

February 19, 2023

Sunday, February 19, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Guest Preacher Jenny Fujita will preach on Acts 10:33-48; *Up on the Roof*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages, All Adults are requested to return to the Sanctuary for Second Hour for Path Forward Discernment Conversation

February 12, 2023

Offering

\$5,492

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$2,045

Vanco Online Offering

\$3,273

Total Budget Offering \$10,810

Children's Offering

\$50

Future Salford Events

February 17 – 19 – Senior Youth Winter Retreat

February 19 – Salford/Advent Garden Fundraiser Luncheon

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service, 6:30 pm

February 26 – All church potluck following Second Hour

March 18 – MYF Auction and fundraiser meal

If you have information

Path Forward Discernment Team Update, February 16, 2023

Last Sunday was a powerful culmination of three Sundays of sharing from Salford members. In the first two weeks we heard a variety of perspectives from people whose minds have changed, remained the same, or generally struggled to understand scripture and its perspectives on sexuality. We all use reason, communal discernment and the lens of our own experience as we interact with the Bible.

Last week we heard from three people whose lives have been deeply affected by the church's struggle over sexual diversity. We heard from a parent of a lesbian daughter, and from two people who grew up gay at Salford. The sharing was raw and specific, and hearers were deeply moved by the emotional sharing of each speaker. Afterward, many people stayed to thank and speak to the speakers. There were small groups of people who remained around the auditorium talking with each other for a long time afterward.

Clearly this is an important time in our discernment as a church. All that we have heard from scripture, from personal experience, and from the church factors into our corporate decision. We are well along the way in this discernment. We have heard the Spirit speaking, and we seem to be nearing a clear direction as a church. There are two more weeks of input and conversation left; keep praying as we move ahead! And MANY thanks to each of the brave persons who risked and shared their hearts and minds!

At the Path Forward meeting this week, the committee scheduled a series of midweek prayer evenings for the month of March. Be watching for these opportunities. And mark your calendars for a congregational meeting during Second Hour on March 26 at which time we hope to conclude the entire process.

This Sunday, Dr. Johnny Stoeckle, a physician and member of Salford, will present perspectives on the various forms of sexual diversity. In addition to "gay" and "lesbian", what is meant by bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual? On Feb. 26, our Mosaic leadership minister will be with us to talk about Mosaic's position and how Salford could be affected by the outcome of our discernment process.

On Sunday, February 26, we will have an **all church potluck luncheon** following our last Second hour discernment session. This will be a true potluck, with no dishes being prepared by the kitchen. Please bring a dish and dessert to share and your place settings for the table. The Potluck kitchen team requests: **Please bring your food READY TO SERVE, no last minute prep, heating, etc. unless you are planning to do it yourself.**

Dave Greiser, for the Path Forward Committee

Ash Wednesday, February 22, is the beginning of Lent

The 40 days (excluding Sundays) of Lent are a time of preparation for Easter, on April 9.

In Lent our example is Jesus, who retreated to the desert for 40 days of fasting

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

before beginning his ministry (Matthew 4:1-11). In the desert there is nothing to hide behind, nothing to distract. We turn our focus toward God. We strip away the excess and pretense. We uncover who we truly are: human, created in love by God, deeply fragile, longing for wholeness.

Our journey of Lent may involve fasting: you may wish to give up something which is distracting you from God. Or you may pick up a new spiritual discipline to give you some structure as you seek. What do you need in order to uncover your true self in communion with the Holy?

In Lent our worship theme will be "Becoming Authentically Human." We will ask, What does it mean to be an image of the God who created us? What does it mean to be called by Jesus? We become truly human as we welcome and claim God's redeeming work of love in and for us.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, we will have a short service of ashes in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. In this state of vulnerability and belovedness we begin the season of Lent. This Sunday and next you will also find a table in the foyer with resources for your spiritual practice at home. You are welcome to take anything to use or share with others.

MYF Auction Donations Due

The Salford Mennonite Youth Fellowship is grateful for the 14 donations we have received for the upcoming auction on **March 18th**. 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!

This Week at Salford

Tuesday, February 21

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Friendship Room)

Sunday, February 26

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

All Adults Return to the Sanctuary for Path Forward Discernment Conversations

12:00 pm All Church Potluck Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Beth Styer**, and **Joanne Speigle** whose mother **Grace Brenneman** passed at Souderton Mennonite Homes on Tuesday. Please keep Beth and Joanne, their families and the entire Brenneman family in prayer at this time.
- Please pray for **Salford's Senior Mennonite Youth Fellowship** as they travel to Susquehanna, PA, for their winter retreat at The Loft. Salford's MYF will be joined by Zion Mennonite for a weekend of fellowship, reflection, learning, and growing.
- From February 12, All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **the economic crisis that is affecting many of our urban immigrant churches**.

- From February 19, All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Mike Czekner**. **Mike is the new Chief Executive Officer called to lead [Peaceful Living](#)**. Pray for Mike as he leads this organization through its mission to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and help them discover and realize their unique potential and become valued community members. Pray for wisdom, strength, and insight for Mike and the other staff of Peaceful Living, a Conference Related Ministry.

Please consider signing up to bring a meal to the **Dan & Vanessa Sigmans** family and support them after the arrival of **baby Grant**. Let's fill their bellies and help in the transition from one to two kids! Thanks. Signup here with [Take Them a Meal](#) From Salford Meal Ministry Coordinator Becca Beels.

Kathi and I want to thank everyone at Salford who have so generously supported us during our journey toward healing from Cancer. It seems like I'm regularly the last to leave on Sunday's because so many of you have taken time after the gathering to learn how I'm doing and offer encouragement. So appreciated. I love you all. **Dave Peters**

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)

Our children and youth will be packing kits for the service portion of the March 8 faith formation night activities. Kits supplies do not need to be sorted or separated or bagged in any particular way. Supplies will be more helpful than cash donations, but cash donations for kits are gladly accepted if that is your option. Please have all supplies and donation to Salford by March 5th. We hope to donate 200 kits, so please help us reach our goal.

Yarnfolks! Do you create with yarn - either knitting or crocheting? Would you consider sharing your gifts? The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is alive and well! Shawls and blankets are gifted to those who are going through a hard time or are recovering from illness or are brand new babies in our community. We provide the yarn and patterns if you need them. Please stop by the table in the lobby to pick up a copy of our updated guidelines and reach out to Becky Scheetz with any questions. And consider joining us **in person** for our crafting afternoon here at the church on **Tuesday, February 28 from 1-3 in the Library**. Bring your shawl/blanket in progress or come to take a look at the yarn available to start a new one! Light refreshment will be available. If you plan to come, let Becky know at Beckeelynn@yahoo.com .

Faith Formation Spotlight

Feb 17: Lent Resources for your family:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. This year's Lenten journey is about discovering what it means to be fully human. The journey is shaped by communion with our Creator, a closer walk with the ultimate human, Jesus, and sensitivity to the breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

Copies of the [Lent at Home: Created in the Image of God](#) devotional, and

calendar (laminated to serve as a placemat), offer simple scriptures and activities for daily or weekly prayer that will connect with what happens in our worship.

[The Seed and The Soil Project](#) creates music, art, and “Little Liturgies.” CDs and text of the simple weekly prayers are available at Salford (Welcome Center) or can be streamed and downloaded here. The Lent-Pentecost series runs from Feb. 26-June 3.

[Listen to all the albums on Soundcloud.](#)

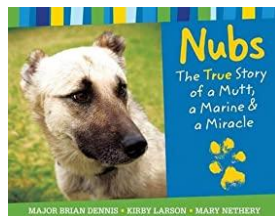
Digital copies of these resources are available at salfordmc.org/resources-for-families.html

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:

Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle – By Major Brian Dennis / Children's Book



Discover the true story of a Marine and the fiercely loyal dog he befriends during the Iraq War. Over 100,000 copies sold! Nubs, an Iraqi dog of war, never had a home or a person of his own. He was the leader of a pack of wild dogs living off the land and barely surviving. But Nubs's life changed when he met Marine Major Brian Dennis. The two formed a fast friendship, made stronger by Dennis's willingness to share his meals, offer a warm place to sleep, and give Nubs the kind of care and attention he had never received before. Nubs became part of Dennis's human "pack" until duty required the Marines to relocate a full 70 miles away—without him. Nubs had no way of knowing that Marines were not allowed to have pets.

So began an incredible journey that would take Nubs through a freezing desert, filled with danger to find his friend and would lead Dennis on a mission that would touch the hearts of people all over the world.

Nubs and Dennis will remind readers that friendship has the power to cross deserts, continents, and even species. DONATED

Tuesday Takes Me There: The Healing Journey of a Veteran and his Service Dog – By Luis Carlos Montalvan / Children's Book



Tuesday and Luis, an Iraq War veteran, must travel by boat, bus, train, horse, pedicab and more as they race from New York City to the countryside outside the nation's capitol for an important event. Along the way, they see many famous sites, share hilarious and touching adventures, and show young readers (along with their teachers and parents) how trained service dogs help people with disabilities. Full of beautiful photos of this loveable Golden Retriever and his best friend, *Tuesday Takes Me There* continues the bestselling true story of a wounded veteran and the dog that saved him. DONATED

Salford News & Notes

Working groups have been developed to design an outdoor pavilion for Salford,

and to explore renewable energy upgrades for Salford. **Gene Kropf** will lead the pavilion design project, and **Mark Heise** will lead the renewable energy exploration project. These groups will present their plans to church board as appropriate, with any projects ultimately coming to the congregation for final approval.

Anabaptist World has notified us that it is time to update our annual group subscription. Fliers to indicate your interest in renewed, cancelled or new subscriptions have been placed in church mailboxes and at the Welcome Center. Please return the form to the church office by February 26th, 2023. The group rate per subscription is \$35.00. For those who are able, please include payment with your form.

Salford volleyball had an exciting week. Salford 1 beat one of their chief rivals 3 – 2 to win the match. After winning game 1, they lost the next 2 only to come roaring back in games 4 and 5 for the win. Salford Bee's had to take the night off due to players out with injuries and travel. Next Monday Salford 1 plays a must win match against Calvary 2 at 7pm at Immanuel Leidy's. If they win, that could move them one step closer to making the playoffs. Salford Bee's have a bye-week.

We continue to enjoy the **donated artwork for the church bulletin cover** from our adults and children. Please send digital photos of your artwork to church administrator Brad Alderfer. Art featuring winter, spring, lent, easter, nature or just about anything is welcome!

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 8:00 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.

Mosaic Conference and Mennonite Church USA Updates

There have been a few updates of interest from Mosaic Conference and Mennonite Church USA.

Mosaic Conference Moderators met with MCUSA Executive Board on January 28th; **MCUSA Executive Board** responds with open letter. You may view the article from [Mosaic Conference here](#). You may view the article from [Mennonite Church USA here](#).

Franconia Mennonite Congregation has voted to disaffiliate from Mosaic Conference. You may view the article from [Mosaic Conference here](#).

Beyond Salford

Perkasie Patchwork Coffeehouse is thrilled to welcome Cornflower Jam and Ray Fifer to our next coffeehouse concert on Saturday, February 25 at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. Masks are strongly recommended except when eating some of our delicious refreshments. Location: Perkasie Mennonite Church, 320 W Chestnut St., Perkasie, Pa. **Christy Gross is a member of Cornflower Jam.**

Join **MCC Material Resource Center** in Souderton by contributing time or money for the **MCC Mobile Canner project**, to provide canned meat for people in need around the world. To learn more information, call 267-203-8074.

Dock Mennonite Academy presents 'Coming Up' Jazz Orchestra & Chamber

Choir Concert, March 10 at 7:00 pm, hosted in Dock's Longacre Theater. Come experience a special evening of music as they bring a piece of past Dock Touring Choir trips to you with WHG's German Jazz Orchestra and their very own Chamber Choir.

Quakertown Christian School invites all interested families to their Open House for Bridge Kindergarten through 12th grade, being held on Tuesday, March 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be opportunities to tour the campus, meet the teachers and find out what makes QCS different!

Camp Men-O-Lan will hold a Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. This special day is designed for you to be refreshed and renewed in your spirit as they look into 'The Heart', based on Ezekiel 36:26, with guest speaker Dawn Mast. The day will also include a continental breakfast, worship, teaching, sharing, lunch, free time and much more. Details and registration info can be found at menolan.org

Discover **Dock's Summer Camps**, scheduled for June 19 to July 28. They have lots of options to choose from for campers aged 4-15. Some of the camps offered this year include: CAL Sports, Upward Adventure Games & Flag Football, Creation Station, Crafting Music, Camping, Christmas in July, Sewing, Mini-Sports camps (on the HS campus) and much more! Many summer camp options fill up quickly, so register today at www.dock.org/academics/summer-camps.

The February edition of **On the Level** is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue: read about the MDS Annual Celebration in Lancaster, PA and check out the videos from the gathering; and a volunteer writes about the transformative experience during her time at Monte Lake, BC. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3EboHDz>