

Week March 15, 2020

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## Sunday, March 15 10:00 a.m. Worship on Facebook Live, no Public Worship

Guest Preacher Steve  
Kriss will preach on  
Exodus 17:1-7;  
*Frustration in the  
Middle of No Where*

### For Your Prayers List

- **Lorraine Landis**,  
Salford Mennonite  
Church
- **Neva Moyer**,  
Souderton  
Mennonite Homes
- **Elaine Moyer**,  
Mennonite World  
Conference

## Sunday, March 8

Offering  
\$7,662  
ACH Electronic  
Offering  
\$1,895  
Kiosk Offering  
\$1,071  
**Total Offering  
\$10,628**

### Future Salford Events

- May 3 - Spring  
Communion
- May 4 - Spring  
Communion at  
Souderton  
Mennonite Homes
- May 31 - Dock  
Touring Choir  
Performance, 7:00  
p.m.
- June 21 - 25 -  
Peace Camp at  
Salford

## Alternate Plans for Sunday Worship

Upon recommendation from Montgomery County and some of our Salford health professionals, we have decided to cancel public worship and second hour on Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be holding a pared-down version of the service in the empty sanctuary, streaming it on our church Facebook page via Facebook Live starting at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning (technology permitting), and posting an audio podcast of the whole service [on our website](#) and on our podcast (where we already have past sermons available). Please spread this cancellation message to anyone in the community you know who may not see this email.

In addition, the youth auction has been postponed, and this week's choir rehearsal is cancelled. We will communicate with leaders of smaller gatherings about online meeting options where possible. And we will reassess the situation in the coming weeks to determine appropriate steps moving forward.

We are also exploring other ways of connecting virtually as a community. The church has never been only about what happens on Sunday morning; we will continue to be the church in many other ways at this time. We will continue to update you on new ways to do that, and we encourage you to creatively support one another as we work together to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In the meantime, it's up to all of us to do our part to "flatten the curve" of this virus, so that those who are most vulnerable in our communities have access to the care they need when they need it. Here are the current [recommendations from the Center for Disease Control](#) about how to do that. (And here is the general [CDC coronavirus page](#).) This is a strong community of faith, and will continue to be so, in different ways in the coming weeks. We have much to be grateful for.

Church Board Chair	Acting Lead Pastor	Associate Pastor
Dean Wimmer	Beth Yoder	Maria Hosler Byler

## Update from Church Board

To fill the lead pastor position, you may recall that the initial plan of the board was to hire an interim lead pastor to serve until a full-time lead pastor was called. That work got off to a quick start last November with two candidates being identified and interviewed. One candidate accepted another position and the second withdrew from consideration. Earlier this month the board decided to give our full attention to the full-time lead pastor search. Since the beginning of the year, Beth Yoder has increased her time from 75% to 90% and has been carrying the lead pastor functions. At our board meeting on March 3, the board elected to ask Beth to formalize that leadership as Acting Lead Pastor. While Beth has no desire to serve as lead pastor long-term, she has accepted the position of Acting Lead Pastor until a long-term lead pastor is found. We are thankful for Beth's willingness to serve in this way and we are confident in the gifts she continues to offer us.

The board recognizes that both Beth and Maria Hosler Byler have heavy workloads with our present staffing level. We are looking for additional interim help in a part-

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)

time role to better balance the work to be done until a new full-time lead pastor is in place. Please join us in thanking Beth and Maria for willingly stepping up to serve us during this time.

Our pastoral search committee is meeting regularly and on target with the goals that have been set. The primary work right now is completing the necessary documents in preparation for putting the call out for pastoral candidates. That committee is comprised of Randy Nyce, Margaret Zook, Kerry Hasler-Brooks, Linda Martin, Brent Anders, Dale Frankenfield, Sheldon Good, Julie Wimmer, and Sydney Sefing.

We are very hopeful for our pastoral search and are confident in where God is leading us. Though the process hasn't gone exactly as we anticipated, we are thankful for the solutions God has provided. We ask for your continued prayers for wisdom, perseverance, and energy for the search committee, the board, and the pastoral team.

## **This Week at Salford**

For events this week, groups are exploring virtual meeting options

### **Monday, March 16**

7:00 p.m. Spiritual Discernment Advisory Committee Meeting (Friendship Room)

### **Tuesday, March 17**

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Search Committee Meeting (Friendship Room)

### **Sunday, March 22**

9:00 a.m. Worship

Preaching: Kerry Hasler-Brooks

10:15 a.m. Second Hour for All Ages

## **Our Church Family**

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For **Adam and Emily Messner and family** as Adam begins chemotherapy on Monday.
- For **Bob and Marianne Landis** that there will be good results from recent scans and for God's healing hands to be on Bob as he waits for the scheduling of his next chemotherapy
- For **Shirley Eyre, mother of Cindy Scheetz**, who is recovering from pneumonia in rehab at Souderton Mennonite Homes and hoping to be able to return to her apartment at Dock.
- For wisdom, calm minds, and generous hearts for all of us as we find our way through this unfamiliar and concerning experience of the coronavirus pandemic

This week all congregations in Eastern District & Franconia Conference are praying for **Peaceful Living**, one of our Conference Related Ministries. Please pray that the people they support would experience true belonging, and for the ministry's ability to recruit and hire dedicated direct care professionals, and raise financial support, which will enable them to add sites and programs. To learn more about Peaceful Living, go to [mennoniteconferencex.org/the-body-as-a-temple-full-of-gifts](http://mennoniteconferencex.org/the-body-as-a-temple-full-of-gifts).

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

To **Sharon Hunsberger**, who celebrates his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Congratulations...**

To **Joel & Carleigh Rittenhouse** (Harrisonburg, VA) on the birth of Ryan Nolan Rittenhouse, born on March 10. Jim and Kendra Rittenhouse are grandparents.

## **Service & Mission**

**Donation of the Month for March** – Canned tuna and meals in a can, spaghetti, ravioli, beefaroni, stew and chili for the food pantry at Keystone Opportunity Center in Souderton.

Place items at the collection table by the Infant/Toddler Nursery.

Thanks to everyone for the generous donation of 120 hygiene kits to benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee.

### **The Goods from Gift Discernment**

Are you interested in joining a Ministry Team? Need more information? Not sure what to expect? Please call or text **Vince Causerano** at 215-920-1215 or via email at [vcauserano@gmail.com](mailto:vcauserano@gmail.com).

Currently, the following teams have an immediate need:

- Men's Interest Group
- Children's Club Ministry Team
- Gifts Discernment Ministry Team
- Prayer Shawl Ministry Team
- Finance Ministry Team
- Thrift Shop Ministry Team

MINISTRY TEAM SPOTLIGHT:	Thrift Shop Ministry
WHO:	We need of several people to serve as volunteers at the Care and Share Thrift Shop.
WHEN:	The 4th Friday of every month
TIMES:	The morning shift serves from 9:00 am to 1:00-1:30 pm
	The afternoon shift is from 1:00 - 5-5:30 pm.
WHAT:	Salford is responsible to provide volunteers to work in the clothing department. We help with hanging up the clothing in the various sections, fill the shoe racks, monitor the jewelry and the dressing room and straighten the displays. Several volunteers check out and bag purchases.
WHY:	This work helps to recycle clothing that might otherwise end up in landfills, provides low cost clothing for many people and then the money earned by MCC is used to support people around the world, a very worthwhile use of our time. Please consider joining us in this important work.

**Please reach out to Vince Causerano or Jan Landis if you have interest.**

Ministry teams are always looking for people who want to be involved, even if the team is officially "full". So if you have interest in any of the teams, please don't hesitate to express interest. If you are not sure what teams are available, reach out to Vince.

**Salford children will continue collecting coins year-round to support My Coins Count for Mennonite Central Committee.** Please bring spare change each

week and hand it to any Salford elementary age child to collect during second hour. They are filling as many mason jars as they can! The funds will support MCC's work for food, water, and education around the world. Read about MCC at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org). Thanks for helping the children of Salford make a difference in the world.

### **News & Notes**

Until further notice and out of a concern for health and safety the **Fundraising dinner for Carmela Hernandez** on Sunday March 15th has been canceled at Germantown Mennonite Church. We will be hopeful it can be scheduled for a future time. We thank everyone who is supporting those in Sanctuary. Donations can still be sent through the New Sanctuary Movement website for Carmela and her children. [sanctuaryphiladelphia.org/campaigns/sanctuary-carmela-libre/](http://sanctuaryphiladelphia.org/campaigns/sanctuary-carmela-libre/)

It's time again to **renew our group subscription to The Mennonite**. The renewal subscription form has been placed in church mailboxes and at the welcome center, along with information on the upcoming The Mennonite and Mennonite World Review merger and how this will affect subscriptions. Everyone who wants to renew their subscription through the Salford group subscription must return the renewal form to the church office by March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Congratulations to **Sarah McInnes**, who has been awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers Geotechnical Engineer of the Year Award. The award is presented to individuals who have contributed substantially to the civil engineering profession in their specialty area. Sarah is the District Geotechnical Engineer (DGE) in the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT's) Engineering District 6 in King of Prussia. She has spent her 24 year career in the Geotechnical Unit and the last 12 as DGE. She is being recognized for her achievements in managing the geotechnical program for the 5-county area ensuring timely project delivery and safe, economical and constructible transportation projects. In addition to her work for PennDOT, she is a published author on 13 technical papers, is involved in several professional societies, participates in mentoring programs and works closely with Lehigh University, Temple University, and Villanova University as a guest lecturer and technical advisor on research projects.

**Better Angels Red/Blue Workshop:** On Saturday, April 18, 2020, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Salford Mennonite Church will be hosting a Red/Blue Workshop sponsored by Better Angels and led by two trained Better Angels moderators. This is a workshop bringing together about 5-7 right-leaning citizens and 5-7 left-leaning citizens for a day of structured conversations (and a free lunch!). The focus will be on listening and reflecting rather than debating and persuading. The only requirement is a willingness to listen to the other side and a desire to engage in respectful conversation. If you are interested in participating, observing, or just want to find out more, contact either the Blue Organizer, Mark Heise (484-687-0840, [markheise5@gmail.com](mailto:markheise5@gmail.com)) or the Red Organizer, Tim Weaver (215-350-0758, [whoistimw@gmail.com](mailto:whoistimw@gmail.com)).

**Inclement Weather:** If it would be necessary for Salford to cancel scheduled church service, we will announce any cancellation or change of service time on our website and by email. You may also contact Church Administrator Brad Alderfer by cell phone at (215) 272-6724 if you have any questions about possible weather related closures.

### **Youth and Young Adult Spotlight**

**March 23: "Service and Gap Year" 7-8:30 pm at Souderton Mennonite Church:**

Parent and Youth Forum put on the Eastern District and Franconia Conference. Time will include information on what/why service as an option after high school and include a panel as well as booths from different service and gap year organizations.

## **Mennonite Church USA News**

Plans are already underway for **MennoCon21**, the biennial convention of Mennonite Church USA which will be held July 6-10, 2021 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Meet the **Worship Planning Committee**, read about the group's first meeting and learn more about the convention's inspiring **#BringThePeace** theme. <http://mennoniteusa.org/news/worship-planning-committee-mennocon21/>

**Douglas Kaufman**, a director of pastoral ecology at **Goshen College's Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions**, feels called to engage Mennonite churches on climate change. Read why he is so committed to this calling in his blog, "**Climate change as a spiritual crisis.**" <http://mennoniteusa.org/spiritualclimate>

## **Beyond Salford**

Calling all men: come experience spiritual freedom and encouragement by attending **Men's Encounter**, being held April 3 to 5. For more info and registration, visit [www.mensencounterpa.org](http://www.mensencounterpa.org). If you have questions, contact Charlie Ness – [charlie@mensencounterpa.org](mailto:charlie@mensencounterpa.org) or 215-896-8830.

**Blooming Glen Mennonite Church** invites your family to an **Easter Celebration and free Egg Hunt**, April 4, rain or shine, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Bring your basket and join them for a story, crafts, breakfast snacks and the egg hunt. For information call 215-257-3431 or visit [www.bgmc.net](http://www.bgmc.net).

The **MAMA Project** invites you to their annual **Banquet and Silent Auction** on Saturday, April 4, 5:30 pm at Finland Mennonite Church. Guest speakers include members of the inaugural Tanzanian Service Team who will talk about their recent experience with medical brigades, and Bob Delp, Director of Haiti Scholarships program. Please RSVP by April 1 to Jon at [Jonathan@MAMAProject.org](mailto:Jonathan@MAMAProject.org) or call 215-679-4338. Silent Auction donations are being gratefully accepted.

A Lenten song service, **Pathways, Passion and Promise**, will be held at **Blooming Glen Mennonite Church** on April 5 at 6:30 pm. The service will feature the Adult and Junior Choirs and congregational singing under the direction of Michael Bishop, Pastor of Worship and Music. For more information call 215-257-3431 or visit [www.bgmc.net](http://www.bgmc.net).