

May 1, 2022

Sunday, May 1, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on John 21:1-19; *Intimate Communion*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

Sunday, April 24

Offering
\$6,665
ACH Electronic Offering
\$1,975
Vanco Online Offering
\$3,419
Total Budget Offering
\$12,059

Future Salford Events

- May 1 – Spring Communion
- May 15 – Cesar Garcia Preaching at Salford, all church potluck following Worship
- May 22 – Dock Mennonite Academy Touring Choir at Salford
- June 18-19, weekend with Marshall King, author of “Disarmed: The Radical Life and Legacy of Michael “MJ” Sharp”

If you have information or prayer requests for our newsletter, please submit this to the church office by 4:00

A Service of Communion: May 1, 2022

We will hold a communion service on Sunday, May 1 during worship. Sunday school will follow.

We believe that communion is a transformational practice in the personal and shared lives of all who worship at Salford Mennonite Church. We come to the table together in this vital act of “congregational life” expectant and eager to know God, ourselves, and others as fellow seekers and followers of Christ. We welcome anyone to participate in communion who is eager to know transformation through Christ’s grace, Christ’s hospitality, and Christ’s call to covenant community -- just as we welcome anyone who chooses, in their own journey of discernment, to defer or abstain from the table.

As you discern your own relationship to the communion table, we encourage you to consider these questions in prayer, reflection, and discussion with others in the Salford community:

- If you take communion, what are you celebrating? What are you committing to? What are you asking for?
- This meal is a symbol of Jesus’ active love of the world. What does it mean for you to participate in this love at the communion table?
- Are you open to the possibility that Jesus might teach, challenge, inspire, or call you through this sacred ritual?

This Spring, communion will take place in the sanctuary. Groups will be invited to the front of the sanctuary to receive communion together around a table. For covid safety, the communion elements will be covered as much as possible and only the servers will touch them. Servers will not wear masks, so that their instructions can be understood; participants are welcome to wear a mask for added safety. For those who are not comfortable participating around the larger tables but still wish to join in communion, a separate small table will also be available where someone will offer you pre-packaged communion elements. And for those with limited mobility, communion will be brought to you. Elements are gluten free and vegan.

New Members Class

Attention all new (ish) attenders: we’ve been getting inquiries from folks interested in exploring church membership at Salford. If you’ve been attending for a while and want to know more about Anabaptism, baptism, Salford’s life and history, and the meaning of church membership, I’m going to be offering a class soon. There will be light reading, some friendship building and plenty of time for Q and A. Talk to me or send me a text or an email! Dave Greiser, greiserd@salfordmc.org or, dgreiser55@yahoo.com

Youth Fundraiser Auction, Saturday, April 30th, 2022

Please plan to attend the Youth fundraiser meal and auction on Saturday, April 30, 2022. The dinner will be served from 4:15 – 5:30 pm and the auction will begin at 6:00 pm. **The weather is looking positive so the event is planned to be outside**

p.m. Wednesday
afternoon.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please submit your email address to alderferb@salfordmc.org

in the carport area. Please dress appropriately for an evening outside in 65-55 degree weather. For the meal, pulled pork will be provided as the main dish; please bring a salad/side dish or dessert to share. Please also bring your place setting for the meal. The funds raised will be used to support our senior and junior youth program activities and the senior youth summer service trip to Appalachia with SWAP (Service With Appalachian People).

This Week at Salford

Monday, May 2

7:00 pm Fellowship Gathering at Souderton Mennonite Homes (Friendship Room)

Tuesday May 3

7:00 pm Spiritual Discernment Advisory Council Meeting (Library)

Sunday, May 8

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Sanford Alderfer**, and his family as they are in the middle of making important next level of care decisions.
- For **Linnie and Rhoda Landis**; for Linnie as he continues to struggle with effects of congestive heart failure, and as he goes for kidney tests this week; for Rhoda as she waits with and cares for him.
- For **Joe Mathew and Brent Anders**, as they begin married life together.
- For **Earl Alderfer** who is having gall bladder surgery at Grand View on Friday.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **a church plant in Mexico, La Misión del Reino (The Mission of the Kingdom)**. Victor and Ofelia Pedroza García are in Pueblo Santa Rosa, Mexico, where they build relationships in the community, support young men going through rehabilitation, provide food supplies for local families, and hold worship services (virtually and in-person) on Fridays and Sundays. Pray for Victor and Ofelia and the community they serve as they plant seeds for the building of the Kingdom.

Congratulations...

To **Stephen Rittenhouse & Christa Hoover** on the birth of **Simon Hoover Rittenhouse**. He was born on Easter Sunday 4/17, joining sister Cora (3 years old). Grandparents are Jim & Kendra Rittenhouse.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Linford Landis**, who turns 85 on May 2nd, and to **Mary Jane Hershey** who turns 92 on May 5th.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for May – featuring **Manna on Main Street**. Their current needs are: Individual size salty snacks, large chip bags, no salt canned tomatoes, ketchup, foil/plastic wrap, cooking oil, dry beans, juice, and dish soap.

Items can be placed at the donation of the month table by the infant nursery.

4/28/22 Garden Update,

Greetings fellow gardeners, Last Saturday 13 yards of wood chips disappeared from the church parking lot in record time. There where wheel borrows moving everywhere. As fast as they could be loaded, they were wheeled to the garden and

wood chips spread over the walking paths around the raised beds. Really looks nice. The 3 extra flower boxes were set in place and filled with soil. They are now ready for summer. The plants that were burned a little by the cold weather have started to bounce back. Hopefully, the cold weather this week doesn't knock them down again. The beets have started to sprout and look good so far. I was able to chop up the branches that Advent delivered earlier this spring. We will use these wood chips around the outside of the flower boxes for weed control.

This week we will build trellises for the Sugar Snap Peas. Each bed will have its own 7 foot tall trellis for the peas to climb. I also have ornamental sweet peas started in my basement. These will need a trellis in one of our new flower beds. I have the big tractor work set up for next week. As long as the weather holds out by Saturday 5/7, the summer end of the garden should be ready for cardboard, straw in aisles and plants by 5/14. WOO HOO the garden keeps chugging along! I have several flats of flowers started and look forward to planting these. We should have flowers early this year.

Thank you to the great crew that worked really hard to move that big pile of wood chips so fast. The flower boxes are a great addition and when planted will add some real beauty to an already beautiful garden. Steve, rsblank@verizon.net 215-876-6616

Family Faith Formation Spotlight

On May 1 and May 8 (May 1 only for 2s & 3s class), children's Sunday School will be utilizing the **Circle of Grace curriculum** to explore body autonomy and personal boundaries; listening to our feelings as a gift from God; and identifying trusted adults when we need to ask for help, as a way to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. Parents received [this letter](#) after Sunday School last Sunday.

Help us make the 2022 Peace Camp a Success!

We already have over 30 kids registered for Peace Camp, from Sunday, June 19 to Thursday, June 23. We are looking forward to a great year! We are still in need of helpers for:

- Adults to accompany groups of kids
- Youth to accompany groups of kids & help out with special activities
- Teaching lessons (plans provided)
- Peacemaker storytellers

Racial Justice Spotlight

The next meeting of the Racial Justice Learning Group will take place on Zoom on Sunday, May 1, 7-8:30pm. Shane Moes will facilitate sharing of personal stories around our racial justice learning. All are welcome; contact Jenn or Shane for more info if it will be your first time joining.

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>

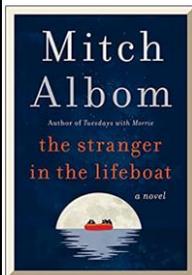
Here is a sampling of new materials:

Projekt 1065 by Alan Gratz - Young Reader/Junior Book



Infiltrate. Befriend. Sabotage. World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, originally from Ireland, now lives in Nazi Germany with his parents. Like the other boys in his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret. He and his parents are spies. Michael despises everything the Nazis stand for. But he joins in the Hitler Youth's horrific games and book burnings, playing the part so he can gain insider knowledge. When Michael learns about Projekt 1065, a secret Nazi war mission, things get even more complicated. He must prove his loyalty to the Hitler Youth at all costs -- even if it means risking everything he cares about. Including... his own life.

The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom



Adrift in a raft after a deadly ship explosion, ten people struggle for survival at sea. Three days pass. Short on water, food and hope, they spot a man floating in the waves. They pull him in.

“Thank the Lord we found you,” a passenger says.

“I am the Lord,” the man whispers.

So begins Mitch Albom’s most beguiling and inspiring novel yet.

Albom has written of heaven in the celebrated number one bestsellers *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *The First Phone Call from Heaven*. Now, for the first time in his fiction, he ponders what we would do if, after crying out for divine help, God actually appeared before us? What might the Lord look, sound and act like?

In *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*, Albom keeps us guessing until the end: Is this strange and quiet man really who he claims to be? What actually happened to cause the explosion? Are the survivors already in heaven, or are they in hell?

The story is narrated by Benji, one of the passengers, who recounts the events in a notebook that is later discovered—a year later—when the empty life raft washes up on the island of Montserrat.

It falls to the island’s chief inspector, Jarty LeFleur, a man battling his own demons, to solve the mystery of what really happened.

A fast-paced, compelling novel that makes you ponder your deepest beliefs, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* suggests that answers to our prayers may be found where we least expect them.

News & Notes

We are not planning for public prayer concerns or sharing on communion Sunday. Please contact one of the Pastors with your prayer concern update by Saturday evening.

Mennonite Education Plan Covenants have been placed in church mailboxes. Extra copies have also been placed in the turnstile by the Welcome Center. As a congregation, we have chosen to participate in the Mennonite Education Plan (MEP). The MEP is a covenant with a Mennonite congregation and conference-sponsored schools to pay tuition for each of its attending students. The MEP is based on the Biblical principle of mutual aid whereby the entire congregation shares in the cost of educating our students. If you have questions about the plan, or

participating in the plan, please contact a member of the MEP ministry team, Ron Freed, Meredith Ehst or Jim Rittenhouse.

The Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center in Allentown created an Oral History with **Harold & Roberta Kreider** just before the pandemic, which has now been published. Roberta & Harold discuss their activism and work as allies to LGBTQ+ communities. They describe how the death of Roberta's beloved brother due to HIV started them on the path toward advocacy for LGBTQ+ people. They go on to discuss their work within the Mennonite Church to make their congregation inclusive of LGBTQ+ people, their work with Witness our Welcome, and their public advocacy for LGBTQ+ communities in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. Roberta also discusses her published books, which sought to document religious trauma for LGBTQ+ people and to encourage religious organizations to be inclusive of LGBTQ+ members.

https://trexlerworks.muhlenberg.edu/lgbt_oralhistory/items/show/48

For all Salford people at the Souderton Mennonite Homes: we will gather on **May 2nd** from **7-8 pm** in the **Friendship Room**. This month, we'll share communion together. Hope to see you there! Any questions, call Karen at 215.237.7367.

An **all Church Potluck Fellowship meal** is being planned for May 15, 2022, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a main dish and salad/side dish or dessert to share. Please bring your place settings for the meal. The kitchen committee will not be providing a main dish or side dishes for the meal, so a variety of dishes are welcome. Your dishes can be brought to the kitchen prior to worship, and our Potluck Fellowship team will be there to assist you with refrigeration, heating, or serving instructions for your dish as needed. Please mark your dishes and serving utensils with your name.

Spring Workday has been scheduled for June 11, 2022, starting at 8:00 am. The primary task for workday will be spreading woodchips on the playground. Please bring a metal rake if you have one. If you are able to help, please let Facility Manager George Gaugler know your plan to help.

Starting on April 24th, **the online streaming options for worship will be simplified**. We will be streaming our services on YouTube only. Visit the church website for a direct link to the Salford YouTube page: <http://www.salfordmc.org/> We will not be including the words and music to songs on the stream. If anyone would like to order a Voices Together hymnal to follow along at home, please see this website: <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/products/ordering-and-discounts/>

Beyond Salford

Dock Mennonite Academy's 61st Annual Country Fair and Auction will be held on Friday, May 13 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. The event will include dinner & dessert with a delicious variety of food, live music, kids' games, Chicken Drive Thru at Franconia Mennonite Church from 4:00 to 7:00, and the live auction will start at 7:30 pm. There's also an online auction with many more items and experiences running from May 6-May 16. Shuttle parking available from Souderton High School. Visit www.dock.org for details.

The [Philadelphia Bronze Handbell Choir](#) will hold a concert at **Plains Mennonite Church** on May 15, at 4:00 pm. Philadelphia Bronze plays a wide variety of music ranging from classical transcriptions to hymn arrangements to jazz and ragtime selections as well as international pieces. A free will offering will be taken.

Blooming Glen Junior High Youth are hosting a [Pedals for Progress bike collection](#) on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 am t 12:00 noon. They will be collecting adult & kids' bikes and sewing machines to send to Uganda, Albania, Tanzania, and Guatemala. Bikes should be rust free; no children's trikes, but bikes with flat tires in need of some repair are accepted. Portable sewing machines should be in working condition. [Find more info here.](#)

Join **Salem Mennonite Church** on Sunday, May 1 at 10:30 am for a morning of music from contemporary to southern gospel, presented by the group "**Witness**". For info, call 215-536-1223.