

Salford News

December 1, 2024



Sunday, Dec. 1 9:30 a.m.
Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Karen Bergey preaching on Jeremiah 33:14-16

10:45 am Second Hour

Emmaus Road Sermon Discussion Class meets in the room behind the Welcome Center. The Emmaus Road group welcomes all.

Nov. 17 Offering

\$7,592

ACH - \$2,030

Vanco - \$2,393

Total Budget Offering

\$12,015

Children's Offering:

\$42

Future Salford Events

Dec. 15 – Children and Youth Christmas Program during worship

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve service, 6:30pm

This Week at Salford

Sun., Dec. 1

Christmas caroling at three retirement communities, 12:45-3:20 PM

Thurs., Dec. 5

11:30-45 am Centering Prayer at the labyrinth

7-8:30 pm Justice & Peace Meeting, Salford library

Due to Thanksgiving office closures, this week's newsletter is digital only.

Advent begins this Sunday, Dec. 1

Our Advent theme is **Together On The Journey**: As we journey through life, we inevitably encounter situations where the way forward seems blocked. In these times of trouble, we long to be able to patiently trust and obey God, no matter the risks. This depth of faith grows from daily seeking God's wisdom and choosing God's ways as we learn to rely on God.

Resources are available in the foyer to support your prayer and reflection.

Pastoral Search Team

A lead pastor search team has been formed to recommend Lead Pastor Dave Greiser's successor at Salford after Dave retires in May 2025. The team will be co-chaired by Randy Nyce and Suzanne Kaczor, with members Miles Musselman, Sally Derstine, Aaron Bishop, Sheldon Good, Meredith Ehst, Phil Alderfer, and youth representative Chase Snyder. Please pray that the Holy Spirit guides the search team in this important work.

Monday, Dec. 9: Life in Gaza Today

We have a special opportunity to hear from a native Gazan about life in Gaza today. Tareq Abuhlima is a Gazan who's been in the U.S. since Jan. 2023. He serves as co-director of the Peace Arts Center at Bluffton University in Ohio. Tareq has been traveling and helping Americans get a feel for contemporary life in Gaza, sharing his own story in the process. We will take a free-will offering for his travel expenses. Any money left over will be given to a scholarship fund for Palestinian students at Eastern Mennonite University.

This event will be at 7pm. **Monday, Dec. 9 in the fellowship hall at Salford.** Contact Pastor Dave with questions.

Salford 2024 Reparative Hymn Royalty Payment

Back in April 2022 Salford hosted a Music and Justice worship service in which we recognized how our worship life benefits from the contributions of creators of Negro spirituals and African American traditional music.

We learned about how, because of historical injustices, some musicians have benefited from copyright and royalties, while others, particularly from BIPOC artists whose songs were a survival tool while facing enslavement and other traumas, have not.

On that day we made the following Commitment to Justice in Music:

and zoom

Sat., Dec. 7

1-3 pm Welcoming Advent
with the Music of J.S.
Bach, Salford Library

Sun., Dec. 8

9:30 am Worship
indoors and on
YouTube Live.
Preaching: Dave
Greiser

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If you have information or
prayer requests for our
newsletter, please submit
them to the church office
by 10 am Thursdays.

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

We at Salford Mennonite Church acknowledge the history and significance of the spirituals sung in today's worship service. With respect and deep gratitude for the extraordinary musical contributions made to U.S. American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spirituals and their descendants.

Each time we sing the spiritual songs of enslaved Black people in our worship together, we commit to:

Singing and hearing them with reverence and open hearts;

Honoring the unnamed musicians who created them;

And paying royalties to organizations promoting the advancement of Black artists in the U.S.

We understand that the harm done to Black musicians and artists can never be fully addressed through payment, and that this payment is a narrow part of the healing process.

Through our prayers, our gifts and our actions, we will strive to do all that we can to end systemic racism in America.

In 2022 and 2023, at the direction of Black pastoral leaders in our area, we directed our reparative hymn royalty payments to the [Reparative Act Fund at Shalom Community Church](#). That fund is now closed and is being disbursed by a committee of BIPOC Mennonite leaders.

In 2024, the payment from within the worship budget was directed to the Global Worship Training ministry by Rashard Allen, a Black music minister within Mosaic Conference. This is an ongoing (annual) payment from the worship budget to, in some small way, make amends.

In 2025 a team including Karen Bergey, Laura Alderfer, Emily Buckley, and Jenn Svetlik will be reflecting intentionally on how to carry this work forward.

Our Church Family

Sewing Circle Canceled for December. Please note there will be no gathering of Sewing Circle on 12/4/24. See you next year!

Friends at Souderton Mennonite Homes: Please join us at 7pm on Monday, Dec. 9 in the Friendship room for our monthly gathering. We will sing, pray, share, and sing some more - come ready with all your Advent favorite song requests. Questions? Call Karen.

Is everything getting to be too much? Is it time to ask for some help? Salford members and regular attenders are able to receive reimbursement for some therapy sessions. Don't wait - now is the time to reach out! Questions? Call Karen.

Calling All Young Musicians....Have you been learning to play an instrument? We would love for you to share your musical gifts with us at

Salford! Please contact Laura Alderfer (laura.alderfer@gmail.com) if you would like an opportunity to play or sing during worship.

Welcoming the Advent Season with the Music of J.S. Bach

On Sunday, November 25, 1731, Johann Sebastian Bach first presented his famous Cantata, "Wachet Auf" (BWV 140), inspired by the Parable of the Ten Virgins with their lamps, by selected passages from the Song of Songs, and by a well-loved hymn by the pastor, poet and composer Philipp Nicolai. The weeks before Christmas can sometimes be hectic, but the church's celebration of Advent is meant to help us look to the deeper meaning of the season. *Would you like to reflect with a few others on the scripture passage which Bach sought to illuminate with his beautiful music and then listen together to his musical offering?*

Ken Henke will gather a small group in the Salford library **on Sat, Dec. 7 from 1-3pm**. It is hoped that the group will be 6-12 persons so that all will have time to reflect and share their thoughts and plans for this season. To sign up, please email Dave Greiser.

Everyone is invited to attend the **hybrid Justice and Peace meeting on Thursday, Dec. 5 from 7-8:30pm** in the Salford library and online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84158823582?pwd=rvRX4wO8jKUAx3b74k7qwcZHYTOJhU.1>. We will reflect on this year's work.

Contemplative Practices: 2nd Hour and Midweek Prayer

Many of us have times when we feel anxious or unsettled. Join Pastor Karen every **Thursday at 11:30 am** at the Labyrinth (by the carport in inclement weather) for a 15-minute Centering Prayer practice. You are free to stay and walk the Labyrinth.

Join Pastor Karen also on **Sun., Dec. 8 for a Lectio Divina practice and Dec. 22** for a time of contemplative group practice and prayer. We'll meet in room **206** 10 minutes after the service. Please be prompt. This class will continue every other week through Lent.

Prayer Concerns

- For **Jay Ruth** who will have a knee replacement on Thursday, December 5th.

Service & Mission

The Donation of the Month for December is Mennonite Central Committee Prisoner Care Kits for those who are currently incarcerated. These kits are meant to meet their needs and restore hope and dignity in a place that often seems hopeless.

Salford's MYF will take the donated items to an MCC event on Martin Luther King Day at Germantown Mennonite Church where they will assemble care packages and learn more about justice issues in the prison system.

Please consider donating any of the following items or funds designated for this cause (a kit can be purchased for approximately \$20).

You can label your offering envelope or check memo line for “MCC Prisoner Care Kits”, check made payable to Salford Mennonite Church.

Men's Prisoner Care Kit Items: White underwear (briefs)*, Bottles of lotion (maximum 3 oz.), Bars of soap (minimum 4 oz.), Tubes of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.), Deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.), Pairs of white crew socks*, White crewneck undershirts*

**Note: Clothing items are accepted in three sizes: men's medium, large and extra-large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and undershirts in the same size.*

Women's Prisoner Care Kit Items: White basic underwear (briefs)**, Bottles of lotion (maximum 3 oz.), Bars of soap (minimum 4 oz.), Tubes of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.), Deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.), Pairs of white crew socks**, White crewneck undershirts (women's or men's style acceptable)**, Package of sanitary pads (minimum count of 8 thin pads)**

***Note: Clothing items are accepted in three sizes: women's small, medium and large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and undershirts in the same size.*

Faith Formation Spotlight

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation, during which we recreate the longing people felt before the birth of Jesus, and our own longing now for God's kingdom to be fulfilled - one of justice, peace, healing, and liberation for all people and all of creation.

On Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, stop in at the table in the foyer if you are looking for a resource to support your prayer practices this Advent season. Some of what is available include:

[“The Weary World Rejoices.”](#) a daily devotional for adults by Kate Bowler of “Everything Happens.”

The **[25 Days Family Advent Project](#)** breaks up the Christmas narrative into 25 verses on cards that can be read one per day.

[The Seed and The Soil Project](#) creates music, art, and “Little Liturgies.” CDs and text of the simple weekly prayers are available at Salford or can be streamed and downloaded **[here](#)**. **[Listen to all the albums here](#)**.

Church Library Spotlight

Stop by the church library and speak with a librarian to see what's new, or review the library catalog on the Salford church website:

smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home

Family of Origin, Family of Choice: Stories of Queer Christians

By: Katie Hays, Susan A. Chiasson

What happens in a family when one member comes out? How does LGBTQ+ identity affect relationships with parents and grandparents, siblings and cousins? What does Christian love require and make possible for families moving forward together?

A social scientist and a pastor, both from Galileo Church on the outskirts of Fort Worth, Texas, asked their LGBTQ+ friends from church to help them understand how they navigate relationships with their affirming, non-affirming, and affirming-ish families of origin, even as they also find belonging in other families of choice. The resulting stories, crafted from interviews with fifteen queer Christians and family members, kept anonymous at their request, are as varied as the colors of the rainbow. Over the years, some grew closer to their families of origin; others grew more distant. Some were surprised by the hardness of heart they encountered; others were amazed by the breadth of their family's love. Most all describe a trajectory, a journey, from the coming-out moment till now and beyond, as their families of origin, like all families, remain a work in progress. DONATED

Love Makes a Family

By: Sophie Beer

Love is baking a special cake. Love is lending a helping hand. Love is reading one more book. In this exuberant board book, many different families are shown in happy activity, from an early-morning wake-up to a kiss before bed. Whether a child has two moms, two dads, one parent, or one of each, this simple preschool read-aloud demonstrates that what's most important in each family's life is the love the family members share. DONATED

Beyond Salford

Stop by Zion **Mennonite in Souderton during the Christmas season.**

Beginning Dec. 1, witness a beautiful light display of 40+ trees throughout Zion's campus. Hours of operation are 4-11 pm. If you drive-thru on Sunday, Dec. 1 between 5-7 pm you will be treated to hot chocolate and homemade cookies.

Bethany Birches Camp - Opportunities to Serve

Are there teens and young adults in your life that you hope will grow in faith-filled communities? Bethany Birches Camp offers a summer in VT in a Mennonite community serving children who do not have the support of a church community. As a Bethany Birches staff member, they will be guided to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually! Because of our remote location, and housing and food included, it is easy to go home with more than \$3000 in their savings account. Encouraging teens and young adults in your life to spend a summer at Bethany Birches will give them the chance to experience God's presence in real and honest ways. [Check out this link](#) to see summer positions available, like counselor, cook maintenance, office, and health staff. Or email camp@bethanybirches.org for more info.

