

April 30, 2023

Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Mark 10:17-31; *Discovering Our Inner Steward*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

New Members Class meeting in Room 207

Connections Class with Brad Alderfer interviewing Brooke & Nathaniel Martin in Room 206

April 23, 2023

Offering

\$3,680

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$2,045

Vanco Online Offering

\$3,023

Total Budget Offering

\$8,748

Children's Offering

\$44

Future Salford Events

May 7 – Spring Communion with Foot Washing

June 4 – Dock Academy Choir performance at Salford

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

Communion and Foot Washing, Sunday May 7th: A Reflection from Maria Hosler Byler

Communion and foot washing are two "practices" of the church - things we do to express and also learn about our faith in an embodied way. On May 7th we will practice these two rituals as we have many times in the past. But it has been long enough since we have done foot washing that it needs more introduction this time.

The last time we practiced foot washing at Salford was in 2019. (Our practice of foot washing has also included an option for hand washing, so when I refer to "foot washing" I mean both options.) Some among us have never participated in the ritual, and all have had a long enough break for it to become unfamiliar. Recently when speaking with some Salford youth and adults about foot washing, reactions ranged from curiosity to suspicion. It is a strange thing!

I personally have experienced the depth of Christ's love through the community in this ritual. Jesus could have offered a lesson about servanthood to his disciples in so many impersonal ways, but he chose this moment of physical touch. We, too, enact Christ's love in our community in so many beautiful ways every day, but here get to offer love and care to one another directly and physically in the way of Jesus. We get to practice it.

Next Sunday we will celebrate communion around tables as has been our practice. All are invited to participate who are eager to know transformation through Christ's grace, Christ's hospitality, and Christ's call to covenant community.

Following communion we will enter into the time of foot washing. There will be a few locations for foot washing and others for hand washing. You may choose to go to those stations with a fellow congregant, or go on your own and meet someone there. Or you may choose to remain in your seat and observe.

I have found the preparation for these two familiar-but-strange rituals to be so fruitful and meaningful. I encourage you, too, to read John 13 in anticipation of May 7th. I would love to speak more with each of you about these rituals, particularly as we re-introduce foot washing. But because it is a ritual, it teaches us in ways my words about it will never accomplish: there is no one lesson to draw from it; its power is in the experience of it. So come to the table, and come to the basin, and may you meet Christ there.

A Walk Against Gun Violence

Few things frighten and sadden us more than the mass shootings that are plaguing our country. Let's take a stand! You're invited to participate in a peaceful one mile walk against gun violence on **Sunday, May 21 at 3:30 on Main Street, Lansdale**. A group of churches and faith communities, including Salford Mennonite, Lansdale United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, the Lansdale Mosque and others will partner together in this peaceful march.

Prior to the march, there will be two activities you can participate in to prepare. First, on **Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m.** come to Salford Church/SMCCC to help create a display of T-shirts on the lawn of the church with the names of all persons

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killed by gun violence in Montgomery County in the past 5 years. We'll call this "A Memorial for the Lost".

Then, on **Saturday, May 20 from 10-11:30 a.m.** we'll gather to **make signs** with positive messages to carry in the march. The following day we will come together and present a calm and hopeful witness against the chaos and tragedy of gun violence! You're invited to come and make your voice heard.

This Week at Salford

Wednesday, May 3

8:30 am Sewing Circle Gathering (Gathering Room)

Sunday, May 7

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

Preaching: Spring Communion

10:30 am Second Hour for all Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Pat Gorman** who is struggling with some complications from his thyroid surgery and adjusting to new medication.
- For **Dave and Kathi Peters** who just returned from a second visit to the Clinic in Mexico. Pray as Dave makes decisions about which medications to continue and that they can find them at affordable prices. Pray for healing of his lymphocytic colitis so he can focus on healing his cancer.
- Keep **Frank Moran** in prayer as he continues the second half of his chemo and radiation. Thus far he is responding very well to the treatment!
- For Steve Hackman's sister **Marilyn Mast**, who is in her final days with intestinal cancer, for **Steve and Lois** as they visit her in Buffalo, NY this weekend, and for her whole family.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Bethany Mennonite Church** (Bridgewater Corners, VT) as they hold a congregational meeting on April 30 and process leadership transitions.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Mary Jane Hershey**, who celebrates her 93rd birthday on May 5th.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for April – Tuna & Salmon Meals, (can & packet) SpaghettiOs with Meatballs, Beefaroni, Ravioli, Spaghetti Sauce, Laundry and Dish Soap.

Your donations will benefit Keystone Opportunity Center (KOC) food pantry in Souderton.

Salford Mennonite will be participating in a **Gun Violence Awareness Day** in Lansdale on May 21st, sponsored by Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence. Many local churches are participating. A Witness Walk through Lansdale is a big part of this event. Please contact Cindy Scheetz with any questions (267-261-1815, cindyscheetz8083@gmail.com).

April 27, 2023 Salford/Advent Garden Update:

Greetings fellow gardeners, This past Saturday we had a hardy crew out in the field laying down our famous cardboard and straw. We were able to cover all the aisles and it looks great! We use cardboard and straw for weed control and also makes it easier to walk the aisles when we do get wet weather, you don't sink into

the mud. There still are two areas we will cover with straw, but I may want to plant something in those areas so we shall see. We also planted the last of our spring cabbage and all is chugging along really nice. The cool nights we had did not affect any of our plants and we came through looking good. AND GUESS WHAT IT RAINED WOO HOO! Our rain gauge registered 1 inch of rain Saturday night into Sunday morning perfect! The weather will be drippy the next few days and that is nice for the plants, not a flood all at once but nice steady moisture. When we lay down our cardboard and straw, you may hear some of our veteran volunteers call out 'Remember to cut at the knot'. That is our reminder when you open a bale of straw to cut the bale twine at the knot. This gives you a nice straight piece of twine, that we can reuse later in the year. I am told this has been going on for as long as there have been bales of straw tied with bale twine. Farmers have found endless uses for the used twine. "Cutting at the knot" is also a reminder to do our jobs the right way, don't short cut the process. We really strive to make the garden a special place that not only produces good food but is pleasant to look at and work in. Our shed has arrived. The next step is to get it modified to cool down our veggies. One step at a time, hopefully we can have it ready by summer. Thank you Gene Kropf for your help with the permitting and layout.

This Saturday looks to be wet and soggy. If you were expecting to work in the garden but want to sleep in that is fine, we are very very far ahead and one Saturday off will do us all some good. Thank you to everyone who helped out last Saturday, the straw was really dry and more than one of us were sneezing a little. Steve, 215-872-6616, rsblank@verizon.net

The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is hosting a Peaceful Rally for State Recognition and Celebration of Tamanend Day on May 1 on the stairs of the PA State Capitol. There will be speakers from LNPA, universities, environmental organizations, and treaty signers, and drumming by the Itchy Dog Singers.

Please consider attending in Harrisburg to show our lawmakers the many members, partners, treaty-signers, and friends that support the Lenape People and recognize that they are still here! The state of Pennsylvania does not currently recognize tribal entities. Participants are welcome to carry peaceful signs of support and wear red and black, the colors of the LNPA.

Faith Formation Spotlight

Sunday School Teachers Needed for Fall 2023! This fall we'll be opening another Sunday School classroom, and though our amazing teachers are all returning, ***we'll need additional teachers for the 2 year old class and the 3 & 4 year old class.*** Teachers serve on a team so they can also be a part of a second hour class for half the weeks. If you're open to the possibility of teaching, or serving as a helper/aide, please let Jenn Svetlik know (jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com) and she can share more!

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>

They Call Her Dirty Sally, A Novel By: Amy Matayo

For years, the town of Silver Bell, Arkansas has quietly mourned the hospital fire that claimed the lives of nine of its

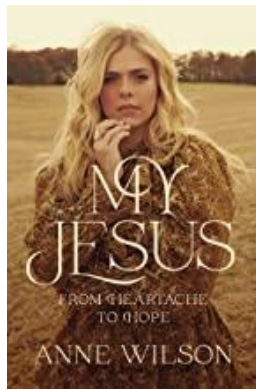
residents—the town doctor, a young expectant mother, and seven infants. So, when journalist Finn Hardwick is assigned the story as part of a national thirtieth anniversary memorial service, he arrives at the town ready to interview its residents, thinking they'll be ready to share and eager to make headlines.

He isn't prepared for the resistance. Or for what appears to be a collective unwillingness to answer his questions.

Faced with one roadblock after another, Finn enlists the help of Billi Ellis, the young motel receptionist that everyone in the town seems to like. Maybe she can get them to open up to him. Maybe she can help him make sense of everything he keeps uncovering. Especially the unexpected tie this tragedy appears to have to his own life.

A tie that leads him directly to the old woman who seems to hold the key to everything. The woman everyone avoids...the woman they call "dirty"...the woman who hasn't spoken a word to anyone since the day the hospital burned.

My Jesus – From Heartache to Hope By: Anne Wilson



In the bluegrass fields of Kentucky, Anne Wilson and her siblings, Jacob and Elizabeth, grew up in the security and love of their family--and Jesus. But when Jacob died in a car accident, Anne was thrust into a painful journey of grief and soul-wrestling that led to God calling her to create songs that glorified Him.

My Jesus weaves together Anne's personal story with an encouraging message to anyone longing for God to wipe away their tears.

No matter what season of life you're facing, *My Jesus* comes alongside you to:

- Show how God can bring purpose out of loss
- Offer hope in the midst of heartbreak
- Remind you that God never abandons you

Discover the beauty that can emerge from suffering as you read Anne's story of growing closer to the God who always makes a way.

Salford News & Notes

Hello Salford friends at Souderton Mennonite Home - please join us for our monthly gathering on **Monday, May 8 from 7-8 in the Friendship Room**. Please contact Karen if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

The Nursery has been updated! Stop by the nursery entryway to see all the info for parents and volunteers in one place. Volunteers and parents: if you have not received updated procedures and information from Erica Smith-Grasse, please [contact her](#). Interested in volunteering in the nursery occasionally? We could use 15 additional adult volunteers to each serve 3 times per year.

Beyond Salford

Please join The **Worm Project** on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am when they hold a Fun Walk at Franconia Community Park. No sign up required – come and go for a stroll with family and friends and support their mission to treat children suffering from parasitic worms in the poorest countries around the world. Along the path, meet volunteers and Oakley, a certified therapy dog. Every dollar you donate will help treat 40 children. Learn more at www.wormproject.org.

