

Week of December 6, 2020

Sunday, December 6
10:00 a.m. Worship
on Facebook Live and
YouTube Live,
Assistance Pastor
Dorcas Lehman will
preach on Psalm 85:1-
2, 8-13; Mark 1:1-8

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

- **Eva Alderfer,**
Souderton
Mennonite Homes
- **Marian Alderfer,**
Souderton
Mennonite Homes
- **Joy Sutter,**
Moderator for
MCUSA

Sunday, November 29

Offering

\$3,475

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$1,895

Vanco Online Offering

\$3,116

Total Budget Offering

\$8,486

Future Salford Events

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

A Note From the Church Office, December 4th

Dear Salford family,

At this time of year our small talk always includes sharing plans for Christmas. This year, that small talk is weighed down by travel restrictions, mitigation measures, and COVID cases among loved ones. And here we are in the season of Advent. It's the season of waiting and watching for the in-breaking of God into the world in the form of a humble child. We look for the presence of Jesus, dwelling with us amid all the hope and heartache this world has to offer.

This year's weekly family Advent devotion theme, In Light And Darkness, feels especially poignant this year. Some words from that resource: "Think about the beginning of life. It almost always begins in darkness. Life needs that safe, dark, closed space to grow—a baby in the womb, like baby Jesus. A seed buried deep in the ground. This Advent, let's prepare for Jesus' coming by seeking out the goodness in light and darkness."(the full devotional can be found [here](#).)

As we wait and watch, we will be holding a Longest Night service on Sunday, December 20th at 4:30pm, just as darkness is beginning. This service is an opportunity to honor our laments with the space they need, amid the joy and bustle of the season. See the newsletter for more information on both that and our Christmas Eve service, on the 24th at 6:30pm.

And as this season begins, take heart in the many ways this community is reaching out towards one another through the darkness: meals delivered, rides offered, phone calls and porch visits made. We are here for you too, in the waiting and watching.

-Pastors Beth, Maria, and Dorcas

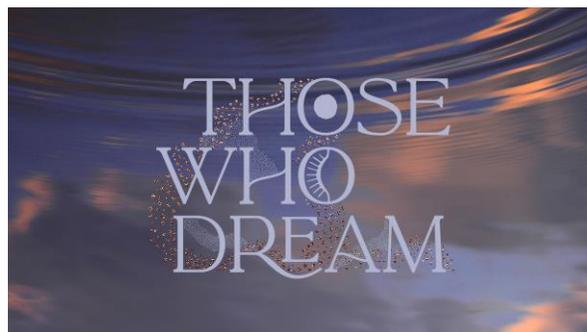
[Beth Yoder](#): 215-859-3617

[Maria Hosler Byler](#): 267-500-5679

[Dorcas Lehman](#): 717-330-2620

Click each person's name to send them an email.

Advent 2020



This Advent our theme is **Those Who Dream** – from Psalm 126: "When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream." Those who dream are deeply rooted in the current reality, and yet can imagine what may come. Those who dream pay attention to where God's dreams and new life are emerging. And in

Advent, we remember that God's ultimate dream is to be most deeply connected with us – to dwell with us in perfect, restored relationship. It may feel like a stretch, in the midst of this strange winter, to dream at all. Yet we are in the company of past dreamers: the prophets, the psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth,

- 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

Joseph, Simeon, Anna, the shepherds and the Magi – and God, the ultimate dreamer. So together this Advent we will dream, wait, receive, and respond to God’s dreams in the world.

Salford Zoom Webinar on Covid Safety during Surge and the Holidays

Plan to join some of our Salford medical/scientific experts for a Zoom Webinar this coming week: Thursday evening, Dec. 10, at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday morning, Dec. 13 at 11:10 a.m. following worship. The content will be the same in both sessions and will address some of the dilemmas and questions we all are facing as we consider whether and how to have holiday gatherings, or to get together with family and friends just for "sanity's sake." Join in to hear stories of current experiences and latest information for best practices, as well as an opportunity to ask your own questions in a Q & A segment.

Zoom Link for either meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82306290894?pwd=SGVaNlplcVhNaXNmRm4yQ0FhTERIQT09>

Passcode: **286504**

Christmas Eve Worship Service and Offering

We are planning for **Christmas Eve Worship**, which will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube live on December 24th, with pre-service music starting a 6:20 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m.

We are also planning for a **Christmas Eve offering** towards food insecurity in the Indian Valley area, home insecurity in Montgomery County, Mennonite Central Committees response to the two hurricanes that recently hit Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and southern Mexico, and white gifts for Maternity Care Coalition. More information on worship and the offering will be provided next week.

2020 Weekly Salford Finance Update, as of November 29, 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:	\$735,000
2020 Offering and Income needed through 48 weeks:	\$678,461
2020 Offering and income received through 48 weeks:	\$635,055
Average Weekly Offering Received through 48 weeks:	\$13,230
Average Weekly Offering Needed, 4 weeks remaining:	\$24,986

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.

This Week at Salford

Monday, December 7

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

Tuesday, December 8

7:00 p.m. Child Care Ministry Team Meeting (by Zoom)

7:00 p.m. Reopening Committee Meeting (by Zoom)

Wednesday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Salford Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube

Preaching: Michael King

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Sam and Sharon Godshall** during this time of Sam's continued decline and Covid restrictions keeping Sharon from being able to visit, pray for comfort and peace for them both.
- For **Adam and Emily Messner** with gratitude for Adam's cancer-free health and prayers for continued health as observation continues.
- For **Glenn and Elizabeth Frederick** for clarity of thought and wisdom as they face medical decisions in the coming weeks.
- For **those caring for extended family members** in a time of health crisis: Karen and Blaine Bergey (Karen's brother-in-law who had surgery for a brain tumor); Jon and Becca Nagy (John's sister in recovery from surgery for a thyroid tumor); Anna and Todd Lacher (Anna's father beginning chemotherapy after a second surgery for tumors in his bladder).

This week all congregations in Mosaic Conference are praying for the **The Material Resource Center (MRC)** in Souderton, PA, a Conference Related Ministry (CRM). Please pray

- that the MRC will be able to meet the worldwide demand for hygiene kits due to COVID-19.
- for safety for volunteers and staff.

To read more about the Material Resource Center, [click here](#).

From Mennonite Mission Network: The December *Prayer Vine* requests prayer for Orlando Sánchez on Saturday, Dec. 5. We regret to inform you that Orlando has died of COVID-19. Pray for his family and for all the Toba-Qom communities in the Argentine Chaco where he was a greatly respected leader and Bible translator.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Don Detweiler** who celebrates his 84th birthday on December 8, 2020, and to **Rhoda Landis**, who celebrates her 85th birthday on December 10, 2020.

Lorraine Landis is turning 100 on Friday, December 18! Her family is requesting a card shower for her to celebrate this wonderful milestone. Her address is:

207 West Summit Street

Box 25, Room 3114

Souderton, PA 18964

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.

Faith Formation Spotlight

Advent begins Nov. 29! We are providing Advent resources for pickup or download: a devotional for families including Advent calendar and craft, a countdown candle, Nativity stickers, and a devotional for adults. **Let Jenn or Maria know if you'd like to pick up a package at Salford.** If picking one up is a barrier please let Jenn know. PDF versions of the devotionals [are available here](#) (see Jenn for the password).

Virtual Christmas Pageant

Our virtual pageant will be a one-of-a-kind, very memorable celebration of the Christmas season! Let us know how you'd like to participate: <https://forms.gle/Kpb6tuZKYvmSqWCPA> - kids of all ages, and their families, are welcome to participate!

Last Week of Fall Sunday School: For 12 weeks we have been "climbing the Mount of the Beatitudes" during virtual Sunday School; all materials can be viewed on the [website](#). Last Sunday, Nov. 22 was the last week of the study. The site will remain live for a few weeks and then will be taken down on December 18th.

News & Notes

Update from Church Board: The church board would like to thank everyone who was able to participate in the **fall business meeting** this year. Two ballot items were presented for affirmation...one for the 2021 budget and the other for the columbarium project. Both items received unanimous affirmation. With regard to the budget, there were many comments requesting that some level of funding be restored to Young Adult ministries. The board approved putting \$300 back into that budget line for 2021. We invite anyone who has an interest in working with the Sojourners group in the area of young adult ministry to contact the church office.

Thank you for these affirmations. As a board, we value and appreciate your input in this important aspect of congregational life.

Plan to join us for a **Longest Night Service** at 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2020. This service will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube live. Longest Night is a service to make space for grief and lament on the longest night of the year, in the midst of the Christmas season

Karen Bergey is currently in training with Oasis Ministries to become a Spiritual Director/Spiritual Companion. She is offering to meet with a few people by zoom

for several spiritual companion sessions. Read about spiritual direction here: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2009/january/27.30.html>. These sessions would take place over zoom or entirely outside (directee's choice) and would be free! If you think you might be interested, please contact Karen for more information at bkbergey@gmail.com.

We are preparing for an **update of the online photo directory**. Please review your listing and send any updates needed to the church office. Please provide an updated family photo for your listing and we will include it. Please respond to the church office by November 29th, 2020.

Mennonite Church USA News

Celebrate Advent with Mennonite Church USA's **2020 Advent at Home devotional**, "We Wait for Jesus." The free annual guide for home-based worship provides daily and weekly Scripture readings, prayers and activities for individuals and families observing the season of anticipation leading to the birth of Jesus. Download it here: mennoniteusa.org/resource/advent-at-home. [[Download slide here](#)]

In this season of giving, Mennonite Church USA invites you to support the peace initiatives of the church by donating to the **#BringThePeace fund**, a fund that supports work and projects where needed most in the denomination. Mennoniteusa.org/give/

Mennonite Church USA has called for bold peacemaking during the election/post-election season, writing, "Peacemakers are most needed during times of uncertainty, fear and polarization." Read the full statement here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/bold-peacemaking/>

Looking for health coverage for your congregational or conference staff? Consider The Corinthian Plan, MC USA health coverage and other benefits. Open enrollment is Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Read Duncan Smith's blog, "The eleventh year of The Corinthian Plan" here: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/the-eleventh-year-of-the-corinthian-plan/

Beyond Salford

Is **Dock Mennonite Academy** a fit for your family? Join them for their December virtual **Open Houses** – EC to Grade 8 campus, Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm and grades 9 to 12 campus, Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00 pm – and learn more about Dock from the comfort of your home. Experience video tours, meet faculty, staff, & students, learn about financial aid and ask questions about curriculum, learning support, and co-curricular opportunities for students. Register today at dock.org.