

March 12, 2023

Sunday, March 12, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Associate Pastor Andrew Zetts will preach on John 4:5-42; *God, give me this water*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

March 5, 2023

Offering

\$10,761

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$7,260

Vanco Online Offering

\$3,246

Total Budget Offering

\$21,267

Children's Offering

\$35

Future Salford Events

March 15 – Community Prayer Night and Daily Fasting

March 18 – MYF Auction and fundraiser meal

March 19 – Congregational Conversation About

Discernment Process, re. Welcome of LGBTQ+ People – 6:30 pm

March 22 – Community Prayer Night and Daily Fasting

March 26 – Second Hour Congregational Meeting to Conclude Discernment Process Around LGBTQ+ Inclusion

March 26 – All Church

The Path Forward Update, March 9, 2023

The Salford Church Board met this past Tuesday to consider a revised Welcome Statement prepared by the Path Forward Discernment Team. The Board unanimously affirmed the statement and is recommending it to the congregation for adoption on March 26 during second hour. Copies of the proposed Welcome Statement will be available this Sunday in your church mailbox **after** Sunday worship.

On Sunday, March 19, there will be an informal question and answer session with pastors and members of the Path Forward Committee. This meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting will not be to make changes to the Welcome Statement, but to ask questions of clarification, to discuss any leftover concerns from the past 8 months or to talk about next steps after the 26th.

On the next two Wednesday evenings there will be prayer gatherings in the fellowship hall (and beyond) from 6:30 to 8. Please come and pray for our congregation and its mission as we conclude this lengthy period of discernment.

Dave Greiser, Lead Pastor

Special Offering for Syria/Turkey and our Urban Churches

In recent weeks we have been praying for those affected by the devastating earthquake in Syria/Turkey and the recent economic downturn affecting our Urban churches in Mosaic Conference. We have decided to offer an opportunity to respond to these needs by holding a special offering. MCC has called for funds for urgent needs in responding to the earthquake disaster. We will also send funds to Mosaic Conference to assist the needs recognized in our urban churches. The special offering to be collected this Sunday, March 12th during the worship service will be divided between these two needs. Please mark your offering envelopes for “special offering” or email a note to the church office about your online donation.

New Members Class

Last call! Next Sunday, we'll be starting a new class for folks who want to learn more about Anabaptism, Salford Church, and membership at Salford. “Exploring Anabaptist Faith at Salford” will run from March 19 through May 7 (with a couple of breaks). We'll do some light reading, explore your questions and get to know new friends. If you'd still like to join, email **Dave Greiser** (greiserd@salfordmc.org), or call the church.

MYF Auction Meal and Child Care

The MYF is excited for the auction on **March 18**, and we wanted to inform you of the menu for our delicious meal that starts at **4:00 P.M.** It will include Pulled Pork or BBQ Jackfruit Sandwiches, Macaroni and Cheese, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, and Green Cabbage Salad. *Please plan to bring a dessert to share. The youth will*

Potluck Meal following the Congregational Meeting

April 7 – Good Friday
6:00 pm Soup and Bread Dinner

7:00 pm Good Friday Service

April 26 - Faith Formation Night with dinner and interactive presentation by J.R. Briggs

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

gladly wash and return all serving dishes and utensils before the end of the night.

Also, following the meal there will be supervised activities for younger children. If you would like to utilize this childcare, you can sign in the children with our volunteers in the downstairs children's Second Hour hallway. At 6:15 P.M. children from second through fifth grade will move to the back parking lot for outdoor games (please bring a jacket!) and then to the schoolhouse for the remainder of the auction. Children in first grade and younger will stay in the downstairs Second Hour space for the entire auction. Children will remain in their designated areas until a parent or guardian comes to get them. For their safety, please do not allow children to run around the building or outside unsupervised. Please pick up your children no later than 8:15 P.M. at the latest to respect the time of our childcare volunteers. Thank you!

Please contact Pastor Andrew at 215-859-3446 or zetsa@salfordmc.org with any questions.

Upcoming Prayer Nights and Fasting

As we continue to seek the presence, guidance, and direction of the Holy Spirit during the Path Forward process, we are inviting the Salford community to engage in an intentional period of prayer and fasting. These spiritual practices can help center us as we seek to discern God's will for our congregation and community.

On **March 15th**, and **22nd**, we will host prayer meetings at Salford from **6:30 to 8:00 P.M.** We encourage congregants to fast as they are able to each of the three scheduled Wednesdays, devoting mealtimes to prayers of intercession on behalf of our community as we navigate a pivotal moment in our congregation's history. We encourage you to break the fast between 5:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. each day, knowing that others in the broader community are also doing so as we journey together to seek and live out God's will.

This Week at Salford

Monday, March 13

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

Tuesday, March 14

6:30 pm Path Forward Design Team Meeting (Library)

Wednesday, March 15

6:30 pm Community Prayer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, March 18

4:00 pm MYF Auction Fundraiser Meal (Fellowship Hall)

5:30 pm MYF Auction (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 19

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

Preaching: Maria Hosler Byler

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

6:30 pm Congregational Conversation about Discernment Process (Fellowship Hall)

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For ***Diane Kropf*** who is recovering from a successful knee replacement this week.
- For ***our church community*** as we fast and pray together, that we would remain open to the moving of the Spirit in our discernment process.

- All Mosaic congregations are invited to fast and pray for the [Pathways Steering Team and Coordinating Group](#) as they meet for the first time in the month of March. Pray that Christ will be the center, that the community will seek counsel of the Holy Spirit, and that God will be honored in our words and our actions. May we be the witness that Jesus prayed we would be.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Sharon Hunsberger**, who celebrates his 85th birthday on March 19th.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for March – Manna On Main Street.

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED for March: Body Wash, Shampoo, Dish & Laundry Soap, Pasta Sauce, Sugar, Flour, Baking Soda, Baking Powder, Honey

Donated items can be placed on the donation of the month table by the infant nursery in the main foyer.

Ambler Mennonite Church Opportunity to Participate with Mennonite Disaster Service

We here at Ambler Mennonite Church have a once-in-a-lifetime for two lucky volunteers! We're sending a nine-person crew to build houses at the Mennonite Disaster Service project in Hurley, Virginia, from March 26 to April 1. We had filled all nine of our slots, but two of us had to drop out. So now we're trying to get out the word to other churches so we can complete our crew. If anyone at your church might be interested, here's the information:

- We'll drive down from Ambler in an MDS van, leaving the morning of Sunday, March 26, and return the evening of Saturday, April 1.
- We'll spend five days building new houses to replace the ones that were destroyed by flooding and mudslides during Hurricane Ida in 2021.
- Volunteers can be of any skill level or ability.
- There's no cost. MDS is providing transport, lodging, meals, and supplies.
- If you're interested, please contact Pastor Jacob Curtis: jacobeliascurtis@gmail.com, 267-460-1062.

Mosaic Conference Updates

Prayer and Fasting: Mosaic Conference has called on all to enter a time of corporate prayer and fasting as we discern our identity and future. Multiple resources are available to help us do this. Biweekly [“praying scriptures”](#) are available with instructions. Please also see this [introductory resource on fasting](#), written by **Jenny Fujita**.

Here is an article about **Mary Jane Hershey** for Honoring Women's History Month: <https://mosaicmennonites.org/2023/03/09/mary-jane-hershey-stewarding-history-as-an-act-of-justice/>

Faith Formation Spotlight

Check out the sculptures on the front windowsills in the sanctuary in the coming weeks. Each week, one of the Sunday School classes will be making sculptures that respond to that day's themes in worship, and they will be added as they are created.

Registration is now open for Peace Camp 2023, Sunday, June 18-Thurs, June 23: <https://forms.gle/yxx3w5WwBYDjDGv46>

Register at this link (Jr. Counselor Youth please register here too!) and invite a friend! Feel free to pick up Peace Camp fliers at the Welcome Center to share with others or post at your school, library, or coffee shop.

We need volunteers to make Peace Camp 2023 a success! There are many tasks to do before, during, and after camp. Prayerfully consider how you can support the children of this congregation and the local community.

We are in need of: 3-4 Small Group Leaders; Games Leaders; Kitchen Cooking, Serving & Cleanup; Setup and Registration support. Contact Jenn Svetlik at peacecamp@salfordmc.org to learn more about how you can be a part of this very memorable week!

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:

Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson



Christians are awakening to the legacy of racism in America like never before. While public conversations regarding the realities of racial division and inequalities have surged in recent years, so has the public outcry to work toward the long-awaited healing of these wounds. But American Christianity, with its tendency to view the ministry of reconciliation as its sole response to racial injustice, and its isolation from those who labor most diligently to address these things, is underequipped to offer solutions. Because of this, the church needs a new perspective on its responsibility for the deep racial brokenness at the heart of

American culture and on what it can do to repair that brokenness.

This book makes a compelling historical and theological case for the church's obligation to provide reparations for the oppression of African Americans. Duke Kwon and Gregory Thompson articulate the church's responsibility for its promotion and preservation of white supremacy throughout history, investigate the Bible's call to repair our racial brokenness, and offer a vision for the work of reparation at the local level. They lead readers toward a moral imagination that views reparations as a long-overdue and necessary step in our collective journey toward healing and wholeness.

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So You Want to Talk About Race – By Ijeoma Oluo

Protests against racial injustice and white supremacy have galvanized millions around the world. The stakes for transformative conversations about race could not be higher. Still, the task ahead seems daunting, and it's hard to know where to start. How do you tell your boss her jokes are racist? Why did

your sister-in-law hang up on you when you had questions about police reform? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?

In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from police brutality and cultural appropriation to the model minority myth in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race, and about how racism infects every aspect of American life. DONATED

Salford News & Notes

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday morning. When you go to bed Saturday night, turns your clocks ahead one hour.

Hearing from the Lenape—You're invited for an evening of listening and fellowship as we welcome the Lenape of Oklahoma to the Mennonite Heritage Center on Wednesday, April 12 at 6 p.m. It begins with a potluck meal followed by a presentation from our guests. The event is free, but registration is required here: <https://mhcp.org/events/event/hearing-from-the-lenape/>
The Mennonite Heritage Center is located at 565 Yoder Rd., Harleysville, Pa.

Salford friends at the Souderton Home: please join us for our monthly gathering on **Monday March 20 7-8 in the Friendship Room**. We will share singing and communion together this month as we pray for each other and our community. Hope to see you all there! Questions: call Karen.

Address Update: Naomi Landis

207 W Summit St, Room 3116, Souderton, PA 18964
(215) 692-9836

As we take a breath after all the Discernment Conversations, is your head spinning a bit? Do you still have questions about some of the LGBTQ+ terminology and meanings? It's ok. Feel free to contact **Karen Bergey, Mandy Martin, or Joe Landis** - these people are happy to have a conversation and try to help answer any questions or find more information for you if you want. Please reach out!

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.

Beyond Salford

A **Pancake Breakfast fundraiser** will be held at **Bally Mennonite Church** on March 18, 7:00 to 10:30 am, featuring pancakes & french toast, scrapple, sausage and eggs. Donations will support global refugee relief efforts through Mennonite Central Committee; if you have questions, call 610-845-7780 or see www.ballymc.org.

You are invited to the [Perkasie Mennonite Church's Patchwork Coffeehouse](#) live concert with Seasons on March 25 at 7:30 pm. Five award-winning siblings create a fusion of Celtic and roots music on harp, hammered dulcimer, mandolin, fiddle, and more. A portion of the proceeds supports [MDS Southwest Florida relief](#). Masks are recommended.

Camp Men-O-Lan invites you to their **Easter Experience**, Saturday, April 1 at 5:00 pm. The event will be a fun and meaningful time where you can relax and refocus, and includes a Seder with dinner, family activities, worship, and reflection on the seven last days of Christ. The cost is \$20/adult, \$10/ages 6-11, 5 and under eat for free with a family cap of \$70 for families of 5 or more. Register online at menolan.org, call 215-679-5144, or email kim@menolan.org for more information.

Plains Mennonite Church in Hatfield is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 11, 1:30-6:30pm. The need for blood donations is constant and saves lives. Schedule an appointment here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive> or call 1-800-RED CROSS.