

Week of December 20, 2020

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**Sunday, December 20**  
**10:00 a.m. Worship**  
**on Facebook Live and**  
**YouTube Live**, Acting  
Lead Pastor Beth  
Yoder will preach on  
Luke 1:26-45; *Bearers*  
*of Love*

**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**

- **Faith Detweiler**,  
Sunny Crest Home
- **Donald Alderfer**,  
The Community at  
Rockhill
- **Salford Mennonite**  
**Child Care Center**

**Sunday, December 13**  
Offering  
\$14,537  
ACH            Electronic  
Offering  
\$1,895  
Vanco Online Offering  
\$3,983  
**Total Budget Offering**  
**\$20,415**

**Future Salford Events**

- Longest            Night  
Service, December  
20 – 4:30 p.m.
- Christmas        Eve

## **A Note From the Church Office, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Dear Salford family,

We are entering the week of Christmas. The joy and comfort of Emmanuel, God-with-us, feels extra meaningful as we need and long for it more than ever this year. And that joy is mixed with sadness this year as we contemplate celebrating at a distance. As we make our way toward Christmas, we want to remind you once again that you are in our hearts, in our thoughts, and in our prayers.

As you sift through all of this in your own heart, we invite you to a service of the Longest Night, this Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm on Facebook and YouTube. Then on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm will be our Christmas Eve service of carols, scripture, special music, and this year the telling of the story of Christmas by Salford's children. Those will both take place on Facebook and YouTube.

And to round out this special week, Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> we will hold our worship service on Zoom rather than by livestream. There we will be able to see each other and interact as we focus on the story of Simeon and Anna greeting the infant Jesus. This service will be recorded to view later on YouTube. See the newsletter for more information about this service and how to participate, as well as information about all these special happenings.

Through all of this, we pray that God's Spirit will empower all of us to be bearers of God's Light into the world.

-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.*

## **Longest Night Worship, Sunday December 20, 4:30 p.m.**

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.

## **Christmas Eve Worship Service and Offering**

On Christmas Eve we will gather online to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, shining the light of hope in our homes. But in preparation we need your help! Local households should have received Christmas Eve candles. **By Dec. 21, please send a picture of your household with the lit candles to Brad Alderfer at [alderferb@salfordmc.org](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org).** If you can take the picture in darkness and still have your faces seen, that would be awesome; if we have to choose, though, we want to see your faces. If you need candles, contact the church office. And if you live at a

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](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org)

distance – any candles will do.

Also, have your candle/s AND a “Christ candle” (any other candle) ready to light during the online Christmas Eve service, so we can think of each other keeping the flame burning in our separate homes. And look for all the light from our beloved congregation in the Christmas Eve service!

Here is the full information about the Christmas Eve service and offering:

### **Christmas Eve Worship Service**

Salford’s Christmas Eve service will take place at 6:30pm on December 24<sup>th</sup> on Facebook and YouTube, with preservice music beginning at 6:20. The light and hope of Christmas will shine wherever we are as we celebrate together from our separate homes. Local households should have received a Christmas Eve candle for each family member. Please reach out to the church office if you need candles.

Before the service, by December 21, you are invited to take a photo of your household holding your lit candles and send it in to [alderferb@salfordmc.org](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org).

Then on Christmas Eve, have your candles ready once again, and also be prepared with your own “Christ candle” (any candle will do).

### **Christmas Eve Offering**

The Christmas Eve offering will be divided between Mennonite Central Committee for hurricane relief and local organizations to address food and housing needs in our community. “White gifts” can also be delivered to the church building for Maternity Care Coalition. All donations can be received until December 27<sup>th</sup>, either mailed or delivered to the church office, or [given online](#) (for online giving please email [Brad Alderfer](mailto:Brad.Alderfer) to designate the offering for Christmas Eve.)

**Mennonite Central Committee hurricane relief:** in early November, hurricanes Eta and Iota made landfall two weeks apart. They caused severe flooding across Central America, entirely destroying crops almost ready to harvest. Our donation will be passed on to churches and local organizations to distribute emergency food, blankets and hygiene kits, and to support longer-term plans. To learn more about the hurricanes and response, [visit here](#). Half the Christmas Eve offering will go to hurricane relief.

**Local food and housing needs:** Keystone Opportunity Center and Manna On Main Street food pantries are experiencing decreased donations and increased need due to the pandemic. The Your Way Home Fund provides blankets, coats, PPE, and other essential items to people in our community who are facing or nearing homelessness. These items are not covered by government grants but are necessary to help some of the most vulnerable stabilize their lives. Half the Christmas Eve offering will be divided among these organizations.

**“White gifts”:** [Maternity Care Coalition](#) is a regional ministry for pregnant and parenting adolescents. 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. Gifts can be wrapped in white paper (note size, and gender if applicable, on the outside) and delivered to the church office by December 27<sup>th</sup>. Items can also be sent directly to Maternity Care Coalition [following these instructions](#).

### **December 27<sup>th</sup> 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. We will have breakout groups for interaction during worship, but you will not be required to speak in the larger or smaller groups if you choose not to. This worship will not appear on Facebook or YouTube live as our regular pandemic services are. For those not familiar with Zoom, click on the link here and follow the instructions. If joining for the first time from a mobile device, you will need to download the Zoom

app. Our time of worship will be recorded and will be available for viewing later.

The zoom link for December 27, 2020: [Click Here](#)

Pass Code: **160437**

## **2020 Weekly Salford Finance Update, as of December 16, 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:	<b>\$735,000</b>
2020 Offering and income received through 50 weeks:	<b>\$695,506</b>
Average Weekly Offering Received through 50 weeks:	<b>\$13,910</b>
Average Weekly Offering Needed, 2 weeks remaining:	<b>\$19,747</b>

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.

Any year-end contributions for 2020 should be delivered to the church office by noon on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are contributing through the online offering system, please make any last contributions for 2020 by Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **This Week at Salford**

#### **Monday, December 21**

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

#### **Wednesday, December 23**

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

#### **Thursday, December 24**

Church and Child Care Offices Closed for Christmas

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube

#### **Friday, December 25**

Church and Child Care Offices Closed for Christmas

#### **Sunday, December 27**

10:00 a.m. Salford Worship on Zoom

### **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)*** as they continue to grieve the sudden death of Brent's dad, Bob Snyder, last week.
- For ***Jim Parker***, who is doing well enough to move to rehab in hospital, where he will receive care as his recovery continues following a COPD-related episode of severe lack of oxygen. Thank you to his Reaching Out Sunday school class and other friends who sent him birthday messages this past week.
- For ***Sam and Sharon Godshall*** for comfort for both of them and guidance through Sam's times of pain and restlessness.
- For ***Vernon and Linda Martin*** that healing will happen in some way at some time, even as Vernon experiences no real improvement now.
- For ***Salford Mennonite Child Care Center*** and complications on new levels, which Covid-19 has brought in the last month. Please pray for continued wisdom and the well-being of all children, parents, teachers and administrators

during these very difficult, confusing times.

This week all congregations in Mosaic Conference are praying for **Frederick Living**, a Conference Related Ministry (CRM). Please pray for:

- Continued wisdom and vigilance regarding COVID-19
- Nursing recruitment efforts
- Discernment for the CEO search committee
- Smooth transition for new leadership in our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary year

To learn more about Frederick Living, [click here](#).

### ***Anniversary Blessings...***

To **Dave & Elaine Moyer** who celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 26, 2020, and to **Dave & Madeline Meyers**, who celebrates their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on December 27, 2020.

Thank you to the Salford Family from the Snyder and Regino families concerning the sudden passing of my father, Robert Snyder. Your calls, notes, text messages, thoughts, prayers and comforting food has been a blessing at this time. **Brent Snyder**

To the Siblings at Salford Congregation. A much belated thank you... All believers were one in heart and mind. And God's grace was powerfully at work in them all. Acts 4:32-33 Thank you for sharing your gifts, so that "no one among us would lack anything." Your leadership gifts through our Mosaic Conference Shalom Fund enabled us to meet real needs together. Thank you for giving generously, **Steve Kriss, Mosaic Conference Executive Minister**

### **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** 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.

### **Garden Update for 12/18/20**

Greetings fellow gardeners, just a reminder there still is Garden Salsa available. Great stocking stuffer for your Socially Distanced Christmas and New Year's gatherings. Same as before we are asking for a 5\$ dollar donation per jar Hot or Mild. And best of all - I WILL DELIVER to your door. Just TEXT, E-MAIL or CALL me and I will arrange delivery. No minimum. Thank You for your support. **Steve** [RSBLANK@VERIZON.NET](mailto:RSBLANK@VERIZON.NET), cell - 215-872-6616

### **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.

### **News & Notes**

With the Christmas Holiday and staff vacation time, **the church office will be closed from Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>**. The office will be open for year end business on Wednesday December 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday December 31<sup>st</sup>. If there is an emergency during this time that needs Pastoral Care, please contact Beth Yoder on her cell phone.

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.

### **Mennonite Church USA News**

**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.”** (Luke 2:14) Mennonite Church USA staff extends the peace of Christ to you this Christmas, as we work together to bring God's hope, love, joy and peace to the world around us.

Did you know that planning for **MennoCon21** started five years ago? Take a behind-the-scenes look at planning for Mennonite Church USA's upcoming biennial convention on July 6-10, 2021 in Cincinnati, Ohio. [mennoniteusa.org/news/behind-the-scenes-mennocon21/](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/behind-the-scenes-mennocon21/)

Isaac S. Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship in North Carolina, shared a powerful prayer resource for our time, "**Some trust in governments and some in borders, but we trust in God.**" [mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/but-we-trust-in-god/](https://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/but-we-trust-in-god/)

## **Beyond Salford**

The **Dock Academy community** celebrated the birth of Christ through the creation of an Early Childhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Virtual Christmas Concert. Please access the following YouTube link – the program begins around minute 6:30. The program is about 1 hour in length. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSAcyfHmVYU>

**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.

**Available for use:** Electric Wheelchairs/Scooters. Call Tom at MCC Material Resource Center – 267-203-8074 – for more information.