

January 16, 2022

**Sunday, January 16,
9:30 am Indoor
Worship at Salford
and on Facebook and
YouTube Live,**
Associate Pastor Maria
Hosler Byler will preach
on Mark 1:14-15; 4:26-
29; *The Call*

**10:45 am Second
Hour for all ages**

Sunday, January 9
Offering
\$1,434
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,965
Vanco Online Offering
\$22,086
**Total Budget Offering
\$25,485**

Future Salford Events

- February 27 –
Salford/Advent
Garden Fundraiser
Luncheon

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, January 14th

Dear Salford family,

In the past year and a half, Salford has been graced with the compassionate and wise pastoral presence of Dorcas Lehman. Dorcas joined us during the pandemic, as interim assistant pastor for pastoral care. She began her work when in-person visits were few and far between-and in a large congregation. What a daunting task! But in these months, Dorcas has gotten to know many of us quite well. She has been a listening ear, a spiritual companion, and, for those of us on the staff team, a wise counselor and shepherd who has offered us encouragement, perspective and the insights of a seasoned interim leader. I've often heard the words, "non-anxious presence" used in referring to those who make good interim pastors. From where I stand, that's what I see and hear in Dorcas.

Dorcas' last Sunday will be January 30. She will bring the morning sermon, and we will have the chance to say thank you and to bless her for future ministry and for some extended time with her family in Lancaster County. From January 30 to February 15, she will continue working with the pastoral team to help make a smooth transition. Thank you, Dorcas!

Some of you have expressed concern about our church's future, in light of the prospect of having only two pastors on the team for the immediate future. The pastor-search advisory group-Jan Foderaro, Karen Bergey, Maria and me – are meeting regularly and making progress in the search for another pastor. Will you join us in praying?

In the coming months, we may be looking within the congregation for persons who are gifted and willing to help us with some short-visiting and pastoral care. And of course, Maria and I will be fully engaged in visiting, calling and counseling along with our other responsibilities. I have experienced that when healthy churches are short-staffed, it is usually a time when new gifts for ministry emerge. Let it be so, gracious God.

-Pastor [Dave Greiser](#)

A note from Dorcas:

Saying good-bye is bittersweet, and good endings are times to treasure. So I am saddened that the Omicron wave again limits possibilities for being together. But we do have practice with this. You welcomed me well during the shutdown in July 2020, when everything was virtual. And by God's Spirit, love has carried us. So we will say a grace-filled good-bye during worship on January 30. And if you desire a personal conversation before I go, and I have not reached out to you, please know that I welcome your phone calls, emails, or texts.

-Pastor [Dorcas Lehman](#)

New Sermon Series and Zoom Second Hour Class

On January 16 a new sermon series will be focused on texts from the Gospel of Mark. All are invited to join a Zoom second hour class for all ages beginning on January 23, during which we will read the entire book of Mark over several weeks

and have time for sermon response. This class will run from January 23 to February 27. A Zoom link for the class will be emailed next week.

Salford Online Worship Participation Questionnaire: Summary of Responses

In December we shared a questionnaire for those among us who participate in worship online. We received strong response and are already using what we have learned in our planning. Here is some of what we have heard.

Of those who responded, over half participate only online. The rest mix online and onsite. Those who use both methods of participation tend to worship online when sick or while traveling. Those who participate only online do so for a variety of reasons: connection without COVID risk; the ease of joining without leaving home and not needing to rush around to get kids out the door; and several who join from a distance including some who have never been to Salford's building.

The online option has certainly made it easier to participate, in a way, with the church body. It's also not a perfect way to connect. Many respondents mentioned the drawback of not interacting with the community and being with people – and especially not singing. There were also comments about technical issues which our dedicated AV team is working on addressing. We hope to begin more intentional facilitation of the Facebook chat soon and invite all who wish to participate in the online conversation to engage as much as you like even now.

The question of interest in other ways of connecting with Salford received extremely varied response, with themes of outdoor meetups, zoom Sunday school, and service opportunities rising to the top. These responses have given leadership ideas for new ways of engagement. Look forward to more news as we process the feedback and continue conversations - including the Zoom second hour class to begin January 23. And, as always we invite you to consider how you might be a part of an answer to your own or someone else's interest and reach out with any support you'd like to offer.

Covid-19 Update for Salford

Tuesday evening the Salford Reopening Task Force met to review the recent dramatic surge of Covid-19 cases in the local area and across the country due to the Omicron variant. Our medical and scientific personnel expressed deep concern for the coming strain on the health care system due to the expected increase in covid hospitalizations, but also glimmers of hope that this surge may subside more quickly than past surges and that we may have better immunity towards the virus going forward post surge. We discussed our specific Salford situation and reviewed our high level of vaccination in the community, the specific precautions we are taking for in person gatherings and discussed upcoming youth retreat concerns.

Out of this conversation we have the following recommendations.

- We will continue to offer in person worship services as we have been. The Task Force encourage everyone to consider wearing a high quality N95 mask to worship. The task force also encourages everyone to consider your personal risk tolerance and to participate from home with online worship as desired, or if you have been exposed or have symptoms of Covid-19. We assume that with the present level of transmission, it is reasonable to assume that there will be active Covid-19 cases at in person events, but vaccinations, good masking, distancing and air flow will offer a reasonable level of safety for those attending without preexisting conditions or being immunocompromised.
- We will continue to encourage adult Second Hour classes to meet in person if desired, or to transition to online gatherings as caution level or exposure

levels dictate.

- We will continue to offer child and youth Sunday school classes, with some modifications. We will discontinue snack for the coming month, with offering a snack to go at the end of class. We will closely watch classroom space and encourage good masking habits and physical distancing as we meet.
- We will not offer nursery coverage for the coming month. If your child needs to step out of worship, feel free to visit the foyer or library.
- We plan to meet with parents to discuss the extra exposure and risk associated with upcoming youth retreats and have discussion with comfort level on attending these retreats

We are grateful for everyone's care for each other through vaccination, careful masking and staying home when sick or exposed to Covid-19. We will evaluate the pandemic and cases in the community over the coming weeks and would consider a short curtailment in in person activities if possible community spread warrants. We will keep you informed when conditions change.

This Week at Salford

Tuesday, January 18

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Zoom)

Friday, January 21

6:30 pm Junior Youth Retreat at Salford Mennonite Church

Sunday, January 23

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 **David Kulp**, who is suffering serious complications related to open heart surgery, and **Michael Alderfer**, his partner, to be surrounded by provisions of care and prayer, and to be held in God's healing love.
- For **Ray Yoder**, who has received an additional diagnosis of early stage multiple myeloma. In this new time he will soon face discernment on whether the long term approach will be more aggressive treatment or palliative care. Pray for the Spirit's guidance, wisdom, and peace.
- For **Jennifer Gorman** who is hospitalized with Covid, and **Pat and Joe Gorman**, who are also Covid positive, for the provisions and care needed, and for God's healing presence.
- For the **Salford Child Care and other centers, schools, retirement communities, and hospitals** that are seriously stressed by the surge in Omicron cases, as they deal with the toll of sickness, shortage of staff due to illness and quarantine, and fatigue.
- For **those in our congregation who are dealing with Covid**, those known and unknown cases, for a sense of God's presence as they deal with illness, disruption, and weariness.
- For the **winter/snow camps at Spruce Lake and Bethany Birches (VT)**, two of Mosaic's Conference-Related Ministries. Camps run through January to the end of February. Pray for the staff and leaders, as well as the children and youth who will be attending, as they implement safety practices and care for all who enjoy the teaching, friendships, and winter activities.
- For **Elaine Moyer**, as steps into her role as Interim Superintendent of Lancaster Mennonite School, for several months, beginning January 18, adding this work to her service with Mennonite World Conference, and her

other faith work endeavors, to be held in the light of Christ, and inspired and guided by God's Spirit of wisdom and grace.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for January – THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Street Outreach Program seeks to provide whole-person intervention toward improving stability for persons identifying as homeless in our county. Through the winter, our unsheltered neighbors need items to stay warm. Please see the updated list of items to place on the church DOM shelves this month.

From Tractor Supply or Walmart:

Buddy Heaters: <https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/mr-heater-portable-buddy-heater>

1 pound tanks of propane (found at Tractor Supply, Walmart and hardware stores, typically the tanks are green)

Gloves, size L or XL - heavyweight and waterproof

L or XL heavyweight winter jackets with hoods, ideally windproof and water-resistant. Available at Tractor Supply and Walmart, in Sporting Goods/Hunting.

Brown or camo 8x10' tarps, hand warmers, duct tape, and bungee cords

If you prefer to order items online, have them shipped to ACCESS SERVICES/Street Outreach Program, 500 Office Center Drive, Suite 100, Fort Washington, PA 19034-3234.

If you use the links below please make sure your order message notes you are from Salford Mennonite Church.

Mr Heater Buddy - https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/mr-heater-buddy-red-f232000?cm_vc=-10005

Gloves –

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07316D2DP/?coliid=I2YAAHNVYQ8SE7&colid=Q1W81282VZII&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_liq_dp_it

6 person tent –

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07WDJN212/?coliid=I1Y3VMKTAFP4WE&colid=Q1W81282VZII&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_liq_dp_it

Jackets –

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07GWBHRH43/?coliid=I2Y9XSOGCPNBL&colid=Q1W81282VZII&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_liq_dp_it

Tarps - https://www.amazon.com/Stansport-T-810-C-Reinforced-Multi-Purpose-Woodland/dp/B000SKKHVY/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3DR2TEN6HG2MG&keywords=8x10+camo+tarp&qid=1641330540&srefix=8x10+camo+tarp%2Caps%2C75&sr=8-1

Handwarmers - https://www.amazon.com/HotHands-Hand-Warmers-Odorless-Activated/dp/B0007ZF4OA/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=hot+hands+hand+warmers&qid=1641397001&srefix=hot+hands+%2Caps%2C155&sr=8-5

You can also use the church envelope system to make a donation designated to STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM

There is an important, urgent need in our local community. Did you know that on any given night in Montgomery County over 280 persons experience homelessness, including roughly 30 who are living outside or in their car? Would you like to support your neighbors in need? Consider volunteering at the Code Blue shelter that is hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. The shelter is in desperate need of volunteers for the following shifts on nights where it's below 30 degrees: 7:30pm-midnight, midnight-6am, 6am-8am. If interested, email Sheldon Good at sheldon.c.good@gmail.com.

Recent Salford support for Afghans and other migrants

Seventy five years before Salford had a meetinghouse, the original Swiss families of our congregation were persecuted and in danger, and received help from Mennonites, Quakers and others in order to be able to start anew. Later, in the 1870s Salford gave money to help immigrating Russian Mennonites, the first of numerous efforts to support immigrants and refugees from a variety of countries over the years. Helping immigrants in the name of Christ-- always with some challenges--is in Salford's DNA and continues now.

In early December the Justice and Peace Ministry team approved an \$800 contribution to Lutheran Immigration Refugee Services (LIRS) for helping recently resettled Afghan refugees with basic needs. On Christmas Eve, the congregation made an offering of \$5,642, which was divided equally between an additional contribution to LIRS as well as Mennonite Central Committee's programs for refugees and immigrants globally.

Recently, Amy Godshall invited us to become financial sponsors for humanitarian parole applications for Afghans in danger and seeking to come to the U.S., as well as offer donations toward the \$575 application fee per person, a huge burden on families who are filing.

Thanks to financial donations from nine Salford households, along with a \$3,500 contribution from funds previously donated to Salford for refugee resettlement (this action was blessed by members of the team working on previous refugee resettlement efforts), Amy was able to submit 14 humanitarian parole applications for a family on Tuesday through Cornell's Law Clinic. Her client is so grateful and is eager to have his family join him here in the US. Since they were able to file in time, someone from the Senate is asking the state department to expedite these cases. This is a huge boost that will hopefully get these applications approved quicker than normal

There is another family of 21 that had been waiting to file until financial sponsors who could fill out application paperwork were identified. Thanks to four Salford households, Cornell Law Clinic now has sponsors for all of these applications. Amy expresses her gratitude for those willing to serve as sponsors, for the financial contributions, and prayers, and that her clients are so grateful for this support.

Racial Justice Spotlight

The next meeting of the Racial Justice Learning Group will take place on Jan. 23 7-8:30 pm and Shane Moes will continue a conversation on racial justice, lament and worship. Please feel welcome to join us, even if you've never joined this group before.

MEETING LINK:

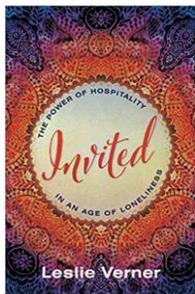
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82526583885?pwd=dkxlbFFxMExRMW5oUUU2cWNsUEdQU09>

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:

Invited: The Power of Hospitality in an Age of Loneliness by Leslie Verner



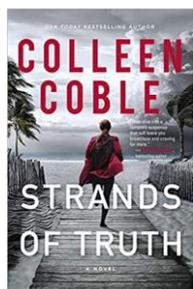
Many people today feel lonely, isolated, and disconnected from God and others. We crave authentic community, but we have no idea where to start. We'd be glad to cultivate friendships; but honestly, who's got the time?

In *Invited*, writer Leslie Verner says real hospitality is not having a Pinterest-perfect table or well-appointed living room. True hospitality is not clean, comfortable, or controlled. It is an invitation to enter a sacred space together with friends and strangers.

Through vivid accounts from her life and travels in Uganda, China, and Tajikistan, and stories of visiting congregations in the United States, Verner shares stories of life around the table and how hospitality is at the heart of Christian community. What if we in the West learned about hospitality from people around the globe? What if our homes became laboratories of belonging?

Invited will empower you to open your home, get to know your neighbors, and prioritize people over tasks. Holy hospitality requires more of Jesus and less of us. It leads not only to loving the stranger but to becoming the stranger. Welcome to a new kind of hospitality.

Strands of Truth by Colleen Coble



Harper Taylor is used to being alone—after all, she grew up in one foster home after another. Oliver Jackson finally took her under his wing when she was a runaway teenager, and now Harper pours her marine biology knowledge into Oliver's research as his business partner. But she's never stopped wishing for a family of her own.

When a DNA test reveals a half sister living just two hours away, Harper is shocked. She meets with Annabelle, whose story is strikingly similar to her own. Is it just a coincidence that both of their mothers died tragically, without revealing their father's name?

When Harper's business partner is attacked, his son Ridge steps in to help. Ridge still sees Harper as a troubled teen even all these years later, but he soon finds himself working with her to uncover dangerous secrets that threaten to destroy them all. Ridge and Harper must unravel her past before they can have any hope for the future.

Harper's childhood is resurfacing—but will the truth save her or pull her under?

News & Notes

In the event of **inclement weather that may affect our Sunday morning worship service and Second Hour**, we will announce any changes or closures by all church email and on the front page of our website by 8:00 am. If there are any questions about inclement weather and you do not have computer access, feel free to call Church Administrator **Brad Alderfer** at (215) 272-6724.

Rescheduled: Because of the rampant Omicron virus and the expected large turnout, the "Life and Times of Salford members Isaiah and Susan Landes" has been rescheduled from this Sunday to **Sunday, March 20 at 2:00** at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Yoder Rd., Harleysville.

Beyond Salford

Mennonite Disaster Service is providing financial and service support for renovations at the Reservoir Hill House of Peace, a ministry of North Baltimore

Mennonite Church, which provides housing for asylum seekers. Volunteers are welcome to join NBMC for any or all days of February 28-March 4. They're looking for skilled construction workers as well as just some helping hands, and housing will be provided for those staying for more than one day. Email ruthklemens@gmail.com to indicate your availability.

Mennonite Central Committee and the Kingdom Builders Network are excited to announce their **Fifth Annual Martin Luther King Service Day 2022**: Restoring Hope and Dignity. This upcoming MLK Service day will be held at the City School Poplar Campus, 910 N. 6th St., Philadelphia, PA, on Monday, January 17 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Learn more and register online at mcc.org/service-day.

Ain't Gonna Study War No More: An evening event with Osheta Moore will be held Thursday March 3, 6:30 to 8:30 pm both online & in person at Lancaster Mennonite School Fine Arts Center. This evening will examine ways we've been formed to think of racial justice work as what we're against when a better way is to think of what we are for: shalom and God's dream of restoration. Free tickets are available at tinyurl.com/y4fw578v.