



January 7, 2024

Sunday, January 7, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Matthew 2:1-12; *The God Who Won't Be Managed*

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.

December 31, 2023

Offering
\$18,220
ACH Electronic
Offering
\$1,980
Vanco Online Offering
\$25,044
Total Budget Offering \$45,244
Children's Offering \$34
Pavilion Project Offering \$1,000

Future Salford Events

January 10 – Faith Formation Night

January 28 – All Church Potluck following Second Hour

February 25 – Salford Advent Garden Fundraiser Luncheon

March 23 – Youth Auction and Fundraiser

Circling Back to the Centered-Set Church

Last Fall we had an extended introduction to the concept of the centered-set church. A centered-set church tries to move its people away from an emphasis on rules and line-drawing. It is centered on Jesus rather than boundaries.

In the next four weeks we'll try to get more specific about this new way of being church. We'll look at how a centered-set church works at character development; how it envisions outreach and even the dreaded "e" word – evangelism. We'll explore whether and how a centered church does church membership.

Following Lent and Easter we'll dig into the Gospel of John to consider the stories of people who encountered the living Jesus and were forever changed. As we tell these stories, we'll be asking ourselves, "What might Jesus be whispering into our ears, as individuals and as a church?" The pastors are excited for this adventure. Dave Greiser, lead pastor

Bible Reading Group

Last week, **Rick Kratz** invited congregants to join him in a daily Bible reading plan that will have participants **read the entire Bible in 2024**. A small group has formed to join him that is still open to more participants. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Andrew at zetsa@salfordmc.org or 215-859-3446.

12/31/23 Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

- Based on all donations received, online donations initiated and checks written by 12/31/23, our total income for 2023 is **\$852,426.73**.
- All regular budget expenses for 2023 have been paid. Our total expenses for 2023 are **\$856,725.51**.
- Our total income for 2023 is **\$4,298.78** less than our expenses.
- In previous years, the church board set aside \$23,566.79 in excess funds to assist with Salary and Benefits as needed in the future. We made a transfer of \$4,298.78 from this fund to the 2023 budget to cover expenses.

The Church board is grateful for your generous offerings for the 2023 budget and special offerings. The Church board will evaluate the 2024 budget for appropriateness based on the level of 2023 offerings and income. Your continued support of God's mission and community at Salford is greatly appreciated. Please speak with the Leadership Team or Church board with questions or concerns with this financial information.

Church Board New Member Affirmation

Mandy Martin and **Miles Musselman** received unanimous affirmation as new members of the Salford Church board. They will join **Ron Freed, Mark Heise, Suzanne Kaczor, Cindy Moyer, Randy Nyce, Jane Ruth and Ron Souder** when they meet on January 16th for the first board meeting of 2024.

meal.

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

Annual Meeting with Dock Mennonite Academy

At the 2022 congregational meeting, Pastor Andrew Zetts and Cindy Moyer communicated that they planned to initiate an annual meeting with representatives from Dock Mennonite and the Salford congregation. We are happy to announce that we will have our first meeting **during Second Hour on Sunday, February 4.**

The hope is this will be a time for Dock to provide annual updates about things like new initiatives at the school, updates in curriculum, and ways for Salford to participate in the life of the Dock community. Additionally, congregants at Salford will have the opportunity to submit questions to the Dock representatives prior to the meeting so that they can be addressed during the meeting on February 4.

Please mark the date and plan to attend so we can have a strong turnout! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Andrew at zettsa@salfordmc.org or 215-859-3446.

2024 Mennonite Youth Fellowship Auction

A date has been set for the 2023 MYF Auction: **Saturday, March 23.** Join the Salford community for a wonderful meal, fellowship, and the excitement of bidding on a host of terrific donations. The proceeds of the auction will help fund Salford's MYF. The Senior MYF is going on a service trip with Healthy Niños Honduras this summer, so we are hoping for a strong showing at the auction to help us reach our fundraising needs.

More details are soon to follow, but if you have any questions or donations to provide right away you can contact Pastor Andrew at zettsa@salfordmc.org or 215-859-3446.

This Week at Salford

Monday, January 8

7:00 pm Childcare Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom)

7:00 pm Fellowship Time at Souderton Mennonite Homes (Friendship Room)

Wednesday, January 10

5:30 pm Faith Formation Night Meal (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 pm Kids Club (Gathering Room)

Sunday, January 14

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 **Joan King** who is recovering at home from successful thyroid surgery.
- For **John Detweiler** who will have surgery on January 12th. Pray for renewed strength and quick recovery.
- For **Frank Moran** as he anticipates another procedure on his esophagus next week.
- For **Kevin Landis, Sally Derstine's brother** who is waiting to see if he needs shoulder surgery. Please pray that Kevin will be able to maintain as much mobility as possible.
- For **Amie Gorman, Pat's sister in law**, who is back in the hospital for a procedure to try to rid her body of infection. She will then have to spend 4-6 weeks in a rehab facility. Pray for healing and for the continued stress on their

family.

- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Peña de Horeb** and **Philadelphia Praise Center**. Both of these Mosaic congregations are working toward purchasing new buildings for worship and witness in South Philadelphia, PA in the early part of 2024. Pray for ease of transactions, financial support, and for the Holy Spirit to be present during this time of transition and transactions.

Birthday Blessings...

To **John Ruth**, who celebrates his 93rd birthday on January 8th, and to **Irene Frankenfield**, who celebrates her 96th birthday on January 13th.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for January – HAND WARMERS, WOOL SOCKS, \$10 WALMART, WAWA and MCDONALDS GIFT CARDS

Larger items like tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks are also very needed and can be purchased from the Street Outreach Wish List at amazon.com/registries/custom/RZI1V542EFSY/guest-view

Thank you for your donations which will benefit Access Services/Homeless Street Outreach, Fort Washington, PA

Justice & Peace Spotlight

Although we just marked the start of a new year, we must continue our peacemaking work for Palestine from last year. As people all around the world enjoyed fireworks on January 1st, bombs fell on Gaza. In the words of former Salford member, Michael George "The news in Gaza this week remains devastating. We are seeing suffering continue—and grow—on a mass scale. **Our work remains critical and we owe Gaza our perseverance.** " So what's next?

Mennonite Action is planning a major action in DC on Tuesday, January 16th to deliver a petition to our lawmakers demanding a ceasefire and to sing and pray for peace. Tori Jones Long is coordinating a van for roundtrip transportation to/from DC on January 16th. **Please contact Tori ASAP if you are interested in traveling to DC.**

You are invited to participate in the installation of a **Memorial to the Lost** (sponsored by Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence) at Zion Mennonite Church on Sunday, January 21 at 1 PM. After the Memorial T-shirts and stands are installed, there will be a brief dedication service. Contact Cindy Scheetz with any questions.

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. We will explore terms as defined by the Human Rights Campaign each week.

Ally: A term used to describe someone who is actively supportive of LGBTQ+ people. It encompasses straight and cisgender allies, as well as those within the LGBTQ+ community who support each other (e.g., a lesbian who is an ally to the bisexual community).

LGBTQ+: An acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer" with a

"+" sign to recognize the limitless sexual orientations and gender identities used by members of this community. The acronym LGBTQIA+ may also be used, adding the letters for "intersex, asexual."

Queer: A term people often use to express a spectrum of identities and orientations that are counter to the mainstream. Queer is often used as a catch-all to include many people, including those who do not identify as exclusively straight and/or folks who have non-binary or gender-expansive identities. This term was previously used as a slur but has been reclaimed by many parts of the LGBTQ+ movement.

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](#). For further reading, "The Savvy Ally" by Jeannie Gainsburg is an excellent resource.

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.

Faith Formation Spotlight

Peace Camp 2024 Save the Date: Peace Camp will take place the evenings of Sunday, June 16-Thurs, June 20 for kids entering 1-6th grades in Fall 2024. Registration will open in mid-March.

We will resume our Faith Formation Nights for this school year on **January 10, 2023**, from **5:30 to 8:00 P.M.** Please see below for the evening's schedule and let Pastor Andrew (zetsa@salfordmc.org) know by **January 8** how many people from your household plan to attend; RSVPs are very helpful for meal planning.

- 5:30-5:45 P.M.: Dinner
- 5:45-6:30 P.M.: Worship
- 6:30-8:00 P.M.: Age-specific programs

The different programs include:

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.

Junior and Senior MYF: A gathering of 6th through 12th graders that connects for games, conversation, and contemplation to provide mutual support and foster spiritual growth. This month we will organize December's donation of the month materials and pack them into care packages for those who are incarcerated. Then, we will take time to connect with each other and reflect on how life is going.

Adults: Join us for a time of exploration! Jenn Svetlik and Andrew Zetts will spend some time discussing Jesus-centered approaches to reading the Bible with children and youth. Then, as a community we will explore different Bible resources, report back to the group what we find, and discuss what we think would work well for our families and community.

Also, please mark the following dates for the future Faith Formation Nights this school year; they are the second Wednesday of each month. February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8

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

News & Notes

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.

Maggie Klein is missing a $\frac{3}{4}$ length **black button down dress coat** that may have mistakenly picked from the coat room last Sunday. If you have a similar coat please review and see if may have mistakenly grabbed a coat that is not yours. If you have it, please return it to the coat room or the church office or contact Maggie.

Salford Friends - we will have our monthly gathering at Souderton Mennonite Homes on **Monday, January 8 from 7-8 in the Friendship Room**. Please join us

to kick off the New Year with friends and song. Questions? Call Karen.

The date has been set! The **Banned Book Club** will have its first meeting on Wednesday, January 17, at 6:30 in the library. We will be talking about the book "**Fahrenheit 451**" by Ray Bradbury. Everyone is welcome to join us as long as you are willing to read the book. Text/email/message Julie Wimmer if you are planning on participating.

Beyond Salford

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 Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will sponsor the **January Tuesday at Noon Organ Recitals** at Zion Mennonite Church, (149 E Cherry Ln, Souderton PA). The following talented organists are scheduled to perform featuring Zion's Fisk Organ:

- **January 9** – Vincent M. Ryan (Music Director at Advent Lutheran Church – with Melissa Freilich, flute)
- **January 16** – Aaron Patterson (Graduate of Curtis Institute of Music and presently a student at The Juilliard School)
- **January 23** – Parker Kitterman (Music Director at Christ Church, Philadelphia, with a recent Fisk Organ installation)
- **January 30** – Mark Bani (Graduate of Curtis Institute of Music and The Juilliard School)

These free recitals are presented at a different church each month from October through May. For more information call Jon Leight at 215.368.2884

A member of Methacton Mennonite church is looking to give away an Aerosonic piano. It is a studio-style upright piano of natural wood color, small enough to fit against a room wall. Please call or text Ron Kolb-Wyckoff at 267-664-5348 for pictures and more information.