

March 19, 2023

Sunday, March 19, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Associate Pastor Maria Hosler Byler will preach on John 9:1–41 ; *From Curing to Healing*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

New Members Class meeting in Room 207

Connections Class with Brad Alderfer interviewing Gail Alderfer meeting in Room 206

March 12, 2023

Offering
\$4,226
ACH Electronic

Offering
\$2,045
Vanco Online Offering
\$1,768

**Total Budget Offering
\$8,039**

**Special Offering
\$6,250**

**Children's Offering
\$23**

Future Salford Events

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

March 26, 2023 Congregational Meeting Information

In Worship this past Sunday, Church Board Chairperson Margaret Zook invited the congregation to a Congregational Meeting on March 26, 2023, which will be held during Second Hour in the church sanctuary. You may view Margaret's announcement [here](#).

A congregational meeting packet was placed in all church mailboxes and at the welcome center for pickup on Sunday. This meeting packet includes the agenda for the congregational meeting, notes about what will happen at the meeting and the 2023 Welcome Statement, which was prepared by the Path Forward Design Team and affirmed by the Church board on March 7, 2023. If you would like to receive this congregational meeting packet by email, please contact the Church Office

At the congregational meeting, Salford members who have participated in the Path Forward Discernment process will be invited to affirm the 2023 Welcome Statement by standing. If you will not be able to attend the congregational meeting, but are a member of Salford who has participated in the Path Forward Discernment process and would like to participate remotely, you may respond to this email to request a Zoom Link. Those on Zoom will be asked to raise their hand on camera at the appropriate time to affirm the 2023 Welcome Statement.

Please contact the Church Office by Monday, March 20th with your request for the Congregational Meeting packet or to receive the Zoom Link to participate remotely in the Congregational Meeting on March 26th.

At 6:30 pm Sunday evening, March 19th, there will be a meeting in the Fellowship Hall for those who have questions of clarification about the 2023 Welcome Statement or would like to have further conversation about the discernment process.

Margaret Zook, on behalf of the Salford Church Board

Good Friday Meal and Worship Service: Friday April 7th

All are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread in the fellowship hall on Good Friday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. After the meal we will celebrate communion together around tables. Please [RSVP to Maria Hosler Byler](#) for the meal and [see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center](#) to contribute food to the meal.

At 7:00 p.m. a service of song, silence, and scripture will take place in the sanctuary. Together we will walk through the Good Friday story. We will lament the suffering of the world, we will confess and be forgiven, and we will offer our sorrows to God. The service will have an online option. For those joining from home, please have ready a candle, a small stone, and a bowl of water.

You are welcome to join for both the meal and the service, or for one or the other.

Final Auction Reminder and Updates

Fasting

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

March 26 – All Church 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

The MYF is excited for the auction this Saturday, March 18th. Below are a few reminders and updates:

- Make sure you drop off your donation at church by March 17. There will be a group setting up at church on Friday who can receive your donation as late as 7:00 P.M.
- The meal for the auction begins at 4:00 P.M. and please bring a dessert to share. The youth will gladly wash and return all serving dishes and utensils before the end of the night.
- 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.
- You can see an updated version of the auction list using this [link](#).

We appreciate your support in whatever form or fashion it takes and look forward to seeing you at the auction!

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

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 22nd**, we will host our prayer meeting at Salford from **6:30 to 8:00 P.M.** This week we will join together in a prayer walk around Salford's building and grounds, asking God to bless our space and community as we journey forward. The sanctuary will also be made available during this time. We encourage congregants to fast as they are able to this Wednesday, devoting mealtimes to prayers of intercession on behalf of our community as we navigate a pivotal moment in our congregation's history. We invite 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.

Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

For 2023, we will present a monthly update of our financial situation.

- We will need an average of **\$15,700** in weekly offering from January through November and an average of **\$36,000** in weekly offering in December to cover our budgeted expenses. Later in the year we can adjust our income need if expense budget savings or overages are recognized.
- **Average weekly offering needed for January through November: \$15,700**
- **Average weekly offering received so far for January through November (9 weeks): \$13,556**

This Week at Salford

Monday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Salford Friendship Room)

Wednesday, March 22

6:30 pm Community Prayer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, March 23

7:00 pm Justice & Peace Ministry Team Meeting (Library)

Sunday, March 26

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

Preaching: Dave Greiser

10:30 am Congregational Business Meeting for all Adults (Sanctuary)

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Doug Derstine** as he goes to Bryn Mawr Hospital for a surgical procedure on Monday March 20th.
- For **Diane Kropf's** ongoing recovery from her knee replacement surgery.
- For our **Salford Community** as we fast and pray and seek to be yielded to God and to each other.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for protection and opportunities for **Ambler Mennonite Church** who is sending a crew to build houses at the Mennonite Disaster Service project in Hurley, Virginia, March 26 – April 1. In 2021, Hurricane Ida caused mudslides and flooding in Hurley, destroying many homes, but the damage wasn't widespread enough to qualify for FEMA assistance, so MDS has been sending volunteer crews to build new housing.

Anniversary Blessings...

To **Sharon & Gladys Hunsberger**, who celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary on March 26th.

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.

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**.

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.

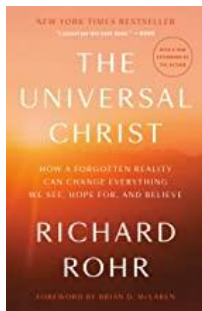
We are in need of: 3-4 Small Group Leaders; Games Leaders; Kitchen Cooking, Serving & Cleanup; Setup and Registration support. Contact Jenn Svetlik at peacecamp@salfordmc.org to learn more about how you can be a part of this very memorable week!

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:

The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe – By Richard Rohr

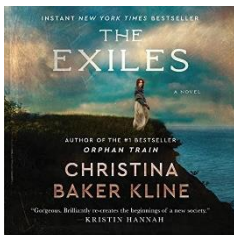


In his decades as a globally recognized teacher, Richard Rohr has helped millions realize what is at stake in matters of faith and spirituality. Yet Rohr has never written on the most perennially talked about topic in Christianity: Jesus. Most know who Jesus was, but who was Christ? Is the word simply Jesus's last name? Too often, Rohr writes, our understandings have been limited by culture, religious debate, and the human tendency to put ourselves at the center.

Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. "God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus's life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet.

Thought-provoking, practical, and full of deep hope and vision, *The Universal Christ* is a landmark book from one of our most beloved spiritual writers, and an invitation to contemplate how God liberates and loves all that is. **DONATED**

The Exiles: A Novel – By Christina Baker Kline



Seduced by her employer's son, Evangeline, a naïve young governess in early 19th-century London, is discharged when her pregnancy is discovered and sent to the notorious Newgate Prison. After months in the fetid, overcrowded jail, she learns she is sentenced to "the land beyond the seas", Van Diemen's Land, a penal colony in Australia. Though uncertain of what awaits, Evangeline knows one thing: The child she carries will be born on the months-long voyage to this distant land.

During the journey on a repurposed slave ship, the *Medea*, Evangeline strikes up a friendship with Hazel, a girl little older than her former pupils who was sentenced to seven years transport for stealing a silver spoon. Canny where Evangeline is

guileless, Hazel - a skilled midwife and herbalist - is soon offering home remedies to both prisoners and sailors in return for a variety of favors.

Though Australia has been home to Aboriginal people for more than 50,000 years, the British government in the 1840s considers its fledgling colony uninhabited and unsettled and views the natives as an unpleasant nuisance. By the time the *Medea* arrives, many of them have been forcibly relocated, their land seized by White colonists. One of these relocated people is Mathinna, the orphaned daughter of the chief of the Lowreenne tribe, who has been adopted by the new governor of Van Diemen's Land.

In this gorgeous novel, Christina Baker Kline brilliantly recreates the beginnings of a new society in a beautiful and challenging land, telling the story of Australia from a fresh perspective, through the experiences of Evangeline, Hazel, and Mathinna. While life in Australia is punishing and often brutally unfair, it is also, for some, an opportunity: for redemption, for a new way of life, for unimagined freedom. Told in exquisite detail and incisive prose, *The Exiles* is a story of grace born from hardship, the unbreakable bonds of female friendships, and the unfettering of legacy. DONATED

Salford News & Notes

Be part of the Anabaptist Community Bible Join other Salford members in small study groups to read the bible together and contribute insights in the form of marginal notes for the new Anabaptist Community Bible. Please [RSVP to Maria Hosler Byler](#) by March 26th to participate. Study groups will be formed to meet four times over the next two months, studying scripture together and submitting notes. Children ages 4 and up are welcome to participate. This bible is part of the Anabaptism at Five Hundred Project, celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement in 2025.

This 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. We'll be meeting during Second Hour in Room 207, Second floor above the main foyer.

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. The Mennonite Heritage Center is **looking for volunteers who can provide a hearty main dish for the potluck, as well as who can help with setup and cleanup. If you're able to do this, please let Jenn Svetlik know at jennifer.svetlik@gmail.com.**

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.

Do you have questions about some of the LGBTQ+ terminology and meanings? It's ok! We are working on these things together. 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

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.

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.

The March edition of On the Level is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue: Executive Director Kevin King shares his experiences of working on an MDS project in Dulac, Louisiana; a home dedication in Kentucky provides visible reminders that God cares: and MDS Canada returns to Cape Bretton to repair damage from Hurricane Fiona. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3JazUG0>