

March 5, 2023

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**Sunday, March 5, 9:30 am** Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on John 3:1-17; *What About New Birth?*

**10:30 am** Second Hour for all ages

**February 26, 2023**

Offering

\$7,497

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$2,045

Vanco Online Offering

\$1,745

**Total Budget Offering**

**\$11,287**

**Children's Offering**

**\$46**

**Future Salford Events**

**March 8** – Faith Formation Night and Community Prayer Night

**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

## **Path Forward Discernment Team Update, March 2, 2023**

There is a scene near the end of C.S. Lewis' book *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. The ship *Dawn Treader* has reached the waters at the edge of the known world. Beyond this point, no human has ever gone or returned.

On board the ship is a tiny, brave mouse named Reepicheep. Reepicheep vows to continue the journey in his own little boat, hoping that he will arrive at Aslan's Country.

Reepicheep has no map to follow; he cannot be sure what awaits beyond the horizon. But he presses on, confident that Aslan's Country exists, even if he cannot yet see it.

Salford is approaching an uncertain period in its journey. In a few weeks, you will be asked to affirm a welcome statement that will make it possible for two adults who are deemed ready for marriage to be married by a Salford pastor, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Likewise, the statement will make it possible for people to be chosen as leaders and pastors in our church, regardless of orientation or gender identity.

In a time like this we feel anxiety, stemming from uncertainty. Will we maintain our unity? How will our conference respond? There are many questions we can answer in advance, but some of the toughest questions will remain unanswered. And certainly, there could be new questions down the road, no matter what decision we make.

Yet Salford is sailing toward Aslan's (Jesus') Country. We are bound together as disciples of Jesus, and we seek to be part of his Kingdom movement. The Holy Spirit guides us.

So we venture on, sailing into the horizon. We have set our course through listening to the Spirit, and have we put ourselves into the hands of Jesus himself. As you prepare to receive the new Welcome Statement and to decide whether you affirm it, rest in God's love, take a long look at your siblings in the church, and pray for them and for you. God is here among us.

Dave Greiser, for the Path Forward Discernment Team

## **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 on March 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org)  
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## MYF Auction Update

Thank you to all who have made donations to the upcoming auction! This Sunday we will have some of the items and certificates on display in the church lobby. If you are donating an item to the auction, please bring it to the church office no later than **March 12<sup>th</sup>**. If you still need to submit a donation form, you can [click this link](#) to access the form or pick up a paper copy at the welcome center in the church lobby.

Also, if you are willing to volunteer at the auction, please contact Pastor Andrew at [zetsa@salfordmc.org](mailto:zetsa@salfordmc.org) or 215-859-3446.

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

## Sign Up for Faith Formation Night on March 8<sup>th</sup>

If you plan on attending this month's Faith Formation Night, please contact Pastor Andrew at [zetsa@salfordmc.org](mailto:zetsa@salfordmc.org) or 215-859-3446 no later than **March 6<sup>th</sup>**. Having an accurate number of attendees is helpful in our meal preparation. This month's Faith Formation Night will include Kids' Club, and Junior MYF, Senior MYF, and any adults who join will participate in a variety of prayer and spiritual practices as part of our commitment to prayer and fasting during the remaining time in the Path Forward Process.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>**, we will host prayer meetings at Salford from **6:30 to 8:00 P.M.** The meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> will include a meal that begins at 5:30 P.M., as it coincides with our monthly Faith Formation Night. Additionally, 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

### Tuesday, March 7

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Friendship Room)

### Wednesday, March 8

5:30 pm Family Night (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 pm Kids Club (Gathering Room)

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

### Sunday, March 12

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 **Joanne Speigle** who had hip replacement surgery on Thursday. Pray for rest and a quick recovery.
- For **Diane Kropf** who will have knee replacement surgery on Thursday March 9th at Grand View Hospital.
- For **George & Nancy Gaugler** and the Gaugler family. George's father, George Gaugler Sr. passed away on Tuesday evening. Please keep George & Nancy and the entire Gaugler family in your prayers at this time.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the new church plant, "**New Wine Church**" in Bradenton, FL. This is a ministry initiative of Iglesia Seguidores de Cristo, a Mosaic church in Sarasota, FL. Pray for Pastor Jimmy, who is leading the initiative, and those who are joining him as well as the people who are coming to learn more about Jesus.

### **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.

The bi-monthly update and prayer concerns provided by **Cesar & Mimi Marin** have been placed in church mailboxes. Salford provides Global mission funds from our budget to support their ministry work in Mexico City and surround areas.

**The History of the Lenape in Pennsylvania:** Saturday, March 11, 7-8pm  
Adam Waterbear DePaul, Chief of Education and Tribal Storykeeper of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, will discuss the past and present of the Lenape people in Pennsylvania. This will include pre-colonial life, relationships with William Penn, the era of Penn's Sons and the Walking Purchase, the Lenape diaspora and where they are today, the Lenape who remained in their homeland and how they remained, and what the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania is doing today to revitalize Lenape culture and continue their role as caretakers of the environment. He invites discussion and questions from the audience. Adam is also a doctoral candidate at Temple University with research areas in Cultural and Mythological Studies, and co-curates the [Lenape Cultural Center](#) in Easton, PA and the exhibit *Enduring Presence 2022: Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania Art* at Haverford College. This presentation is in-person only.

For more information please visit: <https://mhpep.org/events/>

### **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**.

**Mosaic Conference** has announced their **Pathway Steering committee** and named a consultant that will assist with the Pathway process. You can read the [announcement here](#).

There is also an article by **Margaret Zook**, Mosaic Director of Collaborative Ministries and Salford Mennonite Church Board Member. You can read the [article](#)

[here.](#)

## 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:

### **America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to A New America – By Jim Wallis**



America's problem with race has deep roots, with the country's foundation tied to the near extermination of one race of people and the enslavement of another. Racism is truly our nation's original sin.

"It's time we right this unacceptable wrong," says bestselling author and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis. Fifty years ago, Wallis was driven away from his faith by a white church that considered dealing with racism to be taboo. His participation in the civil rights movement brought him back when he discovered a faith that commands racial justice. Yet as recent tragedies confirm, we continue to suffer from the legacy of racism. The old patterns of white privilege are colliding with the changing demographics of a diverse nation. The church has been slow to respond, and Sunday morning is still the most segregated hour of the week.

In *America's Original Sin*, Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

Whenever divided cultures and gridlocked power structures fail to end systemic sin, faith communities can help lead the way to grassroots change. Probing yet positive, biblically rooted yet highly practical, this book shows people of faith how they can work together to overcome the embedded racism in America, galvanizing a movement to cross the bridge to a multiracial church and a new America. DONATED

### **Be The Bridge: Pursing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation – By Latasha Morrison**



In an era where we seem to be increasingly divided along racial lines, many are hesitant to step into the gap, fearful of saying or doing the wrong thing. At times the silence, particularly within the church, seems deafening.

But change begins with an honest conversation among a group of Christians willing to give a voice to unspoken hurts, hidden fears, and mounting tensions. These ongoing dialogues have formed the foundation of a global movement called Be the Bridge—a nonprofit organization whose goal is to equip the church to have a distinctive and transformative response to racism and racial division.

In this perspective-shifting book, founder Latasha Morrison shows how you can participate in this incredible work and replicate it in your own community. With conviction and grace, she examines the historical complexities of racism. She expertly applies biblical principles, such as lamentation, confession, and forgiveness, to lay the framework for restoration.

Along with prayers, discussion questions, and other resources to enhance group engagement, *Be the Bridge* presents a compelling vision of what it means for every follower of Jesus to become a bridge builder—committed to pursuing justice and racial unity in light of the gospel. DONATED

## Salford News & Notes

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.

With only three weeks left before the playoffs **Salford volleyball** is looking to finish strong. Congratulations to the Salford Bee's on getting their first win last Monday. They are jelling as a team more and more each week. Salford 1 is excited about beating Living Hope 4-1 in an upset that no one was expecting. This week both our teams play at 8:30 pm at Immanuel Leidy's in Souderton. Salford Bee's v. Living Hope and Salford 1 v. Faith. Many thanks to our spectators who came out to support us last week.

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

Discover **Dock**, by attending one or both of their Open Houses! Tour Dock's campus, meet faculty and staff, learn about financial aid, curriculum, learning support, athletics, and co-curricular opportunities. The Early Childhood – Grade 8 campus open house will be held on Saturday, March 4 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, and the Grades 9-12 campus on Saturday, March 18 from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Register at [www.dock.org](http://www.dock.org).

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](http://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.

**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.