

December 18, 2022

**Sunday, December 18, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live,** will feature the Children's Christmas Program

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

**December 11, 2022**

Offering

\$15,982

ACH                      Electronic

Offering

\$2,070

Vanco Online Offering

\$4,053

**Total Budget Offering**

**\$22,104**

**Children's Offering**

**\$57**

**Thanksgiving Eve Offering**

## 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 our newsletter, please

## **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. Maternity Care Coalition also welcomes gifts via their Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/guW9FBP>

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 **\$72,000** in offering and income for the last two weeks of 2022 to cover our expected expenses. We hope to receive **\$93,000** 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 (2 week): \$25,812**

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)

## Path Forward Design Team Update, December 15, 2022

On Wednesday evening, the Path Forward Committee met to look through the Survey results, which you all sent in following the conclusion of our fall second hour meetings. We were eager to hear from you, in order to understand how we can best plan the next round of meetings beginning next month. Over 110 people sent back surveys, which represents 80-90% of the people who were in the fellowship hall week by week. This is a very high percentage.

We were HIGHLY encouraged by your input. We know this process has seemed long for some of you, and rather intense. It has included hard work. Despite what we have already asked from you, you took quality time to patiently respond to our questions, and you answered from your hearts. Thank you for your well-phrased responses. They indicate that you listened well both to the speakers in the sessions and to each other around tables. You learned important things about biblical interpretation, Bible content, as well as about careful listening and interaction amid potential conflict. Your responses show that you love Salford, you care about its people, and you are willing to "be the church" through hard conversation. We in Path Forward feel grateful.

We are making plans for the next round of sessions which will be somewhat different in format from the last round (owing in part to your suggestions). We want to be mindful of the desire many of you have to complete the process in a timely fashion, and are planning with that in mind. At the same time, there are still some important topics to cover.

We will be sending out a summary of the results of the survey after New Years, and we will also be publishing the schedule and topic for the next conversations. Thank you for being church! Dave Greiser, for the Path Forward Discernment Team.

## This Week at Salford

### Saturday, December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candle-lighting Worship Service (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 25

10:00 am Salford Worship Indoors and Streamed on YouTube Live

Preaching: Dave Greiser

No Second Hour Christmas Morning

## Our Church Family

### Prayer Concerns

- For **Faith Detweiler**; her roommate **Mary** is suffering from late stage kidney disease. Pray for comfort for both.
- For **Cathy Yoder** who injured her Achilles tendon while on the Peace Pilgrimage - that she would recover quickly.
- For **Mary Miller's** mother, Marie Penrose who is 104 and has been on hospice for 4 months. Please pray she would find peaceful release.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Bethany Elevation Community Church (BECC) in New York**. BECC is a Mosaic congregation and is in the process of purchasing a church building. Please pray for guidance, funding, generosity, and Spirit-led opportunities as they work to purchase their church home.

"Thank you very much for the cards, prayers and poinsettia that we received during the recent passing of our Dad, Father-in-law and Pop, Paul Landis. They

meant a lot to us all." **Debbie & Ron Freed, Andrew & Elise Freed family and Amy & Josh Gulley family.**

To my family at Salford, I want to thank you for the very meaningful Agape Christmas gift, it is very much appreciated. Wishing all a very merry and blessed Christmas and deep joys in the coming year! With Love, **Dale Detweiler**

### **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 Harleystville 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**

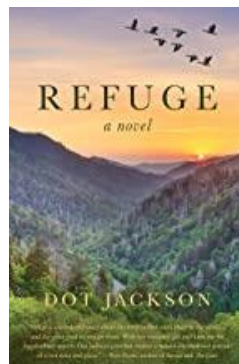
Families with kids in Jr High and younger please plan to attend the **Christmas Program Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 17 9-10:30am** (parents can drop off, though parents of kids 3 and under may wish to stay if they finish early). Please also plan to arrive on Sunday at 8:45 am and report downstairs to put on your costume.

All elementary and below will meet downstairs for a movie during second hour.

### **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>



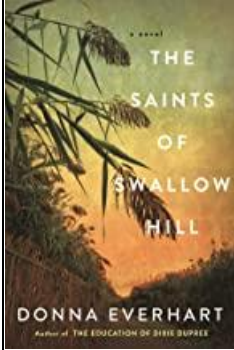
Here is a sampling of new materials:

#### **Refuge, by: Dot Jackson**

Early one morning in 1929, Mary Seneca Steele spontaneously packs a suitcase, gathers up her son and daughter, and steals away in her abusive and dissolute husband's brand new Auburn Phaeton automobile leaving her privileged life in Charleston behind. It is the beginning of a

journey of enlightenment that leads Mary “Sen” to the mountains and mysteries of Appalachia where she will learn unexpected family secrets, create a new life for herself and her children, and finally experience love and happiness before tragedy will once again test her.

Written by an authentic Southern voice, Dot Jackson has spun a story that will captivate readers looking for an entertaining saga of self-discovery, family, love, loss and redemption.



### **The Saints of Swallow Hill, by: Donna Everhart**

In the dense pine forests of North Carolina, turpentiners labor, hacking into tree trunks to draw out the sticky sap that gives the Tar Heel State its nickname, and hauling the resin to stills to be refined. Among them is Rae Lynn Cobb and her husband, Warren, who run a small turpentine farm together.

Though the work is hard and often dangerous, Rae Lynn, who spent her childhood in an orphanage, is thankful for it--and for her kind if careless husband. When Warren falls victim to his own negligence, Rae Lynn undertakes a desperate act of mercy. To keep herself from jail, she disguises herself as a man named "Ray" and heads to the only place she can think of that might offer anonymity--a turpentine camp in Georgia named Swallow Hill.

Swallow Hill is no easy haven. The camp is isolated and squalid, and commissary owner Otis Riddle takes out his frustrations on his browbeaten wife, Cornelia. Although Rae Lynn works tirelessly, she becomes a target for Crow, the ever-watchful woods rider who checks each laborer's tally. Delwood Reese, who's come to Swallow Hill hoping for his own redemption, offers "Ray" a small measure of protection, and is determined to improve their conditions. As Rae Lynn forges a deeper friendship with both Del and Cornelia, she begins to envision a path out of the camp. But she will have to come to terms with her past, with all its pain and beauty, before she can open herself to a new life and seize the chance to begin again.

## **News & Notes**

There will be a **Christmas Hymn sing** in the sanctuary following worship this Sunday, 12/18/22 led by Andy Richter. Interested adults are invited to attend this time of singing together.

This Sunday Maria will join the **Gospel Herald class** for an overview of the Mosaic Conference two-year planning process regarding “our relationship with each other, other Anabaptist communities, and Mennonite Church USA.” All are welcome to join.

As Christmas approaches, there will be much wrapping paper and cardboard to recycle. Wrapping paper, tissue paper and all other paper may be recycled in the green and yellow paper retriever bin in the church parking lot. Cardboard cannot be recycled in this bin, but the Material Resource Center at MCC in Harleysville (737 Hagey Center Dr C, Souderton, PA 18964) recycles cardboard and gets paid for this recycling to benefit MCC. There is a wooden shed behind their unit where cardboard can be placed at any time for recycling.

## **Beyond Salford**

MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network) invites you to a 1-hour Zoom

conversation with Suheil Tarazi and Hani Farah of the Gaza YMCA on Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am EST. Suheil and Hani will talk about the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the compelling work that the YMCA is doing to support families in the midst of these dire conditions caused by the ongoing Israeli blockade.

Suheil Tarazi is a Gaza YMCA board member and Program Manager for the British Council, an international organization that works to facilitate intercultural relations and educational opportunities. Hani Farah is the Executive Secretary General of the Gaza YMCA and has frequent contact with the International YMCA. Both Suheil and Hani have established relationships in many countries and travel internationally when possible. They and their families are active members of the Greek Orthodox Church of Gaza.

David Janzen of the Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana will moderate the conversation. The Fellowship of Hope and Gaza YMCA meet by Zoom twice monthly and have been partners for over two years through MennoPIN's "Twinning with Gaza" Initiative. There are currently four such relationships between Mennonite Church USA congregations and non-profit groups in Gaza. The purpose of the initiative is to increase our denomination's awareness of the situation faced by the people in Gaza and their resilient work to express God's love.

Please use the link below to join us on Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am EST!

Time: Jan 14, 2023 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86324229910?pwd=emszSIJRQkprWnVJU0laQnZlekVpdz09>

David Janzen, Elkhart, Indiana (MennoPIN Gaza Committee Member)

Michael George, Lancaster, Pennsylvania (MennoPIN Gaza Committee Member and USA "Twinning with Gaza" Initiative Coordinator)

**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](#).