

December 24, 2023

Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Luke 1:26-38; *Nothing is Impossible for God*

No Second Hour on Christmas Eve Morning

December 17, 2023

Offering
\$16,840

ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,980

Vanco Online Offering
\$9,475

**Total Budget Offering
\$28,295**

**Children's Offering
\$60**

Future Salford Events

December 24 –
Christmas Eve Worship
Service, **5:30 pm**

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

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Salford will hold a **Christmas Eve candle lighting service** on Sunday, December 24 at **5:30 p.m.** We have been waiting and longing together for the arrival of the Christ Child. This service is a joyful time of music, scripture, and candle lighting to celebrate.

The offering received on Christmas Eve will be divided 75% to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Responding to the Palestine and Israel Conflict and 25% to MCC Prisoner Care Kits. The portion for **MCC Response to the Palestine and Israel conflict** will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza. MCC reports: *As conflict has escalated in the region, MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all, and we invite you to join us in praying for an end to the violence.*

MCC is responding to the current crisis with existing partners as safety allows, providing ready to eat food packages and bedding to families in need. Our response is focused on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction.

MCC will continue to work with partners in both Palestine and Israel towards a just peace for all.

The portion for **MCC Prisoner Care Kits** will be used to meet the needs of prisoners in southeastern PA and restore hope and dignity in a place that often seems hopeless.

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 Eve Day and New Year's Eve 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 2023, we will present a weekly update of our financial situation. We project actual 2023 budget expenses to be approximately **\$855,000**. We are also hopeful that we can fully fund our below the line expenses for our larger church agencies and Mosaic Conference of \$21,844.

- We have received **\$770,575** in offering and income over the first 51 weeks of the year, with 2023 projected actual expenses of **\$855,000**.
- We will need approximately **\$84,000** for the rest of December in offering to cover our projected expenses.
- Any donation dropped off to the office next week should be received by noon

on Friday, December 29th. The church office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday for the Christmas Holiday.

This Week at Salford

Monday, December 25

Church and Child Care Offices closed for the Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 26

Church and Child Care Offices closed for the Christmas Holiday

Sunday, December 31

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

No Second Hour on New Year's Eve Sunday

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For the family of **Ada Swartley**. **Ada** passed early on December 20th at Souderton Mennonite Home.
- For the family of **Glenn Martin**. **Glenn** passed away on the evening of December 20th.
- **Pat Gorman**'s sister in law, **Amie Gorman**, is thankful for your prayers. She is home now with **Keith** and their two young daughters. The family would like continued prayers for more healing for Amie, who is still in considerable pain, fatigue, and weakness. Also they ask prayers for their two young daughters who are having a hard time understanding what is happening. Any messages of prayer and encouragement can be sent to Keith's email at downs.gorman@gmail.com
- For **Suzie Garber, Mandy Martin's mother**, who will be having spinal surgery on Dec 27 to repair degeneration in her vertebrae. Pray for peace, a positive outcome, and grace for the recovery period in the weeks to follow.
- For **Ginny Conant, Christy Gross' mother** who is 93 and recovering from pneumonia. Pray for renewed strength and a full recovery.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Mosaic staff member, Jennifer Svetlik**, this week. Jenn has been working temporarily for the communication team this fall but will be continuing as a member of the communication team and serving as the editor of the Mosaic newsletter in 2024. Pray for guidance, insight, and clarity for Jenn as she serves the Conference in this way.

Memorial service information for Naomi Landis...

Relatives and friends may call between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 28, 2023 at Souderton Mennonite Homes, 207 West Summit Street, Souderton, PA, followed by the Funeral Service at 11:00 a.m. Burial will be at the Salford Mennonite Cemetery.

You may use this link to [livestream Naomi's funeral service](#):

You may view Naomi's [obituary here](#).

Your Prayers Requested...

Your prayers are requested for the **family of Ada Swartley**. Ada Swartley, age 94, passed away early Wednesday morning at Souderton Mennonite Homes. Prayers for comfort and strength for the Swartley family as they remember her life and mourn her passing.

The memorial service information and obituary for Ada will be forwarded when

they are available.

Your Prayers Requested...

Your prayers are requested for **Rose Martin, Rod, Jennifer, Matt & Ryan Martin, Lisa, Caleb & Brandon Stoltzfus, Luke & Mandy Martin, Joe & Angela Hackman** and the entire Martin family. Glenn Martin, age 81, passed away Wednesday evening surrounded by his family. Prayers for comfort and strength for the Martin family as they remember his life and mourn his passing.

Memorial Service Information for Glenn Martin:

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, December 30th at Salford Mennonite Church, where the family will receive friends from 9:30 - 11:00 am. Inurnment will follow at the Salford Mennonite Church Columbarium.

The memorial service will also be livestreamed on the [Salford Mennonite Church YouTube Live channel](#).

Congratulations...

To **Joanna Stauffer Greenawalt & Carlton Greenawalt** of Dayton, Va on the birth of daughter **Adeline Ellyse Greenawalt** on December 8th. Joel & Gloria Stauffer are grandparents.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for December – Mennonite Central Committee Prisoner Care Kits

We are collecting supplies for care packages for **three more weeks**. Help us hit our goal of collecting enough materials to pack 125 care packages. We welcome material donations and financial contributions (\$20 is all it takes to purchase a single care package). See below for the items we are collecting and the amount that have already been collected.

Thank you!

Men's Prisoner Care Kit Items

White underwear (briefs)*: **18**
Bottles of lotion (maximum 3 oz.): **23**
Bars of soap (minimum 4 oz.): **31**
Deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.): **17**
Pairs of white crew socks*: **15**
White crewneck undershirts*: **18**

*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)*: **24**
Bottles of lotion (maximum 3 oz.):
Bars of soap (minimum 4 oz.): **5**
Deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.): **4**
Pairs of white crew socks*: **0**
White crewneck undershirts (women's or men's style acceptable)*: **0**
Package of sanitary pads (minimum count of 8 thin pads): **3**

*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.

Tubes of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.): **26**

Accessibility Spotlight

Nurturing Accessible Family Ministry for families of children with disabilities or neurodivergence: A Conference-Wide Training facilitated by Anabaptist Disabilities Network, Saturday, Jan. 27 9am-12pm ET, at the Mosaic Conference office and on Zoom. For those from Salford who do or would like to volunteer within children's or youth ministry, [learn more here](#) and talk to Jenn for more details.

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>

A Gentle Boldness: Sharing the Peace of Jesus in a Multi-Faith World By: David W. Shenk



The story David Shenk either begins in Shirati Village in Tanganyika, East Africa, or we might decide it begins among the orchards of Lancaster County, Pa., where farmers with their horses line up a mile for water as they rearrange their loads for their trek home on market day. In either reading, this is a story of mission—a story of people chattering along a roadside spring on the way to and from market.

At age six, Shenk asked his parents, “What difference does Jesus make?” The answer to that question is the reason he became a Christian. Day by day, as he travels in the way of Jesus—living, serving, and ministering around the world—Shenk continues to unpack what difference Jesus makes.

This is the story not just of Shenk and his remarkable work in Christian missions. It's the stories that David has heard within societies, cultures, and religions when he asks the question: What difference does Jesus make?

Finding Us (Pictures of the Heart, Book 2) By: Tracie Peterson



While taking photographs at an exposition in Seattle in 1909, Camera Girl Eleanor Bennett snaps an image of a woman in widow's clothes with deep sorrow etched in her expression and a young infant in her arms.

Eleanor longs to study botany at the University of Washington and soon becomes fast friends with botanist Bill Reed, but she can't stop thinking about the widow in the photograph. She is stunned to learn Bill recognizes the woman as the sister-in-law he believed lost in a shipwreck.

As Eleanor and Bill hunt for Amelia Reed to reunite her with her grief-stricken husband, they must stand together to face the danger that follows and learn to trust that God will direct their paths. **DONATED**

Beyond Salford

Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, Pa. invites you to experience a little Christmas spirit by enjoying our drive-thru **Christmas Light Display**. Get lost in our beautiful light display while listening to the sounds of our choir. This experience is available each night from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. throughout the Christmas season.

Join the Mennonite Heritage Center (565 Yoder Rd., Harleysville) for a rousing evening of singing at our **Winter Hymn Sing**, January 25, 2024, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.! We'll gather in the Rosenberger Meetinghouse Room and sing together from the red Mennonite Hymnal (1969).

The Christmas 2023 newsletter from **Healthy Niños Honduras** is out! We invite you to visit our website at the link below to read all about the amazing stories from our staff and our achievements this year. Thank you to our generous donors for partnering with us to achieve our goals! <https://healthyninos.org/newsletters>

The December edition of **On the Level** is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue: Kevin King share stories of people "moving toward Jesus;" meet two women who enjoy cooking and painting with MDS; learn why a retired Army General in Kentucky says, "only God could have made that happen;" and we are now accepting registration for our Annual Celebration in Fresno in February. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3v4fpYd>