

December 19, 2021

Sunday, December 19, 9:30 am Indoor Worship at Salford and on Facebook and YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Luke 1:39-55; *Love is a Decentering God*

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

For Your Prayers List

- **Marian Alderfer**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Kass Landis**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Mennonite Mission Network**

Sunday, December 12
Offering
\$19,252
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,965
Vanco Online Offering
\$7,579
Total Budget Offering
\$28,797

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

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

An update from the pastors, Friday, December 17th

Dear Salford family,

Last Sunday in worship we talked about how, during Advent, it seems to take so long to get around to the birth of Jesus. It's true. Advent is more than "getting ready for Christmas." Advent is about the brokenness of the world, and God's loving plan to restore us and all Creation. We live in a world of war, racism, the abuse of people and of the Creation. We live on the other side of the Fall. God often seems silent.

Yet, amid silence, God's time comes round. A voice cries in the wilderness, and a prophet calls us to repentance. When winter is in our souls, God comes in grace: "I have not forgotten you, my beloved people. Hear me call...open your heart...forsake your blindness and hold out your hands. I will come to you...live among you...heal you through my own suffering."

Yes, Advent feels long. But it prepares our hearts and thoughts for the breaking in of God. Let's allow ourselves to live in Advent, for now.

On a different note, many of you have been asking about Pastor Dorcas' end date here at Salford. We want you to know that she plans to be with us through the end of January. For the many persons who have connected with her and appreciate her important work, please know that you have some weeks left for conversation with her, for saying goodbye as the time approaches, and for expressing gratitude for her ministry at Salford.

In peace,

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

Year End Financial Update

On Sunday, December 12, 2021 Finance Ministry Team Chairperson Jim Rittenhouse encouraged the congregation to give \$100,000 in the final weeks of 2021. Last Sunday we received \$28,797 and we will need to receive \$71,000 over the final two weeks of 2021 to meet this goal. For 2021 we have received \$727,110 in offerings and income and our expenses are \$692,236 with additional expenses to pay for 2021 and "below the line" budget items to cover if able.

The church office will be closed on December 27 – 29. Final donations for 2021 may be brought to the office on December 30 or December 31 by noon for final deposit. Online donations should be made by December 27 to be received in our bank account by December 31.

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

p.m. Wednesday
afternoon.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please submit your email address to alderferb@salfordmc.org

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 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 22

7:30 pm Salford Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 26

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

No Second Hour this Sunday

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Glenn and Elizabeth Frederick**, as Glenn will remain in health care at Gwynedd Foulkeways, due to the advancing ALS he has been living with. He is grateful for the support and prayers of the congregation, which provide reassurance of God's care.

- For ***Karen Zehr and the Zehr family*** as Karen continues healing from her fall the week of Thanksgiving, and for favorable results in tests of this week.
- For ***Marina Perez*** whose surgery has been delayed until later this month, due to needing more diagnostic work. She and Dave are both feeling well and appreciate prayers.
- For ***Dave and Bev Musselman, and their family***, as they gathered this week for the funeral of Bev's mother, Constance Schlectic, for a sense of God's healing presence.
- For ***those who approach the holidays having experienced the death of loved ones*** this past year, in our Salford community and beyond, as well as gratitude for ***the joy of being able to be with those we love***.
- For ***those most deeply affected by the toll of Covid deaths***, which in this country reached another marker of 800,000, as this public health crisis keeps unfolding, and many hospitals and health care workers are again stretched beyond capacity.
- For ***the church local and global*** in this season of Advent as we prepare our hearts and thoughts for the breaking in of God.
- This week Mosaic Conference is praying for ***those affected by the devastating tornadoes in Kentucky*** and seven other states on December 10-11. Please also pray for ***Mennonite Disaster Service*** as they discern needs and prepare to help.

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.

Supporting Afghan Refugees

In response to supporting our Afghan refugees here in the US, Justice & Peace Ministry Team has been communicating with LIRS (Lutheran Immigration Refugees Services) They are asking for Gift cards of VISA or Target for items such as phones LIRS is purchasing, one per family and they can add minutes, or Essentials as they move forward being processed under the Humanitarian Parole status to obtain a Green card. This will help them in applying for a job, a driver's license, banking account, etc.

You personally can send a gift card or check to LIRS. Mark checks for Afghan Refugees from Salford Mennonite Church.

C/o K. White
700 Light Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Part of our Christmas Eve service offering will be for our Afghan neighbors as an option.

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.

Racial Justice Spotlight

Sheldon Good will lead a reflection for the Racial Justice Learning Group this Sunday, Dec. 19 at 7-8:30pm. If you'd like to join the meeting and aren't yet on the list reach out to Sheldon for details.

MEETING LINK:

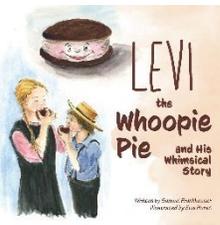
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82526583885?pwd=dkxlbFFxMExRMW5oUUU2cWNsUEdQUT09>

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>

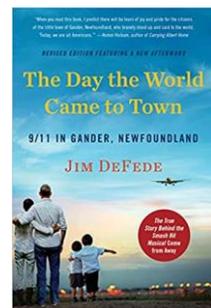
Here is a sampling of new materials:

Levi the Whoopie Pie Children's Book



When Levi the Whoopie Pie meets Sam the Soft Pretzel, Sam is curious so Levi tells him how Whoopie Pies came to be. Will Levi fulfill his destiny? Whoopie pies are the number one chocolaty treat in Lancaster County, Pa., and can be found at most roadside stands. What's not to love about two cake-like cookies with lots of fluffy vanilla frosting in between? (20pp. full-color illus. Masthof Press, 2021.)

The Day the World Came to Town by Jim DeFede



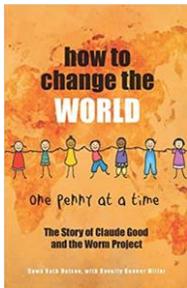
When 38 jetliners bound for the United States were forced to land at Gander International Airport in Canada by the closing of U.S. airspace on September 11, the population of this small town on Newfoundland Island swelled from 10,300 to nearly 17,000. The citizens of Gander met the stranded passengers with an overwhelming display of friendship and goodwill.

As the passengers stepped from the airplanes, exhausted, hungry and distraught after being held on board for nearly 24 hours while security checked all of the baggage, they were greeted with a feast prepared by the townspeople. Local bus drivers who had been on strike came off the picket lines to transport the passengers to the various shelters set up in local schools and churches. Linens and toiletries were bought and donated. A middle school provided showers, as well as access to computers, email, and televisions,

allowing the passengers to stay in touch with family and follow the news.

Over the course of those four days, many of the passengers developed friendships with Gander residents that they expect to last a lifetime. As a show of thanks, scholarship funds for the children of Gander have been formed and donations have been made to provide new computers for the schools. This book recounts the inspiring story of the residents of Gander, Canada, whose acts of kindness have touched the lives of thousands of people and been an example of humanity and goodwill.

How to Change the World One Penny at a Time. The Story of Claude Good and The Worm Project by Dawn Ruth Nelson



Claude and Alice Good spent 25 years in Mexico working with indigenous peoples and translating the Bible into two dialects for the Triqui people. The Triqui children suffered from malnutrition as a result of worms. Claude discovered a very inexpensive deworming medicine, which led to an epiphany—a way to nourish the Triqui people physically and spiritually. Learn how Claude's experience with the Triquis would lead him to start the Worm Project that continues his dream of deworming all children in need around the world.

News & Notes

Are you sometimes or always joining **Salford worship online**? We want to hear from you, via [this six-question survey for online participants](#). Thank you in advance for helping us know who our online community is and how we can better be church together.

December 21 is the longest night of the year. We often hold a Longest Night service to acknowledge the shadows and pain in the midst of a season which tends to be so outwardly joyful. This year we will not be holding a Longest Night service, but if you wish to spend time with these themes in scripture, song, and prayer, you are welcome to view [last year's streamed service](#).

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 teachers 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

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>.

The December edition of On the Level is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue: MDS responds to the deadly tornadoes in the Midwest and parts of the South, MDS Canada needs volunteers to help survivors recover from extensive flooding in British Columbia, and you can learn more about our Annual Celebration in Sarasota, Florida in January. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3GORUmS>