

December 12, 2021

Sunday, December 12, 9:30 am Indoor Worship at Salford and on Facebook and YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18; *Joy: More Than Whistling in the Dark*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages Check with the Welcome Center for Second Hour Options

For Your Prayers List

- **Glenn & Elizabeth Frederick,** Foulkeways
- **Ferne Alderfer,** Dock Woods Community
- **Elaine Moyer,** Mennonite World Conference

Sunday, December 5

Offering
\$6,931

ACH Electronic Offering
\$6,517

Vanco Online Offering
\$4,117

**Total Budget Offering
\$17,565**

**Thanksgiving Eve Offering
\$1,402**

Future Salford Events

December 24, 2021 –
Christmas Eve
Worship, 6:30 pm

An update from the pastors, Friday, December 10th

Dear Salford family,

Although Advent and the upcoming Christmas season are much on our minds, so, too, are ongoing changes in leadership here at Salford. Here's a brief update on the search for pastoral staff and Board leadership.

A four-person team composed of Maria and Dave from the pastoral team, plus Karen Bergey and Jan Foderaro, has been formed and will be meeting to discern next steps in the search for pastoral leadership. High on the priority list is identifying someone to serve in youth ministry. Also very important right now is finding someone with gifts in pastoral care and community connections. At this point, it isn't clear whether all this would be combined in one person's job portfolio, or whether we will be bringing in more than one person, with each working part time.

On another front, Randy Nyce will be completing his service as chair of the Church Board at the end of this month. Thank you, Randy, for your service during these months of transition and the pastoral leadership search. Margaret Zook has agreed to become our interim Board Chair for a period of six months to not more than one year. During this time, it will be the task of the Board to identify someone to fill the role of Board Chair for a full term. The Board is also looking for two persons to become board members in the immediate future.

Pray with us for "workers in the vineyard"! And pray for those of us who are already on the scene, for wisdom and energy for this work that we love.

In peace,

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

Christmas Eve Worship Service

A **Christmas Eve Worship Service** is planned for Friday evening, December 24th, at **6:30 p.m.** The Christmas eve offering will include "**white gifts**" for **Maternity Care Coalition**, and money contributions will be divided, with half going to support **Mennonite Central Committee Refugee and Migrant programs**, with the other half divided to support **assistance for Afghanistan refugees settling in the United States**. We will support efforts of Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services to provide gifts cards and phone cards for basic needs as refugees are resettled in the US. The Justice & Peace Ministry Team is participating in this effort and encourages us to donate generously. Feel free to visit after the service or leave to spend time with family and friends.

Candles for candle lighting at home will be available at the bulletin table for families who would like to participate from home on Christmas Eve. If you need help getting candles to your home, please contact Maria Hosler Byler or the church office.

Maternity Care Coalition (which includes Child, Home & Community) is a ministry

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

for pregnant and parenting adolescents in the Southeast region of Pennsylvania. Items needed are blankets, infant outfits, sleepers, onesies, socks, sweaters, diapers, hooded towels, crib sheets, baby lotions, bibs for sizes 0-4 years of age. Wrap the gifts in white paper and make them part of your offering for the most vulnerable young families living among us.

Pictorial Directory Update

It is time again to update our online pictorial directory. If you have any contact information updates or would like to submit a new photo for your family, please submit them to the church office by December 20th. We will produce new printed copies of the directory for those who need in the new year.

If you would like to download the directory app to your phone, or access it online, please contact the church office and directions will be forwarded to you.

Bulletin Cover Artwork Needed

Mennomedia has discontinued their line of bulletin covers. So we will need to determine what to do for bulletin covers in the future. One option could be to use artwork from the congregation on a regular basis for our bulletins. If you would like to submit artwork to be considered for bulletin covers, please send them to Church Administrator Brad Alderfer. Bulletin covers are half a standard sheet of copy paper in dimension. Please contact the church office with any questions or submissions.

This Week at Salford

Wednesday, December 15

7:30 pm Salford Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 19

9:30 am Salford Worship Indoors and Streamed on Facebook and YouTube Live
Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:45 am Second Hour for all Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Marina Perez**, who is scheduled for surgery at Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia on Monday, December 13. As she undergoes this procedure, she knows she is in the hands of God, and she will appreciate the prayers of the church.
- For **Ray Yoder**, for recovery of strength and energy after his surgery on Tuesday, and as he waits for clarity on the results of the biopsy, to be held in the deep peace of Christ's healing presence.
- For **Irene Frankenfield**, who has returned to health care at Peter Becker, where she is receiving therapy and treatment after hospitalization of several days, for relief of discomfort and healing.
- For **those engaged with Pastor Dave Greiser** in the process of building the pastoral team, especially in the areas of youth ministries, community connections, and additional pastoral care.
- For **our church and for all who long for faithful imagination** in this third week of Advent, as we live in the already but not yet in the circles of our families, our neighborhoods, our church, our nation, and our world.
- This week all congregations in Mosaic Conference are praying for **Alpha (NJ) Mennonite Church** and their new pastor, **Kevin Opett**. The pastoral search

has been long, and we celebrate Pastor Kevin's arrival and pray for the congregation and their new pastor.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Julie Musselman**, who celebrates her 81st birthday on December 14th.

Thanks to all who donated \$12,553 to help those locally affected by the Ida hurricane flooding. Based on member nominations and conversations with many of you, the Pastors and Deacons approved assistance to four Salford member families, and two neighboring families who were nominated by Salford members. A small contribution was also forwarded to Mennonite Disaster Service to assist nationally.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for December – Hygiene Kits for Mennonite Central Committee

New items only:

1 toothbrush (adult size; leave in wrapper)

1 bar soap (4-5 oz. in wrapper)

1 fingernail clipper

1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color)

1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

MCC recently put out a request to churches specifically for hygiene kits as the most needed item at the present time. We often do relief kits collection in December, but we will be collecting hygiene kit this month at MCC's request.

Hygiene kits are simpler in contents and less expensive than relief kits, so we are hopeful there will be a generous response. For those being cautious in their shopping habits or attending church in person, money can be donated for the kits in lieu of collecting the contents. Just mark your offering envelope with "MCC hygiene kits" with your special offering and MCC MRC of Harleysville will purchase the kit contents at discounted cost.

Kit bags can be found at the table by the nursery in the foyer.

Opportunity to Sponsor Afghans Seeking Humanitarian Parole

Amy Godshall, who with her husband Derek served three years in Burkina Faso with MCC before moving to NY for Amy to study at Cornell Law School, is inviting Salford's support.

Cornell Law School is helping to prepare humanitarian parole applications for people who are fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan. Each humanitarian parole applicant needs to have a sponsor based in the US who agrees to provide for them financially during their two-year parole period. Because humanitarian parole beneficiaries can receive public benefits, this commitment is largely a formality, and it is unlikely that the sponsor will have any financial connection to the family.

Currently there is a family of twenty who are in Afghanistan in danger, and have relatives in NY they will settle with, if they are able to receive humanitarian parole.

Thank you to Salford households who have already submitted paperwork for six members of this family! The other fourteen family members still need sponsors, and Cornell will have more applicants who need sponsors in the next few months. Please reach out to Jenn Svetlik or Amy Godshall (ang66@cornell.edu) for more information.

Update on Carmela Apolonio Hernandez

We have learned the good news that Carmela has received her green card, which will give her the opportunity of employment and more security. If anyone would like

to send her well wishes during the holidays, or provide support for food and needed items for the family, please contact Jennifer Svetlik, jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com or Mary Miller, marypmiller13@gmail.com for their address.

Dia de Los Reyes/Three Kings Day, January 6, is the primary Christmas celebration for their family. We are grateful to the congregation for your support and in keeping them in your prayers.

Faith Formation Spotlight

Children & Youth Engagement during Worship in Advent & Christmas: If your kids are willing to read, sing, share music, or draw as part of worship during this season, let Jenn (jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com) know. Opportunities are available in-person and pre-recorded.

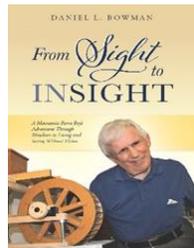
These Advent weeks of anticipation are a gift to families, and an invitation to slow down and practice simple rituals together, as we “Dare to Imagine!” Paper copies of Advent guides are available at Salford at the table in the foyer & can be downloaded here: <http://www.salfordmc.org/church-at-home.html>

One new resource are the “[Little Liturgies](#)” from The Seed and The Soil Project. CDs and text of prayers are available at Salford or can be streamed and downloaded at the link above.

Church Library Spotlight

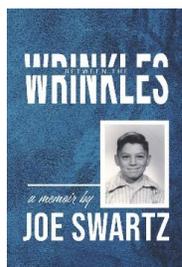
The church library has purchased many new books in recent weeks. Stop by and speak with a librarian to see what’s new, or review the library catalogue on the Salford church website <https://smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>

Here is a sampling of new materials:



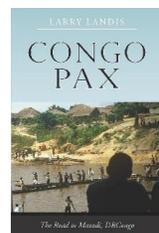
From Sight to Insight by Daniel L. Bowman

Imagine being able to see one day and the next day your vision is gone. What would you do? Bowman escorts us into the inner world of blindness with his poignant and powerful account of living without sight. With nary a trace of bitterness, he narrates his productive life with grace, humility, and profound gratitude for the kindness of family, friends, and community. Bowman’s remarkable story showcases human resilience, perseverance, and creativity in ways that inspire us at every turn. (362pp. *Masthof Press, 2021.*)



Wrinkles by Joe Swartz

When Joe Swartz turned eight, his parents told him that he almost died when he was born. Sobered, he set out on a path to discover why God spared his life. This book follows Joe in his search through childhood and adolescence as a Mennonite preacher's kid, to college, and 43 years of leadership in senior living. Work, family, and church stories intertwine to show how Swartz discovered God's purposes for him. (234pp. *illus. Masthof Press, 2021.*)



Congo Pax: The Road to Matadi, DR Congo by Larry Landis

Part of Mennonite Central Committee’s service and mission program was PAX, of which the author dedicated two years of his life to, from 1961-1963, by serving in the Congo. Traveling to Africa via an ocean freighter, the author relates his voyage and subsequent landing on the African continent, as well as his time spent there. How would he

survive a completely different land, culture, and language? What would he accomplish in his two years before he had to leave? (109pp. color illus. Masthof Press, 2021.)

News & Notes

Second Hour timing update: Now that the children's classes have moved back in doors, we will return to variable time for ending of Second Hour. Second hour will end 60 minutes after the end of worship, but no later than 11:45 am. The 5 minute warning bell and final bell will indicate when Second Hour is over. Adult teacher ask that you get to class promptly for adequate teaching time and use the time after Second hour for fellowship.

Sharing During Prayer Returns after Christmas. We've heard from several of you that you miss the sharing at the mic that takes place during the prayer of the congregation, a special part of "Salford being Salford." We plan to bring it back after the Advent/Christmas season.

The Reopening task force met on Tuesday evening, 9/28/21. After reviewing current conditions and current guidance from the CDC, state and county, **we continue to recommend that all participants wear a mask indoors and outdoors when participating at Salford.** We are thankful for each person's willingness to care for others by getting vaccinated and wearing masks.

Beyond Salford

Singing Light: A Walking Roots Band Christmas Concert Join the Pennsylvania Relief Sale and the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale for two acoustic, folksy Christmas concerts to benefit Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)!

In Lancaster, PA: Join the Pennsylvania Relief Sale on **December 11 at 7:00 p.m. EST at Stumptown Mennonite Church** (2813 Stumptown Road, Bird In Hand, PA, 17505). Admission is free, no tickets required. A free-will offering will be collected. Masks are required. **This concert will also be livestreamed online.** Details will be posted at pareliefsale.org.

In Harrisonburg, VA: Join the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale on **December 12 at 7:00 p.m. EST at Eastern Mennonite School** (801 Parkwood Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22802). General admission is by donation upon entry. Reserved seating is available for event sponsors. Masks are required. **This concert will also be livestreamed online.** Details will be posted at vareliefsale.com.

The latest edition of the **Worm Project newsletter** is available online: <https://wormproject.org/media-uploads/2021/11/The-Worm-Project-Newsletter-Winter-2021-22.pdf> Featured in the newsletter is a new book about Worm Project founder Claude Good written by Dawn Ruth Nelson and Beverly Benner Miller. John & Roma Ruth are pictured in the newsletter receiving a first copy of the book.

Apply now for a 2022-2023 scholarship. Our church's faith-based partner, Everence, wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are Everence members and you will be enrolled in a college or trade school next fall, apply for an Everence College Scholarship of up to \$3,000 before Feb. 28. Visit www.everence.com/college-scholarships now for guidelines and an application.

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/COVID-19Vaccine>.