

August 25, 2024

**Sunday, August 25,
10:00 am Worship at
Salford and on
YouTube Live, Guest
Preacher Wayne
Speigle will preach on
Matthew 5:38-48;
“And...”**

**No Second Hour
during Summer
Season**

**Emmaus Road
Sermon Discussion
Class will be meeting
following worship in
the Church Library.
Interested in talking
about the sermon?
The Emmaus Road
group welcomes all.**

**The Required Child
Safety Training for all
volunteers working
with children and
youth will occur in
the Sanctuary
following worship**

**The Ecotheology
Presentation with the
Salford/Advent
Garden team will
occur in the
Gathering Room
following Worship**

August 18, 2024
Offering
\$4,275
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,980
Vanco Online Offering
\$2,445
**Total Budget Offering
\$8,700**

Thank you, Brad Alderfer!

When Brad Alderfer slipped into my office last Sunday and said, “Do you have a minute?”, I was not prepared for what followed. I honestly never considered the possibility that Brad would leave the ministry team before I did. And I felt a tiny bit of panic inside when he told me his news.

For 15 years, Brad has been the one constant on the staff at Salford. He’s been our rock. He’s served through the tenures of four lead pastors and numerous interim and associate pastors. He has brought a sense of calm competence to everything he’s done.

Church administrators occupy a unique place in the life of congregations. If they are “homegrown”, they know the church’s stories, its families, its crises. They have a deep loyalty to the church and a love for its people. They bring a practical set of skills with numbers, computers, schedules, and the work of committees and ministry teams. Yet they see their work not as “a job”, but as ministry.

Brad has excelled in so many areas of ministry. I’ve watched him shape budgets, lead meetings, pay bills, but also offer children’s times in worship, teach preschoolers, lead adult class discussions. He is a lifelong learner and a growing disciple.

And now, I call on Salford to congratulate Brad as he takes on a new challenge at Richter and continues to grow. And I call on us to accept the challenge of life at Salford after Brad. The next administrator is out there, being prepared by God’s Spirit for their next challenge. Let’s pray Brad on to his next chapter; and pray Salford on to ours. - Dave Greiser, lead pastor.

Final Sunday Summer Outdoor Service – September 1

Final Summer Sunday Service – a Wild Church Communion Outdoors in the Oak Grove: Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Bring your wide-eyed, open-eared, ready-hearted curiosity to hear what God may whisper to you through the trees and in the elements on Sunday, September 1. We’ll meet for an unplugged gathering of listening, singing, sharing, and Communion. As you prepare your heart for Communion, consider these questions:

- 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?

Finding Ourselves in God’s Story: A Day with Michele Hershberger (September 21, 2024, 10:00 A.M.-6:30 P.M.)

Do you read the Bible? Have you set the Bible aside because it just creates too many questions? Does reading the Bible trigger painful memories of days in a

Children's Offering:
\$25

Future Salford Events

September 1 –
Outdoor Worship with
Monthly Communion

September 8 – Return
to Regular Worship
Schedule and Second
hour

September 21-22 –
Finding Ourselves in
God's Story Weekend
Event with Michelle
Hershberger

September 29 –
Outdoor Worship with
Baptism at
Branchwood Park,
Franconia Township

October 4-6 –
Women's Fall Retreat

October 12 – Red
Cross Blood Drive 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.

If you would like to
receive this newsletter
by email, please submit
your email address to
alderferb@salfordmc.org
[g](#)

conservative church? Is the Bible just too hard to understand?

This fall, Salford will be hosting **Michele Hershberger, Bible and Ministry Professor and Co-Campus Pastor at Hesston College** for a weekend. You may remember Michele preaching a dynamic sermon at Salford at Brooke Martin's ordination. Prior to preaching on Sunday, September 22, Michele will lead an all-day session on Saturday, September 21, about the story of the Bible and how we are invited to situate the story of our lives in it. The day will be a condensed version of her popular Biblical Literature course that she teaches at Hesston.

When Salford's pastoral staff met with Michele to plan the session, we asked her: Can you help Salford fall in love with the Bible? So if you want to better understand God's story, re-kindle your affection for scripture, or read the Bible from a new perspective, this event is for you!

Attendees should pack a lunch, but dinner will be provided at the conclusion of the event at 6:30 P.M. Additionally, child-care will be provided.

There are two rounds of registration for the event. The first round (**August 11-25**) is reserved exclusively for participants and members of Salford's congregation. The second round (**August 26-September 15**) will be open to people from Salford and anyone outside of our congregation. Register early to ensure your spot! **There is no cost for this event!**

You may **register here** using this [form](#).

Renewable Energy Project Update

The installation of the solar panel infrastructure began this week at Salford. Workers from PowerStream LLC were on site Wednesday and Thursday and installed the roof anchors and railings for the solar panels on various roof faces around the church. Work will continue next week and the following, with the goal of having the system install completed by mid-September. Once the system installation is completed, it will take approximately two months for final inspections and start-up approval from PECO. We are hopeful to be producing our own electricity by December 1, 2024! You may notice some equipment around the facility for the next few weeks until the install is completed.

Women's Fall Retreat

Sign up for the **Women's Retreat: October 4-6 at Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center!** Join us for a weekend of relaxing, connecting, and growing together with our leader Samantha Lioi. The theme for the weekend is Peacemaking Within: Welcoming our Whole Selves, Psalm 139. Cost is \$120 for the weekend. Payment received in the church office reserves your spot. Call Pastor Karen with any questions. Cost will not be a barrier to participation: talk to Karen. **Deadline to register: Sunday, September 15!!**

40 for 40 Salford Mennonite Child Care Center Birthday and Playground Maintenance/Upkeep Fundraiser

As SMCCC prepares to celebrate its 40th Anniversary on September 15th, you can join in the celebration and help give a little love to our playground and 35 year old big blue shed. Please consider donating \$40 dollars for 40 years of service to the community, or pick up 40 sticks, 40 acorns, or pull 40 weeds on the playground. You may do this on your own schedule, or can contribute on Sunday morning, September 15th at the official celebration, or join a planned upcoming activity.

The big blue shed needs love and is undergoing renovations - repairing of rotten wood, re-painting of the entire shed, removal of a rotten awning, and refreshing of the shrubbery around the shed. The approximate cost of this work will be \$5,000.

The Child Care playground needs love too. The reading bench around the tree has been repaired, the fence and gate need repairs, two large dead trees need to be removed and others need to be trimmed. We also add woodchips annually for our children's safety. This upkeep will cost approximately \$8,000.

Watch for organized activities to assist with this work. Bring your extra offering on September 15th to the official celebration through cash, check or offering envelope marked "SMCCC 40 for 40". See you out at the playground!

This Week at Salford

Thursday, August 29

8:30 am Weekly Morning Centering Prayer (Labyrinth)

Sunday, September 1

10:00 am Salford Worship and Communion Outdoors in the Oak Grove

Preaching: No Sermon

No Second Hour on Summer Schedule

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For ***all those returning to school this fall***; that students among us be blessed with curiosity, wisdom, and joy, that the teachers and administrators be blessed with patience, inspiration, and strength, and that the families supporting their children through every step be blessed with understanding and perseverance.
- For ***Rose Martin*** who has had a series of falls in the past few weeks. She is OK but pray for increased strength and improved balance.
- For ***Mary Miller*** who continues to recover from her hip replacement and begins physical therapy on Monday.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the health and growth of the ***Methacton (PA) Mennonite community while Pastor Sandy Drescher-Lehman*** is on sabbatical from August through October. Jordan Luther will serve as pastor during this time. Pray revivification for Sandy, of joy, contentment, fun, and rest. Prayer for a generous and gentle spirit for Jordan during this interim role.

Birthday Blessings...

To ***Gladys Yoder***, who celebrates her 92nd birthday on August 26th.

Are you anxious about current events? Feeling like life is just too much some days? Finding very little peace in each day? **Join Pastor Karen for a weekly morning Centering Prayer.** This will be a time of quietly seeking God's presence together. We'll meet at the Labyrinth. Bring a blanket, chair or something to sit on if you like. We'll meet Thursday mornings at 8:30 for 15 minutes of silent group prayer. You may linger after to walk the labyrinth or enjoy the quiet of the morning. Our first meeting will be Thursday, August 29.

Strader-Bergey Open House is rescheduled to **Sunday, September 1 from 12-3** in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by to congratulate Lee and Josie, see some photos, and have light refreshments. All are welcome!

Mosaic Conference Spotlight

Mosaic Mennonite Conference leadership has released their recommendation for moving forward as a conference after a two year discernment process on the future relationship with Mennonite Church USA. You may read the [recommendation here](#). This recommendation will be discerned and voted on by Conference Delegates at the November Fall Assembly.

You may also view the [Mosaic Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 here](#).

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for August – Mennonite Central Committee School Kits

NEW items only

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

Thank you for limiting your generosity to the items listed. School kits are *MCC's most requested item. They are given to refuge and displaced children, helping students and teachers add some normalcy to disrupted lives.

School kits are distributed in a useful double drawstring cloth bag (11" x 16") **HOWEVER, you can bring your kit items in a plastic bag if there are no cloth bags available. MCC will provide cloth bags as needed at MCC MRC of Harleysville.**

Salford/Advent Garden Update, August 16:

Greetings fellow gardeners, this week was peak time for tomatoes. Including today's harvest we picked over 1,400 lbs. of toms this week. That's a lotta BLTs! But with 3 3/4 inches of rain last Thursday/Friday, the tomatoes started to split and with the damp weather they are more susceptible to diseases. String beans are on their last hurrah, but our fall planting is flying right along! The cucumber beetles have finally done in the Zucchini. Our summer plants are slowly fading into the Summer sunset. I do have a few cucumber plants that I hope will produce in September. Hot and Green peppers continue to be plentiful. The tropical storm that moved through last week had some high winds that knocked over our wedding trellis. I have Bird house gourds planted there this year. They have grown so big and heavy we had to retie the trellis to posts and brace the sides with wooden boards. There are quite a few gourds on the vines. Our fall plants are looking good, but a few insect pests have found their way into that part of the garden, but a little TLC took care of that problem. Summer is slowly winding down; fall will be here before you know it. Think about it we are only 60 days away from our average first frost date. My how time fly's. Thank you to everyone who worked in the garden so far this season, this year we have had a fair amount of rookie volunteers. GREAT to see! always enjoy a new face. Steve 215-872-6616 rsblank@verizon.net

Salford/Advent Garden Update, August 23:

Greetings fellow gardeners, well we go from 99 degrees 100% humidity to the 50s in a week, wow does this feel good. The garden is still chugging along. This past week our Roma tomatoes hit full stride and I was picking by wheel barrow full each time out. Some of our round tomatoes have reached the end of the season but a

few will hang on until fall. Peppers have slowed down and we pulled our summer string bean plants just too many bugs they really did a number on the plants this year. I was too late in treating them. This week was SALSA week. WOO HOO last Sunday a hardy group cleaned and cut up tomatoes, green and hot peppers, onions and a little garlic. Monday morning the batch was delivered to Bauman's in Sassamansville. I picked up the jars Tuesday and we will let the volunteers decide Saturday how hot or mild it is. Thank you to Lory Blank, Donna and Steve Barndt for their help with the prep work and delivery.

This Sunday we have a special event planned and you are all invited.

The Salford Mennonite/Advent Lutheran Garden will host on Sunday, August 25, 2024. Around 11:30, garden volunteers and other congregation members from both congregations will enjoy each other's company in the Gathering room at Salford for a picnic lunch (bring your own) and presentation.

The presentation will be led by Rev. Dr. Matt Lenahan. He is an ELCA pastor in Lancaster as well as director of the Wittel Farm (Elizabethtown). He has advocated for connecting with Christian stewardship of God's creation to the call to feed the hungry. His research includes understanding agricultural science and business practices.

The event will include a presentation and picnic lunch (brought by each attendee), with beverages and dessert supplied. We will also try and include a tour of the garden. (Check out the new shed) If you want to attend, please get back to me, Jean Godsall Myers or Brad Alderfer so we know how much to prepare and set up for. Thank you, Steve 215-872-6616 rsblank@verizon.net

Faith Formation Spotlight

Backpack Blessing: This Sunday, Aug. 25 during Children's Time we'll have our annual back-to-school blessing. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks up front with them. We'll be giving out something that will invite kids into prayer and remind them of our community's care for them.

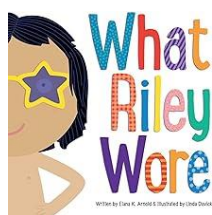
Lunchbox Blessings: If you'd like 30 notes (affirmations, jokes, and blessings) to include in your kid's lunchbox this year, let Jenn know! She'll put a copy in your mailbox.

Parents of Kids 2 years old to 5th grade: Sunday School starts on Sept 8! Please register your children for Sunday School here, ideally by Friday, Aug. 23 so we can collect important information about your child(ren): <https://forms.gle/yu3aPEMeG6ePCNbu9>

Church Library Spotlight

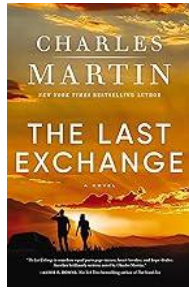
The church library has purchased many new books in recent weeks. Stop by and speak with a librarian to see what's new, or review the library catalogue on the Salford church website <https://smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home>

What Riley Wore By: Elana K. Arnold



Riley wears whatever clothes feel right each day. On Monday, Riley feels shy and wears a bunny costume to school. On Tuesday, a scary trip to the dentist calls for a super hero cape. For a trip out with Otto and Oma, a ball gown is the perfect outfit. This charming picture book is a gentle exploration of self-expression and source of encouragement for being true to oneself despite the expectations of others. DONATED

The Last Exchange By: Charles Martin



When MacThomas Pockets finished his last tour as part of the Scottish Special Forces, he was hired to consult for a film director to finesse some scenes that weren't working. In a twist he never saw coming, he ended up moving to L.A. to work as the bodyguard for movie star Maybe Joe Sue.

It didn't take long for Pockets to realize there were two Joe Sues: The Joe Sue the public saw with her perfect life and her Hollywood husband. And the private Joe Sue: the one with the traumatic youth that no amount of pills could cover up, who desperately wanted a child of her own.

Even after their paths diverged, he continued to track Joe Sue's life. Only a few would notice when the bottom fell out. But he did. And that's when he stepped in.

One man seeks to answer the question: How far would you go--really--to save someone you love? And in the masterful hands of *New York Times* bestselling author Charles Martin, finding the answer will take readers on an intense and heart-wrenching journey to the very end.

News & Notes

Mama Bird Coffee: is your nest a bit quiet these days? One or more flown? Come commiserate or celebrate with other mamas at the Broad Street Grind on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9:30-11. No RSVP, just show up. Questions: call Pastor Karen.

August Summer Fellowship Opportunities for Everyone!

Soil + Seed Wednesday outdoor potlucks 5:30-8pm

Aug 28: Julie & Dean Wimmer's home

We will gather for dinner, work through the weekly Soil and Seed liturgy, and enjoy fellowship as we play games and relax in each other's company. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and your own plates, cutlery, and water bottle.

5:30-6:30 pm: Dinner

6:30-6:45: Soil and Seed Liturgy

6:45-8: Fellowship

Beyond Salford

If you're grieving a loved one's death, you can find comfort, direction, and peace of mind at a **GriefShare grief recovery support group**. Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, PA hosts a weekly group on Thursdays beginning September 5, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. For more information call 215-723-3592.

All are invited to a **Mosaic Fellowship Meal hosted by the intercultural team**. Bring a favorite dish to share, connect with others within Mosaic Conference, and enjoy improv games. Saturday, Sept. 28 at 11am at Salford Mennonite (480 Groff Mill Rd. Harleysville, PA). [RSVP here](#).