

Week of December 23, 2018

Sunday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Worship
Lead Pastor Joe Hackman will preach on Luke 1:39-56; *The Visitation*

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

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

For Your Prayers List

- **Anna Moyer**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Neva Moyer**, Souderton Mennonite Homes
- **Joy Sutter**, Moderator Elect for Mennonite Church USA

Sunday, December 16

Offering
\$23,100

ACH Electronic
Offering

\$1,955

Kiosk Offering
\$2,723

Total Offering
\$27,778

Future Salford Events

- December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship Service
- January 26 & April

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, onesies, socks, sweaters, diapers, hooded towels, crib sheets, baby lotions, and 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.

2018 Monthly Salford Finance Update, as of 12/19/18

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 50 weeks:	\$777,973
Total Offering Needed, 2 weeks remaining:	\$59,704
Average Weekly Offering Needed, 2 weeks remaining:	\$29,852

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, 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.

Beth Yoder Sabbatical Update

Beth Yoder will be taking sabbatical leave from her pastoral responsibilities for the time period of January 20 – April 20, 2019. During this three-month period, Beth anticipates a time of renewal through a variety of activities. She will be spending a

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

week in silent retreat at St. Raphaela Center in Haverford the last week of January and will plan an additional retreat time toward the end of the sabbatical period, as well. In early February she will receive training through the International End of Life Doula Association to develop further skills in accompanying individuals through the last stages of life as they face coming death. Beth's current training in Gestalt Pastoral Care continues through the sabbatical months, and she anticipates doing the bulk of the required academic work for the course during those months. An additional priority is having more space for family time, and Beth anticipates regular trips to Virginia to help care for grandchildren, as well as intentional time with various friends and members of her extended family. Jerry and Beth hope to do a little traveling during this time, though Jerry's school schedule keeps that possibility somewhat limited. Beth says, "Woven in and among all of it, I hope to do some reflective writing and some plain old sorting, organizing, and clearing out."

January 6 Communion

In 2019 Salford's worship services will include communion approximately every other month, and through this more frequent offering, the leadership team and Spiritual Discernment Advisory Council hope to provide opportunity for the congregation to intentionally reflect on the significance of communion for our community. Our hope this year is to offer communion in ways that are traditional to Salford (gathering around tables in the front), and also experiment with other practices. We also plan to provide opportunities for teaching, conversation and discernment. Dr. Derek Cooper will be teaching four elective second hour classes this February on ways the Christian church has understood communion. More information about this will be available in coming weeks. Our goal this year is to deepen the congregation's appreciation and understanding of this most important practice, and for the congregation to discern common understandings of what communion means for our community. We look forward to this journey. The first time communion will be offered in 2019 will be as part of the January 6 worship service. Finally, foot washing will remain twice a year and will be offered during May and October worship services.

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

Monday, December 24

6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
Church Office Open, Child Care Closed for Christmas Break

Tuesday, December 25

Church and Child Care Closed for Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 26

Church and Child Care Closed for Christmas Break

Thursday, December 27

Church and Child Care Closed for Christmas Break

Friday, December 28

Church Office Open, Child Care Closed for Christmas Break

Sunday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Worship
Preaching: Sharon Godshall
10:15 a.m. Second hour for All Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Ferne Alderfer, Betsy and Phil Moyer, and the Alderfer family** as they grieve the death of Harold, lovingly remember the gift of his life, and prepare for the January 5 memorial service.
- For **Dolores and Wilbur Bauman** as they keep a slow, quiet pace at home and anticipate their children being with them for a number of days.
- For **Nancy Alderfer** for successful recovery from gall bladder surgery on December 20.
- For **Frank Moran** as he recovers from hip replacement surgery this past Tuesday.
- For **the family of Mike Meneses** and the congregation at Wellspring Church of Skippack, as they mourn the loss of husband, father, and pastor. Mike endured a brief but intense struggle with cancer until his death on December 16.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Naomi Landis**, who turns 93 on December 28th.

Prayers for Comfort and Strength...

For **Ferne Alderfer, Betsy & Phil Moyer, Sanford Alderfer** and the entire Alderfer family. **Harold Alderfer**, age 91, passed away peacefully Sunday evening, December 16th, with Ferne by his side.

On Friday January 4th, in the Dock Woods Chapel, 275 Dock Dr, Lansdale, PA 19446, there will be a time of visitation with family from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., with a memorial service to follow at 3:00. On Saturday January 5th, at Salford Mennonite Church, there will be a time of visitation with family from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., with a memorial service to follow at 3:00. Burial in the Salford cemetery and meal will follow the memorial service.

Mike Meneses, a longtime Franconia Conference pastor who served at Plains Mennonite, Doylestown Mennonite, and most recently at Wellspring Church of Skippack for 17 years, passed away on December 16 after a brief but intense struggle with cancer. A link to the obituary may be found here.

<https://www.andersfh.com/obituary/michael-meneses>

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.

Linda & Vernon Martin say **THANK YOU THANK YOU**. Because of your generosity we are able to take 150 soft animals, 54 boxes of meds, and 107 towels to Honduran families served by Healthy Niños. We would encourage you to display the same generosity to the Salford team going to Honduras in June, 2019.

While commemorating the birth of the Prince of Peace, you are invited to express your opposition to the **militarized drone command center** at the Horsham Air Guard Station—part of the expanding international network of drone warfare operations. Join others as a “witness in a time of endless war” on the grassy knoll at the corner of County Line & Easton Roads (Route 611) from noon to 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 29. Free parking is available at the strip mall in the southwest corner of that intersection. For more information, contact **Preston Bush** at prestonfredericbush@gmail.com.

News & Notes

The Pastors invite **college students and recent post college young adults to join them for coffee and conversation** on December 23 and December 30 during Second Hour. Please meet the Pastors at the sofa by the carport entrance in the main foyer 10 minutes after worship ends on Sunday to head out for coffee and conversation.

The **church office** will be closed Tuesday, December 25th through Thursday December 27th for the holiday and staff personal time. Pastors **Joe Hackman, Beth Yoder and Maria Hosler Byler** will be out of the office December 24th through December 28th. Church Administrator **Brad Alderfer** will be in the office Monday, December 24th and Friday, December 28th. If there is an emergency when the office is closed, please call Pastor Joe Hackman

George Gaugler reports that there are many accumulated coats, water bottles, children books, umbrella's, kids cups and various other items in the **coat room** off the main foyer. Please take a minute to review if any of it is yours. We will be taking any remaining items to the Care & Share in a few weeks.

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. Paintings 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

Inclement Weather: If it would be necessary for Salford to cancel scheduled church services, the following radio stations will be contacted two hours prior to the service to announce the cancellation: WBYO 88.9 FM, WNPV 1440 AM, and KYW 1060 AM. We will also announce any cancellation or change of service time on our website, by email, and on our phone message.

From the 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)

Youth News

- On December 30th during second hour the junior high will join the senior high in the schoolhouse for cookies and sharing.
- This news item: In Luke 1 Mary sings, The Lord "has filled the hungry with good things." The Salford junior high participated in that proclamation through a field trip to Henning's on December 16th, where, shopping lists in hand, they used youth funds from the auction to purchase nonperishable groceries to donate to Keystone Opportunity Center. Pastor Maria dropped off the donation – ten full grocery bags – to Keystone Opportunity Center on Tuesday.



Beyond Salford

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.