

February 18, 2024

Sunday, February 18, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Associate Pastor Karen Bergey will preach on Mark 1:9-15; *Now for Someone Completely Different*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

The Accessibility Ministry Team will be leading the "My Body is Not a Prayer Request" Second Hour Elective in the Fellowship hall.

Emmaus Road Sermon Discussion Class will be meeting following worship in the Church Library. Interested in talking about the sermon? The Emmaus Road group welcomes all.

February 11, 2024

Offering

\$7,883

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$2,080

Vanco Online Offering

\$1,072

Total Budget Offering \$11,035

Children's Offering \$23

Future Salford Events

February 25 – Salford Advent Garden

Fundraiser Luncheon

March 3 – Monthly

Lent 2024

We associate Lent with a time of preparation, a time of self-abnegation, a time of wilderness wanderings as we travel with Christ through the dangerous and lonely desert of life. Before Jesus is called into the desert, a proclamation is said over him, "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness" (Mark 1:11). Throughout the biblical story, God acts, God proclaims. God takes on the obligation to covenant with God's people, calling us beloved and giving us a community to remind us of this love so that we can enter our difficult places of wilderness knowing that we are loved and are not alone.

*The **Prayer Labyrinth** is available in the Gathering Room: This Sunday, the 18th, the Labyrinth is open anytime between **8:30am – noon**. Feel free to stop in to walk and pray – alone or with a friend. The Labyrinth will remain until Tuesday, February 20th.*

"My Body Is Not a Prayer Request": Four Week Second Hour Elective

From Sunday, Feb. 11 to March 3, join Laura Alderfer and the Accessibility Ministry Team for a four-week Second Hour elective which will highlight parts of this powerful, humorous book which combines compelling storytelling, bible exegesis, and practical application. Kenny exposes unintentional ableism and casts a new vision for Christian communities to engage disability justice. The book [can be purchased here](#) or [on Audible](#), but it is not required reading to participate in the class. This class will be located in the Fellowship Hall, or on **Zoom: [Zoom Link](#)**

Passcode: 911123

Class outline:

Week 1: What is "ableism"? An overview of the book and discussion of what we hope to learn in this class.

Week 2: Curing vs. Healing: Exploring some models of thinking around disability

Week 3: A Disabled God? Examining our views of God and Scripture

Week 4: Disability "mosquitoes" and expired chocolate milk: How our language affects those with disabilities. Sharing our own stories and experiences

Zoom Gathering for Online Participants

Have you been engaging with Salford at a distance by watching our services online? If so, we would love to get to know you! On **Thursday, March 14, from 7:00-8:00 P.M.**, the pastoral staff and members of the church board will host a Zoom gathering to connect with people who are connecting with Salford from far away. We'll enjoy time in large and small groups as we work to get to know the community connecting with us outside the building.

To participate, complete [this form](#). The Zoom link will be sent to the email address you provide on the form. We hope to see you on the 14th!

Communion Service

March 10 – Families with Children and Youth Potluck

March 16 – Women's Event Dinner Yahtzee, Meeting at 4:30 pm at Salford

March 23 – Youth Auction and Fundraiser meal.

April 7 - Monthly Communion Service

April 21 – Brooke Martin Service of Ordination

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

2024 Mennonite Youth Fellowship Auction

The Salford Mennonite Youth Fellowship is grateful for the 9 donations we have received for the upcoming auction on **March 23rd**. If you are interested in making a donation to the auction—an item, an act of service, a meal, an experience, or something else, please [click this link](#) to fill out a form that will indicate what you intend to donate. If you prefer to fill out a paper form, there are forms available at the welcome center in the church lobby that can be returned to the church office. Regardless of format, please submit your form by **February 26th**.

We appreciate your support in whatever form or fashion it takes and look forward to seeing you at the auction!

2024 Table Fellowship Group Sign Ups

This spring we are forming table fellowship groups. Being “at the table” is a powerful way to meet God and each other. Around a table we share food and conversation, we can make simple time for praying together and encouraging and serving each other. Around a table we are able to *connect* more deeply with God and each other, *grow* in our relationships and in our faith, and *serve* together in basic ways. We are encouraging as many people as possible to participate and Come to the Table. The hope is for these groups to meet 3 times between March and June. These groups are a great way to stay connected to the Salford community during a busy season of life.

While we know some previous table fellowships are still meeting, our goal is to form new groups for a season as we embrace new members of the congregation and others who have started attending Salford since our last congregation-wide table fellowship groups met. You can sign up by filling out a bulletin insert and returning it to the church office, or you can complete an online form by clicking [here](#). ***Make sure to complete either option no later than February 19, 2024.***

Contact Pastor Andrew if you have any questions.

This Week at Salford

Tuesday, February 20

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Friendship Room)

Wednesday, February 21

6:30 pm Banned Book Club Meeting (Library)

Thursday, February 22

3:00 pm Pavilion Planning Meeting (Library)

Sunday, February 25

9:30 am Salford Worship Indoors and Streamed on YouTube Live

Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:30 am Second Hour for All Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For the ***Sr. High MYF, their sponsors and Andrew*** who are on Winter Retreat. Pray for deepening relationships with God and each other.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the leaders of ***Shores of Hope, a community of Russian speakers in West Palm Beach, Florida***. Shores of Hope's current mission is to accompany and minister to Ukrainian and Russian refugees in the area, as well as other Russian speakers who grew up in the USSR. Part of their plan is to help their community to develop

life skills that will help them thrive in the US. Its leaders also ask for prayer obtaining work authorization, which will allow certain processes to move more quickly.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for February – Hygiene Kits for Mennonite Central Committee:

New items only:

- 1 toothbrush (adult size; leave in wrapper)
- 1 bar soap (4-5 oz. in wrapper)
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

Kits can be donated in plastic grocery bags, or supplies can be donated in bulk. Full kits, supplies or cash donations are welcome. Offering envelopes can be marked for “MCC Hygiene Kits” Please have all supplies and donation to Salford by March 3rd. We hope to donate 200 kits, so please help us reach our goal.

Steve Blank is looking for a **small grain mill** to grind corn from the Three Sisters Garden into meal for use at the upcoming garden fundraiser. Do you have one he can borrow?

Salford/Advent Garden Update:

Greetings fellow gardeners, my how time flies by. It is almost time to start thinking about tomatoes, onions, peppers potatoes and string beans again. But first I would like to invite you to our annual fund raising luncheon at Salford Mennonite church at 12 noon on Sunday February 25th, As in years past we are inviting the organizations we donate our veggies to attend, give us an idea of what they do during the year and how our veggies are used.

This year we are asking for \$9,000 dollars. That is a lot more then we have ever asked for in the past. For 17 years the Alderfer family has generously let the garden use their barn located next to the garden, free of charge. Last year the property was sold and the new owner needed the barn for their own use. In November we cleaned out the barn of all garden equipment and supplies. Some were stored in the Salford church garage, some stored in our new cool shed, some items had to be left outside as we ran out of room. I am hoping to raise \$9,000 to help offset the cost of a new Garden Shed built on Saford's property near the garden. One big enough that will meet the needs of the garden for many years to come.

Thank you to everyone who supported the garden mission in the past and look forward to a great 2024 season. Steve, rsblank@verizon.net 215-872-6616

Faith Formation Spotlight

Lent Resources for All Ages The theme of this year's Lenten journey in our collective worship at Salford will be "Christ with Us". This year's six-week Lenten journey invites us to step into what it means to be a covenant people and to do that with Jesus by our side. "Christ is among us, reminding us of who we are, and even when we fail, reminding us of grace and calling us beloved."

In case a devotional or prayer guide will help you to do this, here's a bit of info about those offered at Salford this year:

Copies of the **Lent at Home: Christ with Us** [devotional](#) and [calendar](#) (laminated to serve as a placemat) will be available in the foyer starting this Sunday. These

offer simple scriptures and activities for daily or weekly prayer and include some options like "desert quests" (mindful walks in nature), developing a family covenant, and creating a centerpiece for your table.

In the foyer you'll also find the "**Breaking the Chains**" devotional that we've used in years' past - 40 links with prayer, scripture, and activities emphasizing God as liberator and source of grace. Many thanks to Laura Stalter for making these chains!

[The Seed and The Soil Project](#) creates music, art, and "Little Liturgies." CDs and text of the simple weekly prayers are available in the foyer or can be streamed and downloaded [here](#). The Lent-Pentecost series runs from Feb. 25 to May. [Listen to all the albums on Soundcloud.](#)

Digital copies of some of these resources are available on the [Resources for Families](#) webpage.

Summer Camp Scholarship information has been placed in church mailboxes for families. Copies have also been placed at the Welcome Center for pickup. Scholarships grant forms are due back to the church office by May 15, 2024. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Salford Youth in Upcoming Musicals This March, there are quite a few Salford youth performing in their school musicals. As a community it would be great if we can get out and show them our support! Below is information about showtimes and links to purchase tickets.

- **Avery Goldcamp, Naomi Kaczor, and Jesse Ehst** are all taking part in Dock's middle school musical. Get your tickets now for our 2024 Musical, *Shrek, Jr!* There will be four shows in the EC-8 auditorium: **Friday, March 1 at 7pm; Saturday, March 2 at 3pm; Saturday, March 2 at 7pm; and Sunday, March 3 at 3pm.** Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. [Click here](#) to buy tickets & reserve your seat now!
- **Alexa Sefing** is the lead in the upcoming Upper Perkiomen Valley High School musical, *Emma: A Pop Musical*. There is performance dates **March 7-10**. You can order tickets by clicking [here](#).
- Get your tickets for Dock Mennonite Academy's high school performance of *Matilda: The Musical* and see **Lela Martin** perform. The show runs from **March 14-16**, and you can get tickets [here](#). Please note that the performance is at Dock's EC-8 campus at 420 Godshall Road, Souderton.

Potluck for Salford's Children and Youth Ministries on Sunday, March 10
After Second Hour on March 10, Andrew and Jenn will be hosting a potluck for everyone involved in children and youth ministries: children and youth (ages 2-18), parents/guardians, Second Hour teacher and aides, and MYF sponsors. Bring a dish to share and please bring your own plates and cutlery to reduce the waste we generate.

Our primary goal is to provide a space of fellowship where families can interact with each other and the trusted adults who are participating in their youths' faith formation. Additionally, there will be 10-15 minutes of updates from Jenn and Andrew. Topics will include: content for the upcoming Sunday School spring quarter and Circle of Grace curricula, elementary school offering discernment project, Peace Camp, the MYF's spring service and event schedule, final needs for the MYF auction, and more.

We hope to have these potlucks twice a year, so join us for the first gathering!

Welcoming Path Learning Corner

Many people refrain from talking about sexual orientation and gender identity or expression because it feels taboo, or because they're afraid of saying the wrong thing. This weekly primer on terminology is to help give us the words and meanings to help make conversations easier and more comfortable. For a few weeks, we are focusing on terms related to [gender identity](#).

Gender expression: External appearance of one's gender identity, usually expressed through behavior, clothing, body characteristics or voice, and which may or may not conform to socially defined behaviors and characteristics typically associated with being either masculine or feminine.

Gender fluid: A person who does not identify with a single fixed gender or has a fluid or unfixated gender identity.

Gender dysphoria: Clinically significant distress caused when a person's assigned birth gender is not the same as the one with which they identify.

Intersex: Intersex people are born with a variety of differences in their sex traits and reproductive anatomy. There is a wide variety of difference among intersex variations, including differences in genitalia, chromosomes, gonads, internal sex organs, hormone production, hormone response, and/or secondary sex traits.

Accessibility Spotlight

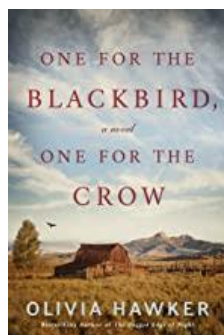
Self-Regulation Group for 6 to 9 year olds is forming now at [Eclipse Arts Center](#) In Lansdale. Art Therapy Groups at Eclipse are run by Marjorie, a trained art therapist and licensed counselor.

Joni & Friends facilitates family retreats for families impacted by disability. There are four retreats offered in 2024 at Spruce Lake from June to October. Volunteers are also needed. Learn more at: joniandfriends.org/pennsylvania/

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>

One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow, A Novel By: Olivia Hawker

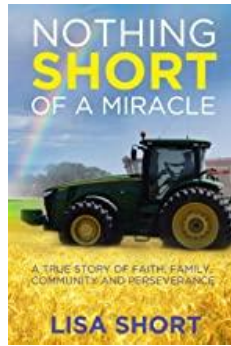


Wyoming, 1876. For as long as they have lived on the frontier, the Bemis and Webber families have relied on each other. With no other settlers for miles, it is a matter of survival. But when Ernest Bemis finds his wife, Cora, in a compromising situation with their neighbor, he doesn't think of survival. In one impulsive moment, a man is dead, Ernest is off to prison, and the women left behind are divided by rage and remorse.

Losing her husband to Cora's indiscretion is another hardship for stoic Nettie Mae. But as a brutal Wyoming winter bears down, Cora and Nettie Mae have no choice but to come together as one family—to share the duties of working the land and raising their children. There's Nettie Mae's son, Clyde—no longer a boy, but not yet a man—who must navigate the road to adulthood without a father to guide him, and Cora's daughter, Beulah, who is as wild and untamable as her prairie home.

Bound by the uncommon threads in their lives and the challenges that lie ahead, Cora and Nettie Mae begin to forge an unexpected sisterhood. But when a love blossoms between Clyde and Beulah, bonds are once again tested, and these two resilient women must finally decide whether they can learn to trust each other—or else risk losing everything they hold dear.

Nothing Short of A Miracle By: Lisa Short



Shortly after a young couple vow to love each other through sickness and health, their commitment is tested when a tragic farm accident destroys their world. Surviving the insurmountable damage seems impossible, but when a community comes together and profoundly demonstrates what can be done through prayer and support—and a Kansas farm family puts all their trust and faith in God—lives are inspired by results that are nothing short of miracle.

For some, farming is a calling more than an occupation, and to those who participate in the time-honored production of America's food supply, the challenge of staying solvent through the generations is a continual concern. And when tragedy strikes at the heart of a farming family, the repercussions demand the best of individuals and community, calling forth that spirit and resolve so essential to those who live and grow on the land. This mother's account of her adult son's shocking experience with loss and the subsequent struggle to maintain life as a husband and father and regain his role within the rural landscape of the Kansas heartland, is a heartfelt tribute to the qualities that made and keep America's precious farm families doing what they do best.

News & Notes

Address Updates:

Jim & Gail Alderfer

216 Clump Road, Green Lane, PA 18054

Phone: (610) 551-4285

Nathaniel & Brook Martin

657 Meetinghouse Road, Telford, PA 18969

If your student is **planning to attend a Mennonite College** for school year 2024/2025, please let Church Administrator Brad Alderfer know so he can notify the colleges of our Scholarship awards for the coming school year. Each student attending Mennonite College is eligible for a \$3,000 scholarship from Salford.

The **Salford Mailboxes** will be re-organized for February 25th or March 3rd. Please remove all items from your mailboxes in the coming weeks. If your mailbox has a "hold mail" sticker and you would like to receive mail, please remove the sticker. If you would like a mailbox and do not have one or would like to check the status of your mailbox, please contact **Church Administrator Brad Alderfer**.

Salford Choir! Justin Yoder will lead the choir to sing twice: for **Palm Sunday morning and Good Friday evening services**. Interested? Contact Justin at justin.n.yoder@gmail.com. Make **Salford Easter Choir** the subject of your email and please **include your full name and voice part** in your email! Rehearsals:

Wednesday February 28th, 7:00-8:45 pm

Tuesday March 5th, 7:00-8:45 pm

Thursday March 14th, 7:00-8:45 pm

Wednesday March 20th, 7:00-8:45 pm

Tuesday March 26th, 7:00-8:45 pm

This week your **Salford Volleyball team** had to fight through adversity to get the win but got the job done. After coming out flat and squeaking by in the first 2 games coach Sefing gave a rousing speech which lit a fire under Nathaniel Martin

who had a huge game 3 and there was no looking back. He was a monster at the net. Lela Martin played strong defense and helped seal the deal with a 5 point serving run in game five. Next Monday's game is at 7pm at Immanuel Leidy's in Souderton against Calvary 2. Should be a fun one to watch, come check us out.

The next Banned/Challenged Book Club is Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30. We will be discussing the book "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison. All are welcome as long as you read the book!

In the event of **inclement weather that may affect our Sunday morning worship service and Second Hour**, we will announce any changes or closures by all church email and on the front page of our website by 8:30 am. If there are any questions about inclement weather and you do not have computer access, feel free to call Church Administrator **Brad Alderfer** at (215) 272-6724.

Beyond Salford

My Toddler and Me is an opportunity for parents and other caregivers of 2 and 3-year-olds to get out of the house and meet others. Each Wednesday morning from 9:30 am – 11:00 am join us for story, craft, and fun time together at **Zion Mennonite Church**, 149 Cherry Lane in Souderton. For more information call the church at 215-723-3592 or [click here](#).

Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, Pa., will begin the spring session of a **Grief Share Support Group** on Thursday, March 7 at 1:00 p.m. and continue weekly until May. You are invited to attend any week. For more information contact the church office at 215-723-3592 or Marcia Young at 215-723-9111.

MCC will operate its mobile meat canner at the **MCC Material Resource Center** in Souderton from **March 25-27, 2024** to process 24,000 pounds of pork to send to Cuba and Ukraine. **100 volunteers are required daily**, working a two to six-hour shift (6AM-7PM) to fill and label cans and prepare boxes. Refreshments provided. Tax-deductible donations may be made payable to "MCC Canner Project" and mailed to MCC Material Resource Center, 737 Hagey Center Drive, Unit C, Souderton, PA 18964. To volunteer, contact the MCC Material Resource Center at 267-203-8074.