

January 8, 2023

Sunday, January 8, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12; *You Can't Hide Jesus*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

January 1, 2023

Offering
\$3,335

ACH Electronic Offering
\$7,285

Vanco Online Offering
\$1,075

**Total Budget Offering
\$11,695**

**Children's Offering
\$15**

Future Salford Events

January 11 – Faith Formation Night

January 20 – 22 – Junior Youth Winter Retreat

February 17 – 19 – Senior Youth Winter Retreat

February 19 – Salford/Advent Garden Fundraiser Luncheon

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

Path Forward Design Team Update

Path Forward Design Team met Tuesday evening. We worked on planning our next round of second hour meetings. A significant schedule change is that we will be starting our second hour meetings on January 29 instead of the 15th. Thus, we are meeting on the five Sundays between Jan. 29 and Feb. 26. We felt it important to meet on five consecutive weeks with no break. Steve Kriss, our conference executive and our lead minister, can only be with us to talk about the implication of our discussions for our relationship to Mosaic Conference on Feb. 26. In the new schedule, that will be the final session of our second round of meetings.

Please note that the meetings will be held in the church sanctuary, rather than the fellowship hall. While there may be some small group interaction, more of our meeting times will be given to panel presentations and other input, for which the sanctuary feels like a more convenient space. Commit these meetings to prayer, church!

We have also prepared a summary of themes from the December 2022 Path Forward Process Survey. This summary was reviewed and approved by the Salford Church Board.

You may read the [summary of themes here](#).

2022 Finance Thank You

At the beginning of the 4th quarter of 2022, we updated the congregation that we would need a substantial increase in offering to meet our financial needs for 2022; the equivalent of 20% more than we received in the 4th quarter of 2021. You responded faithfully and increased your giving by 28% over the same period from last year. Our offering and income for 2022 was **\$827,679**, with actual budget expenses of **\$791,312**. The Church Board and Leadership Team are grateful to everyone for your stewardship of gifts and your generosity with the Salford community. **We will celebrate the congregation's generosity with cake after worship on Sunday, January 8th!** Cake and coffee will be served in the café outside the Gathering Room and the in the Fellowship Hall between worship and Second Hour. Children will have cake as their snack during Second hour.

The church board recognizes all who contributed to covering our financial needs in 2022.

- We are thankful for those who contributed for the first time or started a new regular contribution.
- We are thankful for those who gave regularly throughout the year or increased their regular contributions this year.
- We are thankful for those who give through donations from your retirement accounts.
- We are thankful for those who give extra to contribute to our Mennonite Education Plan (MEP) costs.
- We are thankful for our children who participate each week in the children's offering.

by email, please submit your email address to alderferb@salfordmc.org

In 2023 we expect expenses to be approximately 7.5% higher than 2022 due to being fully staffed in our Pastoral team and with increased participation in the MEP. It is especially helpful to have consistent giving throughout the year, and for larger gifts to come in a few times throughout the year, rather than concentrated at the end of the year. Automatic donation options are available. If you need information on offering options, or have any questions on church finances, please contact Church Administrator Brad Alderfer. We look forward to our life together in community in 2023.

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 P.M.: Dinner

6:15-6:30 P.M.: Worship

6:30-8:00 P.M.: 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: This month, adults will reflect on experiences and gratitude's of the past year and look toward the new year. There will be time for reflection individually as well as group conversation. This is open to any adults of any age, with children or not.

This Week at Salford

Monday, January 9

7:00 pm Child Care Ministry Team Meeting (Zoom Meeting)

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

Wednesday, January 11

5:30 pm Family Faith Formation Night Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 pm Family Faith Formation Night Age-specific Programs

Sunday, January 15

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 new Salford Board members, **Suzanne Kaczor and Mark Heise**, who are beginning their terms this month, as well as the rest of the Salford Board: **Margaret Zook, Randy Nyce, Ron Freed, Jane Ruth, Ron Souder, Cindy Moyer, and Aaron Bishop**.
- For those in the congregation dealing with chronic medical conditions and those awaiting test results or treatments - for peace and trust in God's healing presence.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **Maria Abissi, a children's**

author who attends Souderton (PA) Mennonite Church. Maria writes books that encourage empathy of others with an understanding of God's love for us all. Pray that Maria's books will continue to impact her young readers. To learn more about Maria's books, go to her website at mariaabissi.com.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Irene Frankenfield**, who celebrates her 96th birthday on January 13th.

Your Prayers Requested...

Your prayers are requested for **Don Kraybill, Ashley Kraybill** and the Kraybill family. Elizabeth Kraybill, age 74, passed away Saturday, December 24, 2022.

The Celebration of Life service for Elizabeth will be held privately on February 11, 2023 . A link to participate virtually can be found in Elizabeth's obituary, which can be [viewed here](#).

Dave Peters Cancer Support

The Pastors and Deacons have named Dave Peters as a mission of the church in support of the expenses in treatment of his aggressive prostate cancer. Donations can be made to Salford Mennonite Church with your offering envelope or check memo line marked "Dave Peters Cancer Support." Our prayers are with Dave & Kathi as they pursue treatment in Dave's journey with cancer.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month Project for January – Access Services Street Outreach:

The Street Outreach team at the nonprofit Access Services provides support and connection to services/resources to persons experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County. Last year the **county's only year-round emergency shelter for individuals closed**, and while there are plans to reopen it, it will not happen for another year.

This winter they need hand warmers, wool socks, and \$10 Walmart, Wawa and McDonald's 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 <https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/RZ11V542EFSY/guest-view>

Alternatively, monetary donations can be made through Salford's donation system, at <https://www.accessservices.org/donate/> (designate Street Outreach), or can be mailed to:

Access Street Outreach, 4070 Butler Pike, Suite 900, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

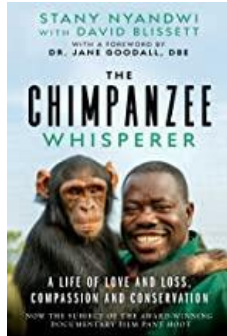
Justice and Peace received an invitation from Bryan Miller to be part of an event on MLK Day, Monday, January 16th at 11:00 am in Lansdale. Bryan did the workshop on **Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence** at our Gardening for Peace event in September. He wrote: *"The Montco Memorial to the Lost will be installed at Lansdale United Methodist Church on Broad Street in Lansdale and a brief dedication service will be held at 11:00am. LUMC will invite all local faith communities to attend and I hope to see you there, as well."* Please contact Joe Landis if you are interested in attending or with questions.

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:

The Chimpanzee Whisperer: A Life of Love and Loss, Compassion and Conservation, by: Stany Nyandwi

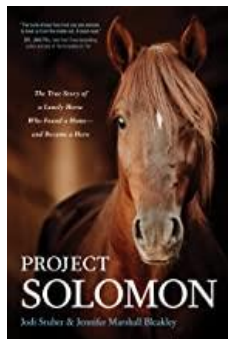


Stany Nyandwi's gift for communicating with chimpanzees is so special that world-renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall has called him a "chimpanzee whisperer." His skills and devotion to these creatures—our closest living relatives, with whom we share 98.7 percent of our DNA—have earned him international awards and sent him on travels within Africa and around the world. But he began life in poverty, born and raised in a dirt-floor, straw-roofed hut in rural Burundi. *The Chimpanzee Whisperer* is the story of his astonishing life journey.

It is also an African story. Receiving only an elementary education before he quit school, he suffered injustice and tragic loss because of his ethnic group. He began caring for orphaned and rescued chimps in Burundi. When the country descended into civil war and genocide, he was forced to flee with the chimps and endured long separation from his family. Continuing to work with and learn about chimpanzees in Kenya, Uganda, and later South Africa, he made himself into an incomparable authority.

His memoir has adventure, danger, and many unique and touching stories about chimpanzees that show his bond with and understanding of them. As told to award-winning author David Blissett, it reveals a remarkable man who has refused to let circumstances defeat him. Conditioned by hate, wounded by loss, he has lived for love, faith, and compassion, giving new life, as Dr. Jane Goodall writes in her foreword, "to so many chimpanzees whose families, like his own, were torn apart by violence."

Project Solomon: The True Story of a Lonely Horse Who Found a Home—and Became a Hero, by: Jodi Stuber & Jennifer Marshall Bleakley



Jodi Stuber wasn't looking for another horse for her struggling therapy ranch—let alone one like Solomon. After losing his herd, he was solitary and sad, spending his days standing near the plastic deer in his yard for company. No stranger herself to loss and heartache, Jodi knew she had to give Solomon a home.

The road to recovery wouldn't be easy. As Solomon struggled to fit in with his new herd and Jodi continued to navigate her own grief, the two developed a deep bond. But just as Jodi and Solomon were both beginning to heal, an unthinkable tragedy struck the therapy ranch. And Solomon was about to teach Jodi the greatest lesson of all.

Written by Jennifer Marshall Bleakley, author of *Joey: How a Blind Rescue Horse Helped Others Learn to See*, *Project Solomon* is a powerful story of resilience, sacrifice, and love that reminds us all how much we matter—to each other and to God.

News & Notes

Salford friends at Souderton Home - please join us for our first gathering of 2023 on **Monday January 9th at 7 in the Friendship Room**. Questions? Call Karen at

215.237.7367. See you soon!!

This Sunday **Maria Hosler Byler** will again join the **Gospel Herald class** to continue discussion of the Mosaic Conference two-year planning process regarding relationships between congregations, Conference, and MCUSA. All are welcome to join.

Salford volleyball kicks off their season on Monday night (January 9th) in a showdown with Calvary Church of Souderton. We are fielding two teams this year. The Salford Bee's will play Calvary 2 at 7pm at Calvary Church of Souderton and Salford 1 (no cool team name yet) will play Calvary 1 at Immanuel Leidy's in Souderton at 8:30. Spectators are welcomed, but you might want to give us a few weeks to get our feet under us. Go Salford!!

Exploring Membership at Salford. If you're a new(ish) attendee at Salford, you are invited to join a short term class on exploring church membership. Come together in a relaxed atmosphere with other newbies to learn about our church, our Anabaptist heritage, our vision and mission, and more. Send Dave Greiser an email, a text, or talk to him personally if you want to know more!

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)

Living Branches has a number of volunteer opportunities for your consideration. Current needs include worship support: musicians, worship leaders, speakers; pastoral care visitors; facilitators for men's Koffee Klatch groups in health care and personal care; wheelchair transport to hair care and the fitness center; water givers; and more. For information on available opportunities contact Lynne Allebach, volunteer coordinator, at 215-368-4438 ext. 42289.