

February 4, 2024

Sunday, February 4, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Acts 2:14-21, 37-47; *Jesus-Centered Church Membership*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

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.

The Annual Meeting with Dock Mennonite Academy will be held in the Fellowship Hall during Second Hour. All interested adults are invited to attend.

January 28, 2024

Offering

\$8,030

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$1,980

Vanco Online Offering

\$1,325

Total Budget Offering

\$11,335

Children's Offering

\$29

Future Salford Events

February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service and Faith Formation Night

Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us in the sanctuary on **Wednesday evening, February 14th**, for a community dinner and a brief contemplative service to observe the beginning of the Lenten season. **The meal will begin at 5:30 P.M. and the service will begin at 6:30 P.M.**

Lent is a time to reflect, seek the wisdom and guidance of the Lord in the quiet darkness of the end of wintertime, and to prepare our hearts for the Easter season. Join us for the service only or stay if you like for several contemplative activities afterward. The indoor labyrinth, guided prayer, and fireside meditation will be available as well as the usual kids' club meeting for those in grades 1-5. Junior and Senior Youth will join for the Lent service and contemplative practices.

If you'd like to take part in the entire evening, including the meal which begins at 5:30, please RSVP to Pastor Andrew by **Feb. 10th** at zetsa@salfordmc.org

Annual Meeting with Dock Mennonite Academy

Join us this Sunday (2/4) during Second Hour as we welcome six representatives from Dock Mennonite Academy, who represent their Board and Administrative Team. The bulk of our time together will be spent hearing about the topics the congregation submitted questions about over the past few weeks. These themes and topics include: Dock Life, Culture, and Identity; Children & Youth Safety; Education for Student with Special Needs; Curriculum; Diversity and Intercultural Priorities; How Salford Can Get Involved at Dock; Why Dock?--Weighing School Options.

We also encourage you to linger after the meeting, as you are able, to connect with one of the representatives to ask follow up questions or simply get to know each other better.

2024 Mennonite Youth Fellowship Auction

This year's **Mennonite Youth Fellowship Auction** will take place on **March 23rd**. If you are interested in making a donation to the auction, 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. If you choose to fill out a paper form, please return it to the church office. Regardless of format, please submit your form by **February 26th**. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions you can contact Pastor Andrew at zetsa@salfordmc.org or 215-859-3446.

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

"We, the disabled, bear prophetic witness about what is true about the fragile human condition. If only the church would listen to us." - Amy Kenny, author of *My*

February 25 – Salford Advent Garden Fundraiser Luncheon

March 3 – Monthly Communion Service

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

Body Is Not a Prayer Request

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.

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

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 very 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

Sunday, February 11

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

Preaching: Andrew Zetts

10:30 am Second Hour for All Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Beth Styer** who will have a shoulder replacement on February 7th. Pray for a quick recovery.
- For **Nancy Alderfer** who was taken to Grand View on Monday night with severe colitis. Pray for healing and good rest.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray this week for **Neffsville Mennonite Church** in Lancaster, PA. In January, Neffsville affiliated with Mosaic Conference. Please pray for their pastors, Hunter Hess and Eszter Bjorkman and the whole congregation, that they may live more fully into their mission of “Inviting, engaging, and equipping all generations to be

more like Jesus.”

Greetings fellow cooks and eaters - the Meals Ministry is looking for help in providing meals for **Jim & Beth Styer** for the next few weeks as Beth spends time healing and recovering from surgery. Thanks for your willingness and time, now let's fill some hungry tummies!

<https://takethemameal.com/BUUK0953>

Birthday Blessings...

To **Paul Erhart**, who celebrates his 81st birthday on February 8th, and to **Willis Miller**, who celebrates his 92nd birthday on February 9th.

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.

Mennonite Central Committee 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 at the canner, contact the [MCC Material Resource](#) Center at 267-203-8074.

Healthy Ninos Honduras - Rick Kratz will be leading a group to Honduras on June 29 - July 6 with Healthy Ninos Honduras. He has led many teams over the past 15 years. We will participate in a health brigade and provide cement floors in 4 rural villages. This will also be an opportunity to see where our youth will be serving just 3 weeks later. We are looking for 5 or 6 more people to join our team. All ages and abilities are welcome. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Rick at 215-350-9149 or suzanneandrick@msn.com

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. Beginning this week, we are focusing on terms related to [gender identity](#).

Gender binary: A system in which gender is constructed into two strict categories of male or female. Gender identity is expected to align with the sex assigned at

birth and gender expressions and roles fit traditional expectations.

Cisgender: An adjective that describes a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth. Cisgender or simply cis are appropriate terms here. Source: npr.org

Transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Therefore, transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

Note: The term *transsexual* is now considered mostly outdated and often offensive, though some people identify in this way. Source:

All definitions are taken from the Human Rights Campaign's Glossary of Terms, except where noted otherwise. For a more complete list of terminology, please refer to the [Glossary of Terms](#).

Accessibility Spotlight

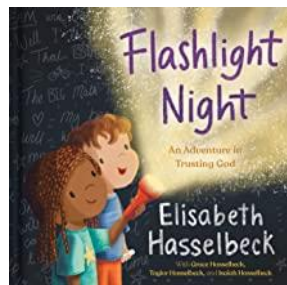
A new **YOUTH Mental Health First Aid Class** will be presented in two-parts at Zion Mennonite (Souderton, PA) on April 11 and 18 from 6-9 pm (attendance is required at both classes).

This is a **FREE** class sponsored by Montgomery County Behavioral Health. The class is great for youth workers and leaders. You will learn about resources in Montgomery County and how to interact with an adolescent in crisis. Learn more and register: fivecountymh.org

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>

Flashlight Night – An Adventure in Trusting God By Elizabeth Hasselbeck



Flashlight Night is narrated by a boy whose parents have used chalkboard paint to create a wall where he and his siblings can write out all their fears, cares, and concerns: *Will I learn to blow a bubble? Tie my shoes? Stay out of trouble? Be the friend they choose?*

The boy shares the wall with a friend, who records her own prayers. Later, they visit the chalkboard wall at dusk with a flashlight. The boy's mom shines the light on some prayers and turns it off at other times, pointing out that their prayers (and the children's faith) are still there, even in the dark, and that God hears every request.



Lonesome, Party of Six, A Novel By: A. Ainsworth

Six lonely diners on a day built for family. One stranger who notices. Their lives would be changed forever because of her one intentional act of kindness.

Austen Thomasan is surrounded by family but feeling the loneliness of a recent breakup. Her mother and the relentless attack of the calendar remind her she is no closer to marriage than she was when she left for college. She could feel comfortable in her own skin if... well, she doesn't exactly know

the solution to her dilemma. When a Thanksgiving day at the movies with her family turns into dinner at The Log Cabin, an encounter with a high school classmate disrupts her pity party and turns her attention to six people from different walks of life eating their Thanksgiving dinners alone. Austen is so moved by the scene that she anonymously pays for their meals. Find yourself moved to laughter and tears at the narratives of Pops, One Month Sober, Mr. Important, Pastor Widower, Army Mom, and Inconvenient Heart Attack. Be encouraged as Austen battles her own insecurities and determines to connect to her Lonesome, Party of Six crew... even though they have never met her.

Lonesome, Party of Six is a hopeful work of Christian fiction. If you like fascinating characters, homespun Southern fiction, and moving stories, then you'll love A. Ainsworth's stories of loneliness, community, and—ultimately—faith

News & Notes

Women's Event - Dinner Yahtzee, **SAVE THE DATE!**

Who: Anyone who identifies as female, college age and up

What: Fun evening of dinner with 4 other women. Get to meet some new friends or get to know some old friends better.

When: **Saturday March 16, at 4:30**

Where: Meet in the church foyer and then go to an area restaurant of your choice.

How: When you arrive you will write your name on a slip of paper that will be put in a bowl. Once everyone arrives dinner groups will be formed by drawing 5 names from the bowl at random. The group of 5 will designate a driver and chose where they would like to go eat dinner together. ***This is a great event to bring someone new to Salford. If you bring a friend you may include them on your slip so you may be together in a group.*** There will be a chosen time to return to church so groups can report on their dining experiences.

No need to RSVP. Cindy Moyer is the point person if you have questions.

Please review the table in the foyer by the Welcome Center with items left after church potluck meals over the last 6 months. (There is a vintage IT Landes cooler from the summer picnic!). Please take your belonging home with you. Unclaimed items will go to the thrift store or dumpster.

Salford Friends: we'll have our monthly gathering at Souderton Mennonites Homes on Monday February 12th from 7-8 in the Friendship Room. Please join us!!

In **Salford Volleyball** news this week your Salford team took care of business again winning their match 5-0 to remain tied for first place. Ben Sefing had a stellar performance logging a 97.99% kill rate and was everywhere on the court all at once.

This week's game is going to be a big one. Salford plays ReNew who we are tied with for 1st place in the standings. The game is Monday at 7:00 pm at Immanuel Leidy's in Souderton. If you are looking for something to do, come on out and cheer for us.

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

Souderton Mennonite Church is hosting a **free concert** scheduled for **February 4th at 3pm** featuring "Suite Brass Quintet." **Bob Maxwell** of Salford plays trumpet in this group. More at www.soudertonmennonite.org

You are invited to the **Perkasie Mennonite Church's Patchwork Coffeehouse** live concert with Rolly Brown and Bunny Barnes on **February 17, 2024, 7:30 pm**, at 320 W Chestnut St., Perkasie, Pa. Rolly is a songwriter, National Guitar Fingerpicking Champion and Philadelphia Music Award nominee. A portion of the proceeds supports Rampacks. Wheelchair accessible.