

December 26, 2021

Sunday, December 26, 9:30 am Indoor Worship at Salford and on Facebook and YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Luke 2:41-52; Philippians 2:5-11; *Lingering at the Manger*

No Second Hour for Children or Adults this Sunday

For Your Prayers List

- **Faith Detweiler,** Sunny Crest Home
- **Donald Alderfer,** The Community at Rockhill

Sunday, December 19

Offering
\$12,435
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,965
Vanco Online Offering
\$1,739
**Total Budget Offering
\$16,139**

Future Salford Events

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

An update from the pastors, Friday, December 24th

Dear Salford family,

This week of Christmas each day seemed to bring news of more COVID infections and grim reports about the spread of the omicron variant. As we have noted, our Christmas Eve service will still take place, with our usual precautions, and we ask that each person consider their own risk and risk tolerance in choosing whether to attend onsite or online.

In this Christmas season that is outwardly so joyful it is even harder than normal to carry these hard choices, grim outlook, and concern for loved ones and the world. You may be hoping your holiday plans are not cancelled by illness, or you may already be resorting to Plan B. You may be facing another long COVID winter with the memories of the last one still lingering. It is discouraging to have yet another Christmastime overshadowed by the cloud of pandemic. Yet these harsh realities do not diminish the coming of the Christ Child. It is into this uncertain and risk-filled world that he came, God's Love incarnate with us. As we celebrate his birth, whether in the sanctuary or in our homes or wherever we find ourselves, may we each know the certainty of Christ's presence even in the midst of all we experience. May we know that, as the carol says, "Christ was born for this!"

In peace,

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

Year End Finance 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. Since then we have received \$44,936 and we will need to receive \$55,000 over the final week of 2021 to meet this goal. For 2021 we have received \$743,248 in offerings and income and our expenses are \$693,716 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.

Church Office Schedule for the Week After Christmas

The Church Office will be closed on Monday 12/27 through Wednesday 12/29 for the Holiday and staff vacation. Please contact Church Administrator Brad Alderfer on his cell phone at (215) 272-6724 if there is a pastoral care emergency. Child Care will be closed on Monday, but will be open Tuesday through Friday, so building access will be available those days as needed. Brad Alderfer will be in the office on Thursday and Friday to receive any year end offerings and for other year end work. The Pastors will be traveling throughout the week visiting family and Brad

will contact as needed for emergencies.

This Week at Salford

Sunday, January 2

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:30 am Second Hour for All Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Ben and Carol Nase**, as Carol is at Dock Terrace, receiving rehab after hospitalization for a broken hip, while Ben remains in their apartment at The Landing, and as the family navigates the sale of their former home in Harleysville, which is under agreement.
- For all those receiving gifts through the Christmas Eve offering, including **vulnerable young families in our area, Afghan refugees settling in the United States, and those supported by Mennonite Central Committee's Refugee and Migrant programs.**
- For **ourselves and for Christians everywhere**, as we carry our lights from the Christ candle, to be clothed with love, letting the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly.
- All congregations in Mosaic Conference are invited to pray **for conference staff**, that they will continue to discern God's direction for our Conference and our communities and guide accordingly. To learn more about the staff members, please click [here](#).

Birthday Blessings...

To **Naomi Landis**, who turns 96 on December 28th.

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.

Garden Update, 12/23/21:

Greetings fellow gardeners, one last update for 2021. The garden was put to sleep over a month ago but there still has been some activity going on. The garden

produced a good amount of produce this year but also our Oak trees on the church property had a good year too. For the past month George Gaugler has been collecting leaves from the church grove and dumping them around the garden. He was able to collect about 38 to 40 bins of leaves this year. I have been chopping and piling them up on my compost pile. They will sit over the winter and I will start to use them around late July early August. I also chopped up and piled up a lot of the plants we pulled when the garden was cleaned up. All will be composted and reused back into the garden. The seed catalogs have started to arrive and I am busy getting my orders together for next year. I have been making a list of all the supplies we will need and taking inventory of what we have left over from last season. Never a dull moment in the garden always something to do even in the winter.

There still is Salsa available for anyone who is interested. Contact me and I can arrange pickup or delivery.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with this mission over the past year. We face a lot of challenges in our lives right now but I am thankful for the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to make this garden great.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and blessings to all.

Steve, 215-872-6616, rsblank@verizon.net

Faith Formation Spotlight

There is no Sunday School this Sunday, Dec. 26. Merry Christmas!

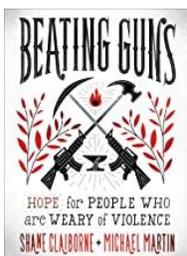
Families of all ages can find practical, grounded resources each month at [Building Faith](#). Some of this year's topics have included [curiosity and wonder](#), [household soundtrack](#), and [remembering the Sabbath](#). Next year's theme is "Taste the Story." You can sign up to receive their monthly practices by email.

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:

Beating Guns: Hope for People who are Weary of Gun violence by Shane Claiborne & Michael Martin

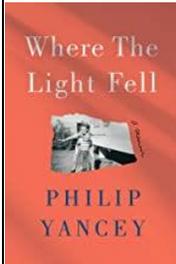


Parkland. Las Vegas. Dallas. Orlando. San Bernardino. Paris. Charleston. Sutherland Springs. Newtown. These cities are now known for the people who were shot and killed in them. More Americans have died from guns in the US in the last fifty years than in all the wars in American history. With less than 5% of the world's population, the people of the US own nearly half the world's guns. America also has the most annual gun deaths--homicide, suicide, and accidental gun deaths--at 105 per day, or more than 38,000 per year. Some people say it's a heart problem. Others say it's a gun problem. The authors of *Beating Guns* believe it's both.

This book is for people who believe the world doesn't have to be this way. Inspired by the prophetic image of beating swords into plows, *Beating Guns* provides a provocative look at gun violence in America and offers a clarion call to change our hearts regarding one of the most significant moral issues of our time. Bestselling author, speaker, and activist Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin show why

Christians should be concerned about gun violence and how they can be part of the solution. The authors transcend stale rhetoric and old debates about gun control to offer a creative and productive response. Full-color images show how guns are being turned into tools and musical instruments across the nation. Charts, tables, and facts convey the mind-boggling realities of gun violence in America, but as the authors make clear, there is a story behind every statistic. *Beating Guns* allows victims and perpetrators of gun violence to tell their own compelling stories, offering hope for change and helping us reimagine the world as one that turns from death to life, where swords become plows and guns are turned into garden tools.

Where The Light Fell by Philip Yancey



Raised by an impoverished widow who earned room and board as a Bible teacher in 1950s Atlanta, Philip Yancey and his brother, Marshall, found ways to venture out beyond the confines of their eight-foot-wide trailer. But when Yancey was in college, he uncovered a shocking secret about his father's death—a secret that began to illuminate the motivations that drove his mother to extreme, often hostile religious convictions and a belief that her sons had been ordained for a divine cause.

Searching for answers, Yancey dives into his family origins, taking us on an evocative journey from the backwoods of the Bible Belt to the bustling streets of Philadelphia; from trailer parks to church sanctuaries; from family oddballs to fire-and-brimstone preachers and childhood awakenings through nature, music, and literature. In time, the weight of religious and family pressure sent both sons on opposite paths—one toward healing from the impact of what he calls a “toxic faith,” the other into a self-destructive spiral.

Where the Light Fell is a gripping family narrative set against a turbulent time in post–World War II America, shaped by the collision of Southern fundamentalism with the mounting pressures of the civil rights movement and Sixties-era forces of social change. In piecing together his fragmented personal history and his search for redemption, Yancey gives testament to the enduring power of our hunger for truth and the possibility of faith rooted in grace instead of fear.

News & Notes

The meal schedule for the **Zehr family** has been extended as Karen's recovery continues. Sign up for meals over the next few weeks [here](#). Your continued support is so appreciated.

Life and Times of Isaiah and Susan Landes, Sunday, January 9, 2 p.m., Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Rd., Harleysville The name "I.T. Landes" is familiar to long-time Salford members. When I was a teen-ager living in Lederach, if we had a plumbing or heating problem my dad would say "Call I.T." And later when Hiram and I lived in a farmhouse near Bergy, if we had similar problems, Hiram said, "Call I. T." -- which I did. The phone would be answered by office manager Anna, I. T and Susan's daughter-in-law...Anna, mother to our Hank, Larry and Joanne (and their brother Merrill), and sister in-law to our Willis Miller, was a woman ahead of her time smoothly running the I. T. office until her retirement years...On Sunday, January 9 at 2:00 at the Mennonite Heritage Center we will learn more about this deeply-rooted Salford family. Richard Leichty, joined by Landes family members, will provide commentary and conversation about religious, social and economic changes during the Landes' lifetime (1894-1990). *Mary Jane Lederach Hershey*

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.

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.

Beyond Salford

Help **Care & Share Thrift Shoppes** keep our neighbors warm! They currently have few coats, and many customers and non-profits are needing them. Drop off your gently used, clean, winter wear, Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Children's coats are especially needed!