

January 3, 2021

Sunday, January 3
10:00 a.m. Worship
on Facebook Live and
YouTube Live,
Associate Pastor Maria
Hosler Byler will preach
on Matthew 2:1-15;
Paying Homage and
Setting Intentions

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
Mennonite Church
USA

Sunday, December 27

Offering
\$31,715
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,895
Vanco Online Offering
\$22,177

Total Budget Offering
\$55,787

Relief Kit Total
Donations

A Note From the Church Office, December 31st

Dear Salford family,

We come to the end of this momentous, unforgettable year of 2020, which has scorched itself upon our lives and memories, and we turn now with hope to the dawning of a new year. We know that we are not yet through the pandemic, but we rejoice that vaccines are available and have begun to be administered; we rejoice that the promise of a new and better “normal” is in sight. While we do not know what the new year will hold for us, we do know that the One who came to us as Love Incarnate in Jesus will be with us every step of the way.

It felt especially fitting to conclude our year of worship services this past Sunday with the joyous experience of gathering together by Zoom. The gift of seeing each other’s faces and smiles was truly one to celebrate, and we look forward to several more Zoom worship experiences in the new year: plan to join in that way again on February 7 and March 7. Those services will also be recorded to allow for anyone to view them, even those who may choose not to participate directly. Otherwise, our worship services will continue to be pre-recorded and livestreamed on FaceBook and YouTube, as they have been since mid-March. We are always eager for your feedback, so do let us know if you have suggestions or questions in this regard.

May this excerpt from the oft-quoted Minnie Louise Haskins poem steady and encourage us as we step into the new year:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

Our prayer is that each of us individually, and all of us collectively, may indeed know our hands to be safely and steadfastly held by the hand of God as we journey on together.

Blessings for the New Year!

-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.

2020 Weekly Salford Finance Update, as of December 31, 2020

After receiving over \$55,000 in tithes and offering over the last week of 2020, we received \$772,000 in income in 2020 and were able to pay all regular expenses for the church and will have excess funds to distribute. The church board will review year end finances at the January 5th, 2021 meeting to decide how these excess

\$1,525
Christmas Eve Total
Donations
\$6,660
Maternity Care
Coalition Donations
\$525

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

funds will be used. We are grateful for your generosity and commitment to the mission and community of Salford Mennonite church. You have tithed "first fruits" and honored God for providing for our needs. A more complete report of year end finances will be provided in future weeks.

This Week at Salford

Monday, January 4

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

Tuesday, January 5

7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting (On Zoom)

Wednesday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 10

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

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For ***the sons of Jim Parker and their families*** as they grieve the death of their father and grandfather.
- For ***Gail & Jim Alderfer and the Alderfer family***, as they grieve the passing of brother-in-law and uncle Alton Long.
- For ***Martha Blank*** as she recovers at SMH after a recent fall.
- For ***Micah Blank***, son of Steve and Lori Blank, for continuing health as he awaits a kidney transplant.
- For ***Kendra Rittenhouse*** for continued good recovery following successful back surgery this week
- For ***Nancy Dybus***, mother of Lisa Dybus-Clay, as her family prepares for her to enter hospice care and as they accompany her in her final days of life.
- Pray for ***Amanda Melhem, daughter of Dave and Bev Musselman***, following recent hospitalization for injury to her carotid artery and a subsequent stroke. Pray for Amanda and her three teenage children - for healing for Amanda and sustaining for the family as Amanda goes through 3-6 months of being on close watch and unable to work.
- For ***those who are living with ongoing 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 who have lost loved ones this past year and who mark the new year without them*** 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 **San Francisco Chinese Mennonite Church** in San Francisco, CA. In November, the congregation celebrated its 40th anniversary. Please pray for the church and their leaders as they continue to grow and follow God.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Mark Kolb** who celebrates his 83rd birthday on January 8, 2021, and to **John Ruth**, who celebrates his 91st birthday on January 8, 2021.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for January – THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM needs *Merino WOOL SOCKS (wool blend should be more*

than 50% wool, NO COTTON) or MICROFLEECE GLOVES AND HATS (for both men and women)

“The Street Outreach Program seeks to provide whole-person intervention toward improving stability for persons identifying as homeless in Montgomery County. Outreach workers try to help enhance a person or family’s capacity to shelter in place safely. Examples of this include providing sleeping bags, clothing, and hygiene products. They also support with crisis assessment and access to medical care when necessary. Street Outreach partners with 211 and Your Way Home to qualify individuals for housing support.”

Faith Formation Spotlight

Salford Youth will be participating in **MCC’s Martin Luther King Day of Service** by joining their virtual event, Restoring Hope and Dignity, and making prisoner care kits. Support the youth by donating supplies for care kits ([sign up here](#)) by January 19th. Note the exact specifications that are required for these kits. You’re also welcome to join us on Monday the 18th for the [virtual MLK Day event!](#)

Each week find simple, engaging activities for children of all ages at the [Salford Church at Home page](#). This week celebrates the Magi with joy-related conversation starters and coloring.

Parents, please help us make Salford Family Faith Formation even more relevant and meaningful by completing this [quick survey](#). The link will be available till January 10th (but Jenn and Maria are always available to talk).

Mennonite Church USA News

Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA, reflects on 2020 and looks ahead with hope in his year-end blog. Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/request-blessing-2020>

In his blog, “The inexorable darkness: A reflection for this season of longest nights,” Chaplain Eric Massanari offers words of hope for us in a season that is “shadowed by unrest, uncertainty and great possibility.” <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/longest-nights>

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.

You are invited to join one of the first classes of our new **Mosaic Institute!**

- **Partners in Leadership** is a mentor-model learning experience offered by Mosaic Institute, January 30 – June 26, 2021. An experienced leader and less-experienced leader pair-up to meet twice a month. Partners engage monthly topics and resources; they read Scripture and practice spiritual disciplines; they also attend three plenary gatherings. The purpose is discipleship: in character, content, and craft of leadership. Instructors: Rose Bender, Nathan Good, & Mark Wenger. Cost: \$75 per person.
- **Understanding and Interpreting the Bible:** In this interactive class, you’ll consider how someone’s identity, life experiences, and worldview shape the

way they interpret the Bible. Alongside Bible scholars, theologians, and practitioners, you'll explore tools for reading and teaching the Bible, foster your biblical imagination, and dig deeper into God's love story with the world. Held on Zoom, four weekends in February-April 2021.

[View the brochure here](#), or find more information and register now at MosaicMennonites.org/Institute.

Living U, the lifelong learning institute of Living Branches, offers **classes** for adults in the community ages 62 years+. The spring semester will take place on Zoom, and will include classes on autonomous vehicles, the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, money management, immigration, the sun, and more. Registration runs January 4 – 15, and you can register at livingbranches.org/livingu, or call Maribeth Benner, Living U Coordinator, at 215-368-4438, ext. 44204.

Seeking the Beloved Community: From Racism to Reconciliation

As part of God's reconciling work, we are called to dismantle racism and build relationships across racial divides. On Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. EST, Mennonite Men will be hosting a meeting, open to all genders, with members of Seeking the Beloved Community, a group of Black and White men in Elkhart, Indiana, who have been engaged in this work for seven years. A number of these are pastors and members of Mennonite congregations.

To learn more about the event, [click here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

The December edition of **On the Level** is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue, we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member; read how volunteers are improving the space for homeless in Idaho; and be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration.

[Click on this link to read more:](https://conta.cc/3oS0PL6) <https://conta.cc/3oS0PL6>