

December 25, 2022

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Hebrews 1:1-13; *Begotten*

No Second Hour on Christmas Morning

December 18, 2022

Offering

\$37,755

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$2,070

Vanco Online Offering

\$5,704

Total Budget Offering \$45,529

Children's Offering

\$56

Thanksgiving Eve Offering

\$947

Future Salford Events

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

January 11 – Faith Formation Night

If you have information or prayer requests for our newsletter, please submit this to the church office by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday

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

As of Thursday, we have effectively covered our expenses with income for 2022. This past Sunday we received \$45,528 in offering, and this week we received \$26,470 in offering. Our offering and income for 2022 is now \$794,803, with expected budget expenses of \$794,000. The Church Board and Leadership Team are grateful to everyone for your stewardship of gifts and your generosity with the Salford community. God has been generous to us and you have been faithful with God's generosity. The Church board and Leadership team are hopeful to fund the "below the line" budget items: contributing to MCUSA, Larger Church organizations, and Mosaic Conference in the amounts recommended based on our size. We can do this if we receive an additional \$22,000 by the end of the year. Offerings beyond this amount will be used as determined by the Church board. The church office will be open on Wednesday – Friday to receive any remaining offering. Offering received by noon on Friday will be applied to 2022 offering.

Music Director Search in Process

afternoon.

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

We have been without a music director for a few months now. First of all, a big thank-you to the music leaders and musicians of Salford for keeping Salford singing! In our search, we are now looking to hire a music director who is not a member of Salford. Many churches do this, although it is new for Salford. We will keep you updated as we know more. Thanks for your patience during the interim.

Faith Formation Night on January 11, 2023

Join us for our next Faith Formation Night on January 11, 2023, from 5:30-8:00 P.M.! Please let Pastor Andrew know if you and your family will attend.

Schedule

5:30-6:15 pm: Dinner

6:15-6:30 pm: Worship

6:30-8:00 pm: Age-specific programs

Different Gathering Spaces

Kids Club: A space for 1st-5th graders to have a fun time exploring various themes and stories from Scripture through crafts, games, and a variety of activities, with Melissa Heise and helpers.

Junior and Senior Mennonite Youth Fellowship: A gathering of 6th through 12th graders that connects for games, conversation, and contemplation to provide mutual support and foster spiritual growth.

Adults: A time to meet with other parents and guardians to learn about and discuss a variety of topics. This month, adults will have guidance and space to reflect on and name their family's core values and consider what aligning those values with their parenting and life practices looks like.

This Week at Salford

Monday, December 26

Church and Child Care Offices closed for Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 27

Church and Child Care Offices closed for Christmas Holiday

Sunday, January 1

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

No Second Hour New Year's Day Morning

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Faith Detweiler**. her roommate **Mary** passed away on Tuesday morning. Pray for peace and comfort for Faith in this time.
- For **Ray Yoder** who was admitted to St. Luke's in Bethlehem on Monday night with GI pain and has a severe infection. Pray for relief from pain and that the IV antibiotics would do their job.
- For **Beth Styer and Joanne Spiegel** and their mother **Grace Brenneman** who is declining in health and was moved to healthcare at Souderton Mennonite Homes this week.
- For **Dave and Kathi Peters** as they travel to a wellness clinic in Mexico on January 1st, that God would provide for the cost of the trip. Please also pray for grace as they adjust to a new way of eating and living.
- For **Cindy and Bill Scheetz** who have Covid.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for a **Venezuelan refugee family that Philadelphia Praise Center is sponsoring** who unexpectedly arrived at

their church recently. Pray for all refugees who are displaced, in search of safety and freedom. During this Christmas season, we remember Mary and Joseph, who sought assistance away from their home. Give thanks for all the “innkeepers” who offer help in today’s world.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Naomi Landis**, who celebrates her 97th birthday on December 28th.

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)

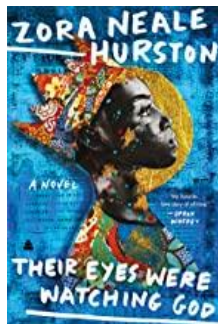
Place contents in a box or bag. MCC will repack the kits into the buckets for shipping. Funds for relief kits can also be submitted via the offering with your envelopes marked for “MCC relief Kits.”

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:

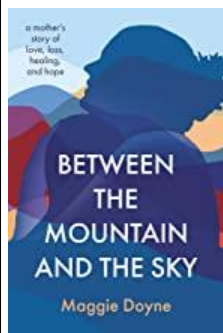
Their Eyes Were Watching God, by: Zora Neale Hurston



Originally published in 1937, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has become one of the most important and enduring works of modern American literature. Written with Zora Neale Hurston’s singular wit and pathos, this Southern love story recounts Janie Crawford’s “ripening from a vibrant, but voiceless, teenage girl into a woman with her finger on the trigger of her own destiny.”

A tale of awakening and independence featuring a strong female protagonist driven to fulfill her passions and ambitions, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is a classic of the Harlem Renaissance and perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of literature.

Between the Mountain and the Sky, by: Maggie Doyne



Maggie's story begins in suburban New Jersey, in a comfortable middle-class family that supports her decision to travel the world during a gap year before starting college. During her travels, the trajectory of her life alters when she has a surprise encounter with a Nepali girl breaking rocks in a quarry. Maggie decides to invest her life savings of five thousand dollars to buy a piece of land and open a children's home in Nepal.

That home becomes Kopila Valley Children's Home, and eventually, the nonprofit Maggie launches, the BlinkNow Foundation, also starts the Kopila Valley School, which provides tuition-free education for more than four hundred students. Maggie and BlinkNow's work have been recognized around the world for their innovative, sustainable work.

However, this book isn't a how-to for fledging philanthropists or nonprofit founders-it's a coming-of-age story about a young woman suspended between two worlds, as well as the love, loss, healing, and hope she experiences along the way. And Maggie's inspiring, intimate tale shows readers an important truth: the power to change the world

News & Notes

The church office will be closed on December 26 and 27 for the Christmas Holiday. Pastor **Maria Hosler Byler** will be on vacation and out of the office next week. The other staff will be working normal schedules Wednesday through Friday. If there is a Pastoral care emergency during the Christmas holiday, please contact Lead Pastor Dave Greiser by cellphone.

As Christmas approaches, there will 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.

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)