

December 22, 2024

Sunday, Dec. 22 9:30 a.m. Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Dave Greiser preaching on Luke 1: 26-49

10:45 am Second Hour

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

Dec. 15 Offering

Offering - \$24,735.35

ACH - \$2,040

Vanco - \$3,851.26

Total Budget Offering \$30,626.61

Pavillion Fund - \$13,045

Children's Offering: \$66

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

joneslongt@salfordmc.org.

The Light Shines in the Darkness: Prayerful Practice on Sunday

This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent falls on the day after the longest night. On Sunday morning, we will take some time for those of us who are dwelling in shadows this year – whether it has been a loss of a loved one or another grief, a feeling of the heaviness of the world and all its brokenness, or a general sense of having a piece of your heart in lament, God is with us, just as much present in the shadow as in the sparkly festivities. On Sunday, we will have a chance to light a candle to represent God's presence in our pain. An interpreter will also be up front, to provide interpretation of the entire worship service into ASL (ASL interpretation available in person only). Join us.

Church Services through December

Below is the list of services for the rest of 2024 – Please join us!

- Saturday, December 21 – **5:30 pm at Plains Mennonite** – Longest Night joint service with Plains Mennonite. The Longest Night service is a time to create sacred space for people living through dark times. We reflect not only on our personal losses but those in our community and the world, accepting where we are, and holding out healing and hope.
- Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – we will observe a Blue Christmas and the Choir will sing.
- Tuesday, December 24 – **6:30 pm** Christmas Eve Candlelight service followed by cookies in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, December 29 – **10 am** service with no Second Hour

Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

For the remainder of 2024, we will present a weekly update of our financial situation. We project actual 2024 budget expenses to be approximately **\$850,000**. We are also hopeful that we can fully fund our below the line expenses for our larger church agencies and Mosaic Conference of \$17,836.

- We have received **\$769,216** in offering and income over the first 50 weeks of the year, with 2024 projected actual expenses of **\$850,000**. We have received 90% of the income needed for 2024 in these first 50 weeks (96%) of the year.

- We will need approximately **\$80,784** for the rest of December, or **\$40,392 per week** in offering and income to cover our projected expenses.

Christmas Eve at Salford

Christmas Eve Candlelight Scripture and Song: Join us at 6:30 pm. Come enjoy special music from the Choir, sing some of your favorite Christmas songs, and share Christmas cheer and cookies in the Fellowship Hall afterward.

A Salford tradition on Christmas Eve is for worship participants to bring “white gifts” for **Maternity Care Coalition**, a ministry for pregnant and parenting adolescents in Southeastern Pennsylvania. These gifts of diapers, clothing, and baby necessities will be distributed to vulnerable families in our community.

Our Christmas Eve money offering will be split to **provide relief for the Palestine Israel crisis** through Mennonite Central Committee and for Mosaic Conference’s Shalom Fund to **support the needs of immigrants in our community**.

BAKERS! CHRISTMAS EVE COOKIES PLEASE! Help us revive the tradition by bringing a dozen cookies with you on Christmas Eve to share after the service. You can drop them off at the tables in the Fellowship Hall before the service.

Our Church Family

Pastoral Search Team Update

Salford's Pastoral Search Committee met for the first time on Tuesday, December 10. This committee, which reports to the Church Board, will be meeting over the coming weeks and months and is tasked with managing the search for our next lead pastor. The committee members are Phil Alderfer, Aaron Bishop, Sally Derstine, Meredith Ehst, Sheldon Good, Suzanne Kaczor, Miles Musselman, Randy Nyce, and Chase Snyder. Salford's Mosaic Conference leadership minister, Steve Kriss, will also participate with the committee as needed. The committee intends to have a commissioning and prayer during worship sometime in early 2025. In the meantime, please keep this committee and the search process in your prayers at this important time in the life of the congregation.

Laptops Needed

Jenn Svetlik will be traveling in February on a delegation with Mosaic Conference to visit the Mosaic partners-in-ministry in Colombia. One partner, the [Anabaptist Community of Medellin](#), is in need of used laptops for their program to support under-resourced young adults in their pursuit of higher education. If you have a used laptop to share, please let Jenn know. She is looking for at least two.

A Message from Sheldon and Jenn

Mustard Seed House is a ministry of radical hospitality started by Sheldon Good and Jenn Svetlik in Lansdale. Their mission is to welcome one recently arrived immigrant family at a time and assist them with obtaining stability in the community. They currently have an urgent need for a used car that is \$8,000 or less, with under 150,000 miles. If you have any used car leads, or if you want to be added to their email listserv, please email Sheldon at sheldon.c.good@gmail.com.

Contemplative Opportunities: Contemplative Class will reform during Lent 2025 with a study on St. Ignatius of Loyola. Pastor Karen always has resources if you are interested, just call! There will continue to be a Centering Prayer held in the sanctuary each Thursday at 11:30 am.

Prayer Concerns

- For **Nancy Hunsicker** who is recovering from pneumonia.
- For **Joe Hackman Sr.** who just received a kidney from his son **Brian** on December 18. Pray for quick healing and improved quality of life.
- For each person who is struggling with grief, loneliness, or just not feeling a part of the joy of the season. Pray they would know God's presence and peace in their pain.
- All Mosaic Conference congregations are invited to pray for Conference-Related Ministry **Ripple Community, Inc.** and **Ripple Church** (Allentown, PA) and all ministries serving the unhoused, especially during winter months. Pray that those who are unhoused will have their needs met and find places to experience belonging and justice, and for those serving to do so with wisdom and compassion.

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.*

Mennonite Action Spotlight

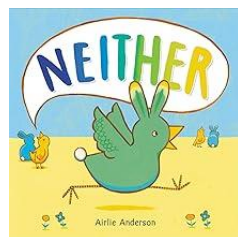
This week and next week at Salford you will see an interpretive display of Christ in the Rubble. Inspired by a sermon delivered last Christmas by Rev. Dr. Munther Issac at the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Salford's display seeks to demonstrate solidarity with Palestinians and remind us of what is happening in Bethlehem and the surrounding area right now. In the words of Rev. Dr. Isaac, "If Jesus was to be born in our world today, I wonder, would he have entered our world in any other way? Christmas is the presence of baby Jesus with those who suffer. Christmas is God's solidarity with the oppressed. Christmas is a ray of light and hope from the heart of pain and suffering. Christmas is the radiance of life from the heart of destruction and death. In Gaza, God is under the rubble. God is in the operating room. If Christ were to be born today, he would be born under the rubble."

Mosaic Mennonite Conference Spotlight

In critical moments of history, faith communities become a refuge for those who feel threatened and marginalized. See [Mosaic Mennonite Conference's Support for the Indonesian Church Amid Immigration Uncertainty](#) for more about how our conference is supporting our immigrant congregations.

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: <https://smck-ind.kari.opalsinfo.net/bin/home#0>



Neither
By: Airlie Anderson

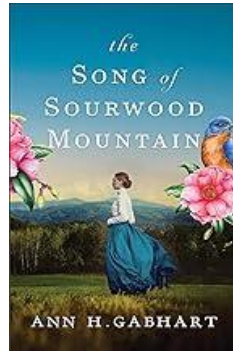
In the Land of This and That, there are only two kinds: blue bunnies and yellow birds. But one day a funny green egg hatches, and a little creature that's not quite a bird and not quite a bunny pops out. It's neither!

Neither tries hard to fit in, but its bird legs aren't good for jumping like the other

bunnies, and its fluffy tail isn't good for flapping like the other birds. It sets out to find a new home and discovers a very different place, one with endless colors and shapes and creatures of all kinds. But when a blue bunny and a yellow bird with some hidden differences of their own arrive, it's up to Neither to decide if they are welcome in the Land of All.

This colorful, simple, and touching story promotes diversity and offers a valuable lesson to the youngest of audiences: it is our differences that unite us.

DONATED



The Song of Sourwood Mountain

By: Ann H. Gabhart

While the century began with such promise, it is 1910 when Mira Dean's hopes of being a wife and mother are dashed to pieces. Her fiancé dead from tuberculosis, Mira resigns herself to being a spinster schoolteacher--until Gordon Covington shows up.

No longer the boy she knew from school, Gordon is now a preacher who is full of surprises. First, he asks Mira to come to Sourwood in eastern Kentucky to teach at his mission school. Second, he asks her to marry him. Just like that. And all at once the doors that had seemed firmly shut begin to open, just a crack.

With much trepidation, Mira steps out in faith into a life she never imagined, in a place filled with its own special challenges, to serve a people who will end up becoming the family she always dreamed of.

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.