

Week of December 16, 2018

Sunday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Worship

Associate Pastor Beth Yoder will offer reflections on Isaiah 12:1-6; *Take Joy*

10:15 a.m. The Second Hour for all ages.

Heiki-Lara Nyce will be interviewing **Dave Bergey** for **Connections Class**, which will be meeting in the Gathering Room.

Andy Richter will be leading a time of singing **Christmas Carols** in the Sanctuary during Second Hour. Interested adults are invited to attend.

For Your Prayers List

- **Kass Landis**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Lorraine Landis**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Elaine Moyer**, Mennonite Education Agency

Sunday, December 9

Offering \$30,233
ACH Electronic Offering \$1,955
Kiosk Offering \$3,122

A Message From The Salford Mennonite Child Care Ministry Team

This is a follow-up to the verbal announcement presented in worship on December 2, 2018.

For the last 19 years, Salford Mennonite Child Care Centers (SMCCC) has been leasing space from Dock Woods (part of Living Branches) and has been operating a second child care campus there, in addition to the center operated at the Salford campus.

After careful discernment and prayer the Child Care Ministry Team has decided that the Salford Mennonite Child Care Centers will be consolidated and transition to the Salford campus. This means that, effective March 30, 2019, SMCCC will no longer provide administration at the Dock campus nor will we continue to lease that space. SMCCC's relationship with the leadership at Living Branches remains positive and has been a blessing throughout the last 19 years. Living Branches is currently exploring options for the space at Dock Woods to include continuation of a Child Care Center. We will work closely with them during this time of transition.

In the meantime, all Dock families with enrolled children have been informed that we will be able to accommodate them at the Salford campus if they so choose. In addition, it is our intention to make every effort to retain all current Dock campus teachers and find the right fit at the Salford campus if they so choose.

Please be in prayer for the SMCCC Families, Directors, and Teachers as we enter this time of transition. Thank you!

SMCCC Ministry Team (Mark Nyce-chair, Linda Martin, Jennifer Gahman, Ron Freed, LuCinda Moyer, and Stephanie Rittenhouse)

2018 Monthly Salford Finance Update, as of 12/12/18

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 2018 through this weekly finance update (see below). While the last Sunday of 2018 is 12/30/18, it would be helpful to the church staff to have year-end donations into the church office by 12/23/18. If you plan to bring a donation directly to the church office, please do so by noon on Friday, December 21st, or place your year-end offering in the church offering basket by December 23rd. Any offering received in the church office by 12/31/18 will be counted towards your 2018 donation receipt.

2018 Approved Budget:	\$837,677
2018 Offering and Income received through 49 weeks:	\$750,194
Total Offering Needed, 3 weeks remaining:	\$87,483
Average Weekly Offering Needed, 3 weeks remaining:	\$29,161

There has been questions about receiving donation receipts for offering made through the credit card Kiosk. If you would like a receipt for a credit card donation,

Total Offering
\$35,310

Future Salford Events

- December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Service
- January 26 & April 6 - Enneagram Training Sessions with Joe & Angela Hackman
- February 10 - Garden Fundraiser Luncheon
- March 23 - MYF Youth Auction & Fellowship Meal

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

please send yourself an email receipt from the kiosk, and then forward those receipts to the office. You may also send the office a credit card statement or printout documenting your credit card donations throughout the year, and donation credit will be recorded. Please contact the church office with any questions on donation receipts or donation options.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

A **Christmas Eve Worship Service** is planned for Monday 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 split to support **the purchase of Relief Kits for Mennonite Central Committee, and for Mennonite Disaster Service in responding to the natural disasters that occurred across the country this year.** We are not planning a time of punch and cookies following the Christmas Eve Worship Service. Feel free to visit after the service, or leave to spend time with family and friends.

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, onsies, 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.

December MCC Relief Kit Collection Effort Update

Our December collection of the month project is Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Relief Kits. We have decided to try a new collection method for the relief kits for this December. In an effort to generate the maximum number of Relief Kits to fulfill the recent request for 25,000 kits, we will be collaborating with local churches to meet this need. Here is how it will work. Salford will be collaborating with Plains and Methacton Mennonite Churches to raise funds during December to purchase the supplies for the Relief Kits. We will use the funds we raise to purchase the kit components from Daniel Stoltzfus of Lancaster, who has a passion for the work of MCC. Daniel’s mission is to purchase kit supplies in bulk at the best possible price to maximize donations to MCC. He is able to purchase the supplies for a kit for approximately \$17.00, about half what you and I would spend buying the kits pieces individually at local stores. So we, along with the other churches, will raise funds in December, and then purchase kit supplies from Mr. Stoltzfus. Then we will schedule a kit packing party at a time and date to be determined in January 2019. Salford will designate half of our Christmas Eve offering for the Relief Kit project, with the other half of the offering being designated for Mennonite Disaster Service and the response to the recent hurricanes and fire natural disasters across the country. Three other local Mennonite churches recently undertook a Relief Kit fundraising project of this type and were able to purchase 600 kits! We are hopeful that we can match or exceed this effort. So please plan to give generously at our Christmas Eve offering. If you will not be able to attend our Christmas Eve offering, you are welcome to drop off your offering envelopes marked for “Christmas Eve” in an Office Drop Box, or in the offering on another Sunday in December.

This Week at Salford

Wednesday, December 19

7:30 p.m. Salford Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: Joe Hackman
10:15 a.m. Second hour for All Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Ron Freed** in thankfulness for successful surgery on his back and continued improvement in recovery at home.
- For **Harold and Ferne Alderfer** as Harold continues to grow weaker and is now confined to bed rest.
- For **Dolores Bauman** for peace and calmness in the face of increasing difficulty with breathing and the simplest of life tasks.
- For **Chase Causerano** as he recovers from successful emergency surgery at CHOP earlier this week to remove an object lodged in his throat.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Harold Alderfer**, who turns 92 on December 18th, and to **Lorraine Landis**, who turns 98 on December 18th.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for December – Money donations for Mennonite Central Committee Relief Kits – Please see the announcement on page two of the newsletter for more information for the money collection for MCC Relief Kits.

Vernon and Linda Martin will be part of a **Healthy Ninos** Service team going to Honduras in January. The team is composed of members from various states. We are inviting the people of Salford to contribute items needed for distribution to the villages. Items needed are: **Dark Colored Hand Towels, Acetaminophen for Infant & Children, Ibuprofen for Infant and Children,** There will be a **Healthy Ninos Basket** on the bottom shelf of the Project of the Month table by the Infant nursery during the months of November and December. Questions, contact Linda Martin 267-446-8358. Thank You.

Salford Advent Garden Update, 12/12/18:

Greetings fellow gardeners, one project down another on the way. The first project all the leaves have been spread on the lower half of the garden. Last Saturday the temperature was 19 when I arrived. But we still had a nice group show up to help with the leaves. BRRRRR. The remaining leaves will be run through our shredder for compost starter.

Next up is our Eagle Scout project. Calvin Ribelin is working to earn the level of Eagle Scout. For his project he will be building 10 wooden raised beds at the upper end of the garden. Calvin has to plan, set up all materials and work crew but he also has to FUND RAISE to pay for all the materials used. This Saturday 12/15, Calvin will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts at Landis in Harleysville. This was supposed to happen last weekend but Krispy Kreme threw a monkey wrench in those plans. If you are in the area please stop by and support this great project. If you are unable to buy any donuts but still want to donate, see me at church on Sunday, I will make sure any money gets applied to the project.

Our garden season is over for 2018, Thank you to everyone who donated their valuable time. I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas with family and friends. See you in the spring. Steve Blank

Cesar and Mimi Marin have sent us a November letter (with pictures!) reporting on their pastoral and family activities in Mexico. You can view using this link

<http://www.salfordmc.org/cesar-marin.html> Please remember Cesar and Mimi in your prayers, and if you like, send Christmas greetings to: CesarMg_1@hotmail.com

News & Notes

Back by popular demand - the **Write the Good Future 2018/2019 Writing Contest** has begun! This contest encourages the writing of fictional stories that take place in a future where people care for the earth. Anyone who is in grade 3 or above, including adults, can put their dreams and imaginations to paper and enter. The contest is sponsored by Salford and led by **Maribeth Benner**. For more information, go to www.writethegoodfuture.org. If you know of writers or educators of writing who could be interested in this contest, contact Maribeth for flyers and business cards to share.

Sewing Circle is cancelled for January 2, 2019. The next meeting of Sewing Circle will be on February 6, 2019.

Pat Wilson Schmid is preparing to sell her home of many years and moving to Peter Becker Retirement community. As part of her move, she making available prints of her watercolor and oil paintings to anyone interested in buying one. Pat will donate ½ of the proceeds from the sales of these paintings to Salford Mennonite Church. Painting are on display in the Pastor's hallway and foyer areas. Each painting has been labeled by Pat and purchase price is as indicated. Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase a painting.

For those who would like a printed version of the new **Salford photo directory**, they have been placed at the Welcome Center for pickup. If the available copies run out, additional copies will be printed in future weeks. If you would like to download the photo directory to your phone, or access it on the computer, please contact the church office and instructions will be provided.

Save the Date! – The **MYF Youth Auction and Fellowship Meal** has been scheduled for March 23rd, 2019

Peaceful Living, a conference related ministry, is **seeking caring volunteers** who want to **create belonging** for **adults with intellectual disabilities and autism**. Everyone deserves to live with a sense of “belonging” and express their unique talents, interests, and capabilities. **Join us as a volunteer!** Daytime, evening, and weekend opportunities are available. **To learn more, visit** <http://www.timecounts.org/peaceful-living> or **contact Connie Maurer** at cmaurer@peacefulliving.org or 610.287.1200, ext. 2092.

Beyond Salford

Blooming Glen Mennonite Church presents an **evening of seasonal carols** for congregational singing and a performance by the Adult Choir of Franz Schubert's *Mass in G*, at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 16. A free-will offering will be received and refreshments will follow the program. For information, call 215-257-3431 or visit bgmc.net.

Looking for a gift for a coffee lover? Give two-gifts-in-one this season with **Menno's Best fair trade, organic coffee**. A portion of the proceeds from every bag go to youth groups and the peace and justice work of MC USA: mennoniteusa.org/MennosBest.