

December 23, 2020

**Sunday, December 27**  
**10:00 a.m. Worship**  
**on Zoom**, will feature  
break out small group  
conversation on Luke  
2:22-40

**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

- **Glenn & Elizabeth Frederick**,  
Foulkeways
- **Ferne Alderfer**,  
Dock Woods  
Community
- **Elaine Moyer**,  
Mennonite World  
Conference

## Sunday, December 20

Offering

\$17,880

ACH            Electronic

Offering

\$1,895

Vanco Online Offering

\$1,473

**Total Budget Offering**  
**\$21,248**

**Relief Kit Donations**  
**\$825**

**Christmas Eve**  
**Donations**  
**\$1,860**

## Future Salford Events

## A Note From the Church Office, December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dear Salford family,

We have journeyed through Advent together and now we come to these high holy days that have meant so much to us over the years, days which hold many of our hopes and dreams, our deep longings for the ways Love Incarnate can be made known to us and among us. As we move through these days, finding our way with family and friends in the midst of this so-challenging year, may the proclamation of the angels ring clearly in our own hearts and may the truest and best news lift our spirits once again,

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth, peace – good will toward all people!”

May the glad tidings of Christmas come quietly, or with rollicking joy, to bless your soul and bring you hope and the deep certainty that a Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

-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.*

## Christmas Eve Worship Service and Offering

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. 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](#) 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.

- 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](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org)

**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 27th. 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**

**If you have any trouble connecting, please call Darwin Zehr (215) 518-5924**

### To call in by phone (audio only):

1. Call 301-715-8592. (Your usual long-distance rates will apply.)
2. Enter the meeting ID: 832 4105 8308 then enter #
3. Enter the passcode: 160437 then enter #

Then you should be in the gathering. You should be able to hear what is going on, and we will not hear you. You can “raise your hand” if you’d like to speak by entering \*9. During small group time, you can un-mute yourself to speak (and mute yourself once you’re done) by entering \*6.

## 2020 Weekly Salford Finance Update, as of December 22, 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 51 weeks:	<b>\$716,753</b>
Weekly Offering Needed, 1 weeks remaining:	<b>\$18,247</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 28**

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

### **Friday, January 1**

Church and Child Care Offices Closed for New Year's Day

### **Sunday, January 3**

10:00 a.m. Salford Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube  
Preaching: Maria Hosler Byler

## **Our Church Family**

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For **Jim Parker**, who is in critical condition in ICU, where he was moved from hospital rehab. His hospital stay began on December 6, when he was admitted due to severe lack of oxygen in a COPD-related episode. Since then, he had improved enough to be moved to rehab, but was returned to ICU on Sunday, December 20, when he developed bacterial pneumonia. Pray for Jim, and his family, that they may be touched by God's healing presence.
- For **all who are living with health concerns and uncertainties in these days**: Sam and Sharon Godshall, Vernon and Linda Martin, Glenn and Elizabeth Frederick, Ben and Carol Nase
- For **those whose grief at the loss of loved ones is heightened in this season of family gatherings and celebrations** we pray for comfort and peace, a sense of the nearness of Christ's spirit.

This week all congregations in Mosaic Conference are praying for **Bike & Sol**, a Conference Related Ministry (CRM). Please pray for the volunteers and youth, as they work together to learn and encourage each other about bicycles and life. To learn more about Bike & Sol, [click here](#).

### **Birthday Blessings...**

To **Naomi Landis** who celebrates her 95<sup>th</sup> on December 28, 2020.

### **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.

## Faith Formation Spotlight

Winter Break is a good time for this [simple family practice](#) for December 27<sup>th</sup>. Based on Psalm 148, it has good conversation questions and activities and is appropriate for littles, teens, and adults. More resources can always be found [here](#).

**Junior and senior youth groups** are continuing to meet, with fun activities this week 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

Christmas Season is here! Beginning December 25, we are in what is called the "Christmas Season" in the Christian year. So instead of packing it all up, make the most of these 12 days that bring us from Christmas to Epiphany with Bible readings, resources and suggested activities in the **2020 Advent at Home Guide**. Download it here: [mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home)

Do you miss *The Mennonite*? **Subscribe to PeaceMail**, the only source for all the news and blogs from Mennonite Church USA in one, easy-to-read, weekly email. [mennoniteusa.org/peacemail](https://mennoniteusa.org/peacemail) [\[Download slide here\]](#)

Learn more about **Mennonites Against Militarism**, a movement to reinvigorate the collective voice against the destructive powers of militarism, in a recorded webinar from the Peace and Justice Support Network, Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Central Committee. <https://www.pjsn.org/mennonites-against-militarism/resources/Learn-more-about-Mennonites-Against-Militarism>

Anabaptist History Today (AHT), a **collaborative storytelling project that captures life in 2020 through an Anabaptist lens**, was awarded a grant for its work from Villanova University's Lepage Center. Mennonite Church USA, an AHT partner, invites you to read more about this exciting digital archive project. [mennoniteusa.org/news/aht-grant/](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/aht-grant/)

## **Beyond Salford**

**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.