

Week of December 13, 2020

Sunday, December 13
10:00 a.m. Worship
on Facebook Live and
YouTube Live, Guest
Preacher Michael King
will preach on Isaiah
61:1, Psalm 126:1-2,
Luke 1:46b-48, 1 Thes
5:16-18, John 1:6-8; A
Big Enough Dream

Second Hour Options
Meeting by Zoom

9:00 a.m.

[Foundations Class](#)

Following Worship

[#Sundayschool Class](#)

[Emmaus Road Class](#)

[Gospel Herald Class](#)

For Your Prayers List

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

Sunday, December 6

Offering

\$18,222

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$6,747

Vanco Online Offering

\$15,067

Total Budget Offering

\$40,036

Future Salford Events

- Longest Night

A Note From the Church Office, December 11th

Dear Salford family,

These days the now-familiar mix of emotions is more intense than ever. We may find ourselves overcome by sadness at unexpected times, finding a lack of enjoyment of things we usually love, or even experiencing newfound joys. There are lots of ways to go through this unique holiday season.

As we go, we look forward to some touchpoints in our life together – for some familiarity, some newness, and certainly some community. See the newsletter for information about the Longest Night service on December 20th; the Christmas Eve service on December 24th; and a unique participatory Zoom worship on December 27th, the Sunday after Christmas. There is also information about a zoom town hall about covid safety during the holidays this coming Sunday December 13th for those interested.

May these and other rituals of this season ground us in God's love as we fully live these days.

-Pastors Beth, Maria, and Dorcas

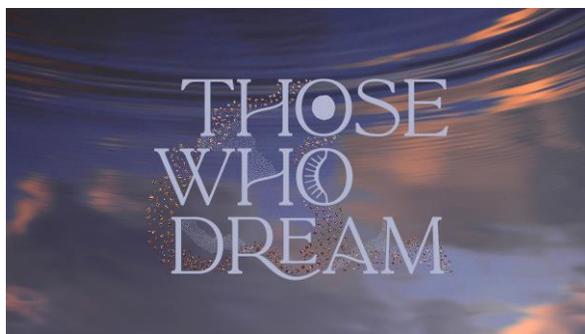
[Beth Yoder](#): 215-859-3617

[Maria Hosler Byler](#): 267-500-5679

[Dorcas Lehman](#): 717-330-2620

Click each person's name to send them an email.

Advent 2020



This Advent our theme is *Those Who Dream* – from Psalm 126: “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.” Those who dream are deeply rooted in the current reality, and yet can imagine what may come. Those who dream pay attention to where God's dreams and new life are emerging. And in

Advent, we remember that God's ultimate dream is to be most deeply connected with us – to dwell with us in perfect, restored relationship. It may feel like a stretch, in the midst of this strange winter, to dream at all. Yet we are in the company of past dreamers: the prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi – and God, the ultimate dreamer. So together this Advent we will dream, wait, receive, and respond to God's dreams in the world.

Salford Zoom Webinar on Covid Safety during Surge and the Holidays

Plan to join some of our Salford medical/scientific experts for a Zoom Webinar this

Service, December 20 – 4:30 p.m.

- Christmas Eve Service, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Sunday morning, Dec. 13 at 11:10 a.m. following worship. The content will address some of the dilemmas and questions we all are facing as we consider whether and how to have holiday gatherings, or to get together with family and friends just for "sanity's sake." Join in to hear stories of current experiences and latest information for best practices, as well as an opportunity to ask your own questions in a Q & A segment.

Zoom Link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306290894?pwd=SGVaNlplcVhNaXNmRm4yQ0FhTERIQT09>

Passcode: **286504**

Christmas Eve Worship Service and Offering

A **Christmas Eve Worship Service** is planned for December 24th, with pre-service music starting a 6:20 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. The service will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube live. The Christmas Eve offering will include “**white gifts**” for **Maternity Care Coalition**, and money contributions will be divided, with half going to support the **Mennonite Central Committee priority of Hurricanes Eta and Iota relief**, which hit central America this fall, with the other half being divided locally to **Keystone opportunity Center/Manna on Main Street** to support food needs in the Harleysville/Souderton/Telford/Lansdale area, and to the “**Your Way Home Fund**” of **Montgomery County** to provide blankets, coats, medical supplies/PPE, and other essential items to people in our community who are facing homelessness and other housing crises.

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

Our local **food banks** are reporting desperate need for funds to supply food for those in need. They report decreased donations and increased need, both as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hurricane Eta made landfall in Nicaragua on Nov. 3 and Hurricane Iota, the strongest storm of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, followed on Nov. 16. The storms progressed westward on similar paths across Honduras into Guatemala, El Salvador and southern Mexico. The people in Central America are suffering the effects of these two hurricanes – Eta and Iota – within two weeks. The hurricanes caused widespread flooding that entirely destroyed crops almost ready to harvest.

Mennonite Central Committee is partnering with churches and local organizations to distribute emergency food, blankets and hygiene kits, and longer-term plans are underway. To learn more, visit: <https://mcc.org/stories/mcc-responds-double-hurricanes>

Sheldon Good of Salford is part of the team that manages the “**Your Way Home Fund**” of **Montgomery County**. Sheldon says: This fund allows donors to contribute directly to those who are experiencing homelessness to help stabilize their lives. My office distributes these funds in order to provide essential items that are not covered by government grants. This assistance helps meet basic needs of one of the most high-risk populations during this pandemic.

Your white gifts or Christmas Eve donations can be dropped off or mailed to the church office by December 27th, 2020; please mark your offering envelopes for “Christmas Eve Offering”. If you would prefer to donate through the online offering system, please email the church office and indicate that your donation is for the

“Christmas Eve Offering”.

December 27th Worship Service on Zoom

Our December 27 worship service will be an Interactive Zoom Service centered around the story of Simeon and Anna blessing the infant Jesus in the temple. This worship will not appear on Facebook or YouTube live as our regular pandemic services are. The zoom link for this service will be included in the coming week newsletter.

2020 Weekly Salford Finance Update, as of December 4, 2020

We are grateful for the congregation’s strong, consistent financial support of the life and mission of Salford Mennonite Church. We will keep you informed on where we stand in our finances for 2020 through this weekly finance update (see below).

2020 expected actual expenses:	\$735,000
2020 Offering and Income needed through 49 weeks:	\$692,596
2020 Offering and income received through 49 weeks:	\$675,091
Average Weekly Offering Received through 49 weeks:	\$13,777
Average Weekly Offering Needed, 3 weeks remaining:	\$19,970

We are also hopeful that we can fund our “below the line” budget spending to support our larger church and conference agencies, the church building/capital fund and local CRM’s and nonprofits. We are hopeful to have an additional \$40,000 in 2020 to fund these needs.

This Week at Salford

Monday, December 14

7:00 p.m. Junior Youth Group Gathering (at Salford)

Wednesday, December 16

7:00 p.m. Senior Youth Group Gathering (at Salford)

Sunday, December 20

10:00 a.m. Salford Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube

Preaching: Beth Yoder

4:30 p.m. Longest Night Service on Facebook and YouTube Live

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Brent and Laurie Snyder, Chase and Austin and the whole Snyder family, and for close friends Bill and Cindy Scheetz (Laurie’s parents)** for comfort in the midst of shock and great loss, as they grieve the sudden death of Brent’s dad, Bob Snyder, this past Wednesday.
- For **Jim Parker**, for healing and comfort, as he recovers in hospital ICU, where he was admitted Monday from ER, after a COPD-related episode of severe lack of oxygen.
- For **Vernon and Linda Martin** as they seek answers for Vernon’s continuing issues with vision and balance following his stroke in late November.
- For **Glenn and Elizabeth Frederick** for wisdom in making medical decisions they are facing and for support resources
- For **Larry and Mary Ann Kulp**, from Martinsburg, PA for healing and strength as they experience the great sorrow and stress of Covid-19. Larry grew up in this congregation and on the farm where the Harleysville Walmart is now located; he has been hospitalized with Covid, is on a ventilator and unable to

communicate with family. Because of visitor restrictions Mary Ann has not been able to see him since November 16.

- For **Faith Detweiler**, and other residents of *Sunny Crest Home*, who are quarantined to their rooms. Faith says it is tough, but she is grateful they are working hard to keep everyone safe as they deal with cases, and she herself is okay, and able to keep busy in a good way.

This week all congregations in Mosaic Conference are praying for Spruce Lake & Pinebrook, a Conference Related Ministry (CRM). Please pray:

- For wisdom and direction for the Franconia Mennonite Camp Association (FMCA) board members and staff
- For protection from the COVID-19 virus.
- That campers and others can soon return to experience what God has for them at the camps.
- That FMCA would continue to thrive as they seek to point people toward Christ.

To read more about Spruce Lake, [click here](#).

Birthday Blessings...

To **Julie Musselman** who celebrates her 80th birthday on December 14, 2020, and to **Lorraine Landis**, who celebrates her 100th birthday on December 18, 2020.

Lorraine Landis is turning 100 on Friday, December 18! Her family is requesting a card shower for her to celebrate this wonderful milestone. Her address is:

207 West Summit Street
Box 25, Room 3114
Souderton, PA 18964

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for December – Relief Kits for Mennonite Central Committee for refugee relief.

Contents (NEW items only, in original packaging)

- 4 large bars bath soap
- 1 plastic bottle shampoo (13–24 oz; place in resealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (Some stores carry Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote® brands)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors)
- 2 wide-tooth combs (6–8 in)
- 1 fingernail clipper(good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages(minimum 40 count, assorted)
- 1 package sanitary pads (18–24 count **thin** maxi)

Thank you for limiting your generosity to the items listed. Due to strict regulations some countries have on the expiration date of toothpaste, MCC no longer asks for toothpaste to be donated with the kits. Instead, we will provide toothpaste with the kits when they ship from our warehouse.

Place contents in a box or bag and ALL DONATIONS can be taken to the home of Linda Martin, 2550 Shelly Rd, Harleysville, PA 19438, or brought to the benches in the hallway in from the Pastors entrance at church.

The question has been posed if money can be donated instead of the kit items themselves for people minimizing contact at this time. MCC Material Resource Center of Harleysville is able to purchase kit contents for any money donations that are made, so please feel free to make a donation in your offering envelop marked for "MCC Relief Kits" if desired. \$25.00 purchases the equivalent of

one relief kit. If you plan to make an online donation for this purpose, please email the church office and indicate the purpose for your donation.

12/10/20 Garden Update

Greetings fellow gardeners. One last update before winter sets in. I am still chopping up leaves for composting. I have processed about 25 to 30 wagon loads of leaves with about 15 more piles to go. I have a 70 feet long, 8 feet wide 4 feet deep pile of processed leaves and garden plants chopped up. The compost bin is full and I have a pile of chopped leaves 20 feet wide 30 feet long and 5 feet deep. These will sit until next summer when we start to use them around the garden. Reusing left over plants and garden/farm waste is not something new. This has been done for a long time. After the grain is harvested straw is gleaned from the fields. This has been done for centuries. Straw might have been the first bedding that Jesus slept on when Mary laid him in the manger. Coconut shells, at one time, were thrown away after the coconut meat was removed. Now the shells are ground up into a planting soil. We have used this in our garden. And of course who has not woken up on a clear morning walked outside and with one breath realized a manure spreader has been at work.

We had a visitor to the garden the other day. I was cleaning up around the garden when a cow walked over to see what I was doing. Not knowing whose cow this was I did my best interpretation of a cow herder and walked her back in the direction she came from. I saw one of the neighbors had a calf pen and tried to get my cow back inside. She wanted nothing to do with that. So after a few phone calls to people I knew had more experience with cows, we were able to herd her back into her pen. Never a dull moment at the garden!

This past year has been full of challenges for the garden, our country and the world. We have had to live through a lot of changes. Some changes will only be temporary, some may be around for a longtime. But with patience, determination, persistence and a little kindness we can overcome our adversity and start a new very soon. I am already planning our garden for 2021, as hope springs eternal.

Merry Christmas to all of our garden volunteers, brothers and sisters at Salford, my friends at Advent Lutheran and the people we support. Blessings to all of you.

Steve

Faith Formation Spotlight

Salford families are experiencing **Advent at Home** in their own ways this year – [some using the resources found here](#). (See Jenn for the password, OR if you would like a package of Advent resources.) Salford kids will also have a major role in the **Christmas Eve service**.

Junior and senior youth groups are continuing to meet, with fun activities this weekend for both groups. Some new folks have joined us! If you know of any students who would like to join (in person, on zoom, or both), let [Maria Hosler Byler](#) know.

Racial Justice Spotlight

The next meeting of the **Racial Justice Learning Group** takes place **this Sun., Dec. 13** 7:00-8:30 p.m. [Here is the Zoom link](#). (Password is Context). Sheldon Good will facilitate a time of discussion using questions from *Be Antiracist*, a journal designed to accompany the book *How To Be An Antiracist* by historian Ibram X. Kendi. Contact him to receive reflection questions in advance.

From Randy Nyce: My friend Jeff James recently released a book called [Giving Up Whiteness: One Man's Journey](#). In it "He shares his discoveries on just how deeply

the forces of race have shaped his own and other white people's choices about where to live, what causes to care about, who to marry, and what church to join" and explores questions on identity, privilege, and the Christian church.

News & Notes

We are grateful for everyone who has continued their offering through this time of being church together in new ways; your support of the life and mission of Salford Mennonite Church is such an encouragement. There are easy options for your weekly or year-end tithe and donations. Please contact the church office if you need any assistance with setup for your desired offering option.

- Offering envelopes or checked mailed or dropped off at the church office.
- An ACH weekly or monthly automatic bank account deduction.
- You can donate through the ["Donate" button](#) on our church website or through the Give+ app. For either option, you will need to do a one-time account setup. Online or App donations will automatically appear on your Salford donation receipt. Donations can be done through credit/debit card or ACH automatic bank deduction. We do have an ACH option through Univest bank with no fees to Salford, so if you prefer ACH donation on a recurring basis please consider using the Univest option which can be setup through the church office. If you prefer the phone app donation option, search: Give+ Church in the App Store or in Google Play. Once the app is downloaded, search for Salford Mennonite Church and choose us as your donation location. Then complete your account setup and you are ready to make donations through the app.

Plan to join us for a **Longest Night Service** at 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2020 - to be streamed on Facebook and YouTube live. Especially in the Christmas season as we are experiencing it this year, many of us are carrying loss, sorrow, discouragement and more. As we come to the longest night of the year, this service will create a sacred space for holding all that is within our hearts this season.

Karen Bergey is currently in training with Oasis Ministries to become a Spiritual Director/Spiritual Companion. She is offering to meet with a few people by zoom for several spiritual companion sessions. Read about spiritual direction here: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/january/27.30.html>. These sessions would take place over zoom or entirely outside (directee's choice) and would be free! If you think you might be interested, please contact Karen for more information at bkbergey@gmail.com.

Mennonite Church USA News

The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions is seeking participants from Mennonite Church USA congregations and universities to participate in its cross-country **2021 Climate Ride** to raise awareness of critical issues related to climate change. Read more. mennoniteusa.org/news/climate-ride-seeking-riders/

Mennonite Church USA Women in Leadership and Mennonite Women USA called on the church to respond to the death of **Breonna Taylor**, who was killed by police officers in her home in Louisville, Kentucky, on March 13, 2020. Read the statement here: mennoniteusa.org/news/breonna-taylor/

"My understanding and experience of the Triune God has broadened and deepened considerably by working with the *Voices Together* team over the last three years," said AMBS Professor Allan Rudy-Froese in his blog, "**Gender and God language in *Voices Together*.**" Read his reflections here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-

[snapshots/gender-god/](#)

Recordings of the Mennonite Church USA Women in Leadership “**What We Need Is Here**” **webinar series and worship service** are now available. View the videos here: mennoniteusa.org/wil

Beyond Salford

Join **Zion Mennonite Church** on Sunday, December 13 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm for a **Drive-Thru Live Nativity**. Come enjoy the reason for the season!

Join **Camp Men-O-Lan** on an outdoor **Journey through the Village of Bethlehem**, Saturday, December 19. The first tour starts at 6:00 pm and progresses through camp and ends at the auditorium where you will hear of the birth of Jesus, enjoy music, caroling and free hot chocolate! Register online at www.menolan.org.

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and the **Kingdom Builders Network (KBN)** are excited to announce its annual **Martin Luther King Service Day 2021: Restoring Hope and Dignity**. This upcoming MLK Service day will be held virtually on Monday, January 18, from 10:00 to 11:30 am EST. Visit <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/restoring-hope-dignity-mlk-service-day> for information.