JpV011ajE4QmQwK1NFUT09>

The nursery plans to open September 12 for children ages 2 and under. All volunteers will be vaccinated. If you are able to volunteer in the nursery rotation, contact Sarah McInnes (smcinnnes@pa.gov). Children ages 3 and up are welcome to take breaks from the service in the foyer, library, or other areas, accompanied by an adult.

News and Notes

Aug. 29 Special Second Hour: A Civil Rights Journey with Jean and Steve Godsall-Myers This summer Jean and Steve took an extended road trip focused on the U.S.'s racial history. The itinerary included the Eastern Shore of MD, to 'meet' Harriet Tubman; Wilmington, NC where white Democrats violently overthrew a fusion government in 1898; Columbia, SC and Tuskegee, AL to recall the Airmen and the tragic syphilis study. They retraced the historic Selma to Montgomery, AL March and visited Nashville, TN, home of Fisk University and student-led sit-ins, along with Clinton, TN (first court-ordered desegregated high school); Hardy, VA (site of plantation where Booker T. Washington was born); Farmville, VA (home of the high school that was part of Brown v. Board of Education) and Harpers Ferry (site of John Brown's raid). Join them in the Gathering Room after worship for photos, stories, and impressions from a humbling and sobering journey.

We continue to celebrate with **Maria & Phil Hosler Byler** with the birth of **Luma Naomi** on August 22. **Becca Beels** is coordinating meals for them over the next month as they enjoy and adjust to being a family of four. Please see this [Take Them A Meal](#) schedule if you would like to sign-up to provide a meal for Maria & Phil. Thanks for offering your care in this way.

you are invited to an outdoor, Sunday evening time of fellowship with **Dave and Anita Greiser**. Weather permitting, we will meet in the grove by the schoolhouse on Sunday evening, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. A sweet treat will be provided, along with drinks. Dave and Anita will tell a little more about themselves, and we'll enjoy some leisurely conversation. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to greiserd@salfordmc.org or call my cell phone, (267) 342-4146. If it rains, we'll move the event into the Fellowship hall for those who are comfortable meeting inside.

Salford Mennonite Child Care Center

Current Job Opportunity-Salford Mennonite Child Care Center is hiring: Full Time Infant Teacher & Full Time Substitute/Floater. Early Childhood Education degree is preferred, but not required. Salary compensatory to education and experience; benefits, paid time off, bonus. (EOE) If you are interested in hearing more about the available positions please contact Christina Lynch via email lynchc@salfordmc.org. You can also check out our website at www.salfordmccc.org for more information.

Beyond Salford

You're invited to the following **events** in September, hosted by **Mennonite Historians of Eastern PA (MHEP)** :

- September 7, 6:00 pm – an amazing story of God's endless love and grace, *A Rose in a Ditch*, is a memoir written by Julie Henning who was raised as Pearl Buck's daughter. Julie will be available for book signing after her speaking engagement.
- September 15, 7:00 pm – join them for an evening filled with rich local history as Mike Szilagyi presents stories and pictures of the railways that spanned Montgomery County.

Mennonite Health Fellowship (MHF) is hosting its virtual Annual Gathering in September. All with an interest in healthcare from a faith perspective are welcome to attend, and all MHF members are encouraged to attend at least part of the weekend. Registration and information are on the MHF website at www.mennohealth.org. The theme for the weekend is *Fostering Provider Resilience* with a special 2-hour Introduction to *Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience (STAR)* in partnership with Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute. MHF is open to those serving in all areas of healthcare, including mental health, public health, health administration, and more. Register today! We look forward to connecting with you!

From the Montgomery County Department of Safety: Our community is stronger when we're all protected. The best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, and widely available. The COVID-19 vaccine will protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death; and protects vulnerable people in your community who can't get the vaccine. A healthier community starts with you. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, call the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117 or visit <https://www.montcopa.org/3660/COVID-19-Vaccine>.