



December 11, 2022

**Sunday, December 11, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live,** Associate Pastor Andrew Zetts will preach on Isaiah 35:1–10; Matthew 11:2–11; *The Manger in No Man's Land*

**10:30 am Second Hour for all ages**

**December 4, 2022**

Offering  
\$18,540  
ACH Electronic Offering  
\$5,285  
Vanco Online Offering  
\$5,695  
**Total Budget Offering \$29,520**  
**Children's Offering \$47**

## Future Salford Events

**December 18** – Christmas Hymn Sing at Salford  
**December 18** – Children's Christmas Program  
**December 24** – Christmas Eve Candle-lighting Worship Service – 6:30 pm  
**December 25** – Christmas Morning Worship – 10:00 am, no Second Hour  
**January 1** – New Year Day Morning Worship – 10:00 am, no Second Hour

If you have information or prayer requests for

## Survey for Discernment Process

We are in the midst of discerning a path forward together regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people for marriage, ministry within the congregation, and ordained ministry. As we prepare to continue our discernment in January, [please complete this survey by December 14](#). This will help the Path Forward Design Team have a sense of the whole congregation in this moment and will help them plan the next portion of our work together. The survey should take 5-20 minutes to complete, depending on your comments.

We spent the fall months in scripture study, prayer, reading, and conversation. In January we will take up our discernment once more. In this two-month period in between the two series, we invite your active rest:

- Enjoy the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany
- Pray for the process: for leaders, the congregation, and yourself as a participant in the process.
- Catch up (past sessions are on the [website](#)) and process however you need
- [Complete the survey by December 14](#).

Thank you for doing this good and hard work of church: listening to the Spirit through scripture and experience, honoring God's truth in one another, speaking your convictions with love, and growing together.

Sincerely, The Path Forward Design Team: Dave Greiser, Andrew Zetts, Maria Hosler Byler, Sally Derstine, Ron Freed, Kerry Hasler-Brooks, Joe Landis, and Mandy Martin

## Beth Yoder Credential Update

At last Sunday's congregational meeting, Dave noted that we are still awaiting news from Mosaic Conference regarding the outcome of Beth Yoder's interview following her officiating at Brent and Joe's wedding. This week, the following notice came from Mosaic Conference:

*At its November meeting, the Mosaic Board affirmed the recommended actions regarding a Giving and Receiving Counsel process with Beth Yoder. In April, Yoder officiated a same-sex wedding.*

*The discernment process, as outlined in the [Giving and Receiving Counsel document](#), included a conversation with a review team comprised of members of both the Ministerial Committee and Credentials Committee. Yoder was not employed as a pastor in a Mosaic Conference congregation at the time of the officiating, though remains a member of Salford (Harleysville, PA) Mennonite Church where she was most recently part of the pastoral team.*

*The following recommendation came from the review team which was then affirmed by the Ministerial Committee and forwarded for final processing to the Mosaic Board:*

*We find Beth Yoder's actions in officiating a same-sex wedding to be at variance with the policy and teaching positions of Mosaic Conference, specifically with*

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)

*Statement Three of the Church Together Statement Grace and Truth, which states that pastors credentialed in the Conference may not perform same-sex covenant ceremonies. We reaffirm that the Grace and Truth statement is the policy and teaching position of Mosaic Mennonite Conference. In accordance with the Giving and Receiving Counsel document, each incident is to be handled on a case-by-case basis. We recommend that Rev. Beth Yoder's ministerial credentials with Mosaic Conference be placed on probation for a period of two years. Probation is defined by A Mennonite Polity for Ministerial Leadership as "the credential held by those...who are placed under close supervision for a specified period of time in order to determine whether the credential will be continued."*

*Review team members included: Sherri Binder (Ripple), Tami Good (Souderton), Josh Meyer (Franconia), Michael Howes (West Swamp), and Aldo Siahaan (Philadelphia Praise Center).*

We want to continue in prayer and support for Beth and for Jerry, who are members of our church and much esteemed parts of our Salford family. Dave Greiser

## **Pastor's Reflections from the Congregational Meeting**

I'm feeling warm and grateful for your prayers and thoughtfulness during my recovery. Anita and I have gotten soups, flowers, texts, emails, cards, and more. I'm 12 days past my surgery, with a lot of PT to go. Thanks to all you knee replacement vets who exhorted me to do the work! I worked half-days in the office this week. But no driving till Christmas.

So much has changed at Salford in the last 12 months. A year ago, we said thank you to Beth Yoder as she retired. Some of us walked with her as the Conference reviewed her ministry credentials following Brent and Joe's wedding. We still await hearing the outcome of those interviews.

A month after Beth left, we thanked Dorcas Lehman, whose insightful and persistent care meant so much to many of us during COVID. Maria returned from parental leave to a very different role on the team, in which she has fitted in seamlessly.

In the Spring of 2022, we brought on Karen Bergey as interim pastor of care. Karen has restored important parts of our care for seniors (Monday night fellowship at SMH!) and filled a vital role in supervising pastoral visitators. In late Spring, Andrew Zetts was named our candidate for pastor for youth and outreach. In the Fall, Andrew was licensed, Maria was ordained, and we received 16 new members following one of the largest membership classes in some time. For the first time in three years, we have a full pastoral team, bubbling with youthfulness, creativity and energy. From my perspective, team meetings feel positive, busy, and generative.

Last Spring the Board announced we would once again "enter the water" to complete the discernment on sexuality and Salford that was begun in the last decade. We spent much of the fall studying scripture and sexuality, foregoing our usual second hour groups and meeting in the fellowship hall. I'm greatly encouraged by the work people put in and their commitment to the process. It has not been easy work and it would be easier to put it off. I'm confident we will know how to read the Bible with deeper understanding because we did this work. I'm confident we are growing our ability to have hard conversations.

This work has been happening even as Mosaic Conference is discussing its future relationship with the denomination. Mosaic began a two-year process which could have a long-term effect on Salford's relationship with the conference, depending upon the outcome of Salford's discernment.

And do not forget two other great stories from this past year; Gardening For Peace, and yet another great year for the Salford-ADVENT Garden. G4P linked together ministries of shalom addressing food insecurity, gun violence and safety, prison ministry, mental health, interfaith conversation, and the Lenape people whose land we occupy. It brought a wonderful crowd of guests to our church on a Fall weekend.

Salford, you should feel encouraged. Blessed is the church in which young people want to be pastors! Blessed is the church that is creative and takes risks. Blessed is the church that stretches mind and heart in order to study, pray, and discern its future. Blessed are the people who risk asking questions without already knowing the answers! God is among us.

I feel privileged to be your pastor. With love, Dave

## **Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day Worship**

Salford will hold a Christmas Eve candle lighting service on Saturday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m. This service is a joyful time of music, scripture, and candle lighting to celebrate the arrival of the Christ Child.

The offering received on Christmas Eve will be divided between Keystone Opportunity Center/Manna on Main Street and Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The portion for Keystone and Manna will fund rent and heating assistance for those in need in our local area, as this winter is especially challenging due to inflation and high energy prices. The portion for MCC will address the global hunger crisis which has been made more urgent by the conflict in Ukraine and severe drought in East Africa. They say: *With your support, MCC is responding to these increasing needs around the world, providing emergency food for families in countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. Our largest food relief projects continue to be in Syria and Lebanon, and food assistance is a significant part of our work in Ukraine.*

In addition, "White Gifts" will be received for Maternity Care Coalition, a resource for pregnant and parenting teens in Southeastern PA. Items needed are blankets, infant outfits, sleepers, onesies, socks, sweaters, diapers, hooded towels, crib sheets, baby lotions, bibs for sizes 0-4 years of age. Wrap the gifts in white paper with a sticky note identifying the gift, or place them in a bag, and make them part of your offering for the most vulnerable young families living among us.

On **Christmas Day and New Year's Day**, worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. and there will be no second hour classes.

## **Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church**

For the remainder of 2022, we will present a weekly update of our financial situation.

- We have advised our Staff team and Ministry teams to be conservative with spending for the remainder of the year. No new spending initiatives for this year.
- We will need **\$99,000** in offering and income for the last three weeks of 2022 to cover our expected expenses. We hope to receive **\$120,000** in offering and income to fund our "below the line" giving for MCUSA, Mosaic Mennonite Conference and larger Church agencies.
- We will need an average of **\$32,250** in weekly offering in December to cover our 2022 budget expenses. This is a **4%** increase from December giving last year. To fund our "below the line" giving for 2022, we will need a **22%** increase in

giving for December.

- **Average weekly offering needed for December: \$32,2500**
- **Average weekly offering received so far for December (1 week): \$29,520**

## **Nursery will not be staffed on Dec. 11 and 25; Volunteers needed**

The nursery will be without volunteers on December 11 and 25. Families are welcome to use the space for diaper changes and play on those Sundays; a nursery ministry team member will complete the required cleaning. All other Sundays volunteers will be present and ready to care for Salford's children age 2 and younger.

How can you help?

- Volunteer in the nursery! Contact [Maria](#) if you are willing.
- Join the nursery ministry team for an easy way to make sure the nursery runs smoothly. Contact [Maria](#) if you are willing.
- Complete your child safety clearances so you can be a volunteer with children of any age. Reach out to [Brad](#) or stop by the church office.

**December 8 Update:** this week two new volunteers have signed up for the nursery and five volunteers have completed or made progress toward their child safety clearances. Thank you for supporting the church in this way!!

## **This Week at Salford**

### **Monday, December 12**

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

### **Sunday, December 18**

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

Children's Christmas Program

10:30 am Second Hour for Children

## **Our Church Family**

### **Prayer Concerns**

- For the great-granddaughters of **Marge Hendricks: Eva Marie** and **Emery Jean**, born 10 weeks early to parents **Sarah and Mike Walor**.
- With the Mennonite Early Childhood Network we pray that God will help adults engage **young children** in the joy, hope, peace, and wonder of God's extravagant love, as together they share with others the gifts of this Christmas season.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Turan Rush** this week. Turan is a new, part-time Mosaic Conference employee based in Charleston, WV, and works as the COO of the [Midian Leadership Project](#), a Conference Related Ministry. Turan is a recent college graduate and is passionate about working with youth through coaching, education, and mentoring. Please pray for Turan in his work with students and fundraising for the Hope Scholarship Fund.

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

To **Julie Musselman**, who celebrates her 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Congratulations...**

To **Sarah & Mike Walor** on the birth of Eva Marie Walor and Emery Jean Walor on November 25, 2022. **Marjorie Hendricks** is a great grandmother.

## **Service & Mission**

### **Donation of the Month Project for December - MCC Relief Kits**

Relief kits provide valuable supplies to families traumatized by war and disasters. In recent years, kits have been sent to Haiti, Iraq, Gaza, Bosnia, Serbia, Nepal, Mozambique, Indonesia and Honduras.

#### **Contents (NEW items only, in original packaging)**

- 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- Shampoo (1 or 2 bottles, totaling more than 20 oz; place in **resealable plastic bag**)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote® brands). If you can't find this product MRC of Harleysville has it available and will be able to add this in.
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, **dark or bright colors**; approx. 29 in.x60 in.)
- 2 wide-tooth combs (6–8 in)
- 1 fingernail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40 count, **assorted**)
- Sanitary pads (**THIN**; 1 or 2 packages, minimum 28 pads total)

Place contents in a box or bag. MCC will repack the kits into the buckets for shipping. Funds for relief kits can also be submitted via the offering with your envelopes marked for "MCC relief Kits."

## **Faith Formation Spotlight**

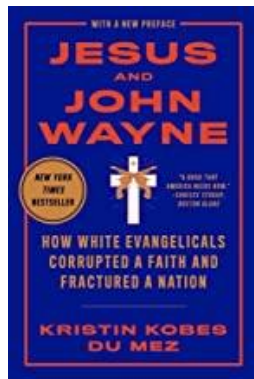
This Sunday, Dec. 11 all children and Jr High will report to the sanctuary for second hour for the Christmas Program rehearsal, rather than downstairs.

## **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:

### **Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation, by: Kristen Kobes, Du Mez**



*Jesus and John Wayne* is a sweeping, revisionist history of the last seventy-five years of white evangelicalism, revealing how evangelicals have worked to replace the Jesus of the Gospels with an idol of rugged masculinity and Christian nationalism—or in the words of one modern chaplain, with “a spiritual badass.”

As acclaimed scholar Kristin Du Mez explains, the key to understanding this transformation is to recognize the centrality of popular culture in contemporary American evangelicalism. Many of today's evangelicals might not be theologically astute, but they know their VeggieTales, they've read John Eldredge's *Wild at Heart*, and they learned about purity before they learned about sex—and they have a silver ring to prove it. Evangelical books, films, music, clothing, and merchandise shape the beliefs of millions. And evangelical culture is teeming with muscular heroes—mythical warriors and rugged soldiers, men like Oliver North, Ronald Reagan, Mel Gibson, and the Duck

Dynasty clan, who assert white masculine power in defense of “Christian America.” Chief among these evangelical legends is John Wayne, an icon of a lost time when men were uncowed by political correctness, unafraid to tell it like it was, and did what needed to be done.

Challenging the commonly held assumption that the “moral majority” backed Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020 for purely pragmatic reasons, Du Mez reveals that Trump in fact represented the fulfillment, rather than the betrayal, of white evangelicals’ most deeply held values: patriarchy, authoritarian rule, aggressive foreign policy, fear of Islam, ambivalence toward #MeToo, and opposition to Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ community. A much-needed reexamination of perhaps the most influential subculture in this country, *Jesus and John Wayne* shows that, far from adhering to biblical principles, modern white evangelicals have remade their faith, with enduring consequences for all Americans. DONATED

### **Back to the Prairie: A Home Remade, A Life Rediscovered** **By: Melissa Gilbert**



Known for her childhood role as Laura Ingalls Wilder on the classic NBC show *Little House on the Prairie*, Melissa Gilbert has spent nearly her entire life in Hollywood. From *Dancing with the Stars* to a turn in politics, she was always on the lookout for her next project. She just had no idea that her latest one would be completely life changing.

When her husband introduces her to the wilds of rural Michigan, Melissa begins to fall back in love with nature. And when work takes them to New York, they find a rustic cottage in the Catskill Mountains to call home. But “rustic” is a generous description for the state of the house, requiring a lot of blood, sweat, and tears for the newlyweds to make habitable.

When the pandemic descends on the world, it further nudges Melissa out of the spotlight and into the woods. She trades Botox treatments for DIY projects, power lunching for gardening and raising chickens, and soon her life is rediscovered anew in her own little house in the Catskills.

## **News & Notes**

**Gardening for Peace follow-up, Special Second Hour Session the week.** On Saturday September 24, 2022, Salford’s Justice and Peace Team hosted a Gardening for Peace event. We attracted around 150 people for a garden tour, workshops for learning and collaboration, activities for children, a dinner featuring food from the garden, and the MAIN EVENT: Forging a gun into a garden tool with Shane Claiborne & Mike Martin.

This Sunday, December 11, we will be releasing Dave Peters’ short powerful overview video of the event and report on the follow-up from the 10 workshops we held, relating to Prisoners as Neighbors, Montco’s food insecurity issues, Ongoing dialogue with Lenape Elder John Thomas, Follow-up on Mennonite Central Committee’s HEEDING GOD’S CALL and FEAR NOT, and more.

Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall. Justice and Peace Team

For all Salford friends at the Souderton Mennonite Home: please join us for our monthly gathering on **Monday, December 12th in the Friendship Room from 7-8**. We will sing some carols and share some Christmas thoughts together. Please call Karen with questions: 215.237.7367.

We are receiving much appreciation for the **children and adult artwork featured on the covers of the bulletin**. We are seeking additional artwork to feature. Please send the artwork you are willing to share to Church Administrator Brad Alderfer.

We are preparing to print **updated copies of the Photo Directory for 2023**. Please send an updated photo of your family for the directory (a square photo works best). Please also send any updated contact information, address, phone, email, etc. Please send your updated information to the church office at [alderferb@salfordmc.org](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org) by December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If you would like to be added to the photo directory, or would like access, please also contact the church office.

## **Beyond Salford**

You are invited to an **A Cappella Christmas Song Service** on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> Franconia Mennonite Church at 6:30 pm in the Church upper fellowship hall.

**Dock Mennonite Academy's 9 to 12 Christmas Concert** will be held Thursday, December 15 at 7, featuring the band, orchestra, chamber choir, chorale and high school concert choirs.

Join **Camp Men-O-Lan** on a **Journey Through Bethlehem**, Saturday, December 17 – the first tour starts at 6:00 pm. This year's theme is 'The Heart of Christmas' and will include accounts from Bible characters such as the shepherd boy, Anna, the wisemen, and Mary. The tour will conclude at the auditorium where you will hear the Good News, enjoy caroling at the fireplace, snacks and hot chocolate! Register online at [menolan.org](http://menolan.org) or call 215-679-5144.

**From Everence: College scholarship applications are being accepted** Everence® awards 45 college scholarships every summer. We are accepting scholarship applications through the end of February for the 2023-2024 school year. You can find more information and application for the [scholarship here](#).