

May 26, 2024

Sunday, May 26, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Associate Pastor Andrew Zetts will preach on Romans 8:12-17; *What are we capable of becoming?*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

This will be the last 2nd Hour Contemplative class with Pastor Karen. Please meet in 206 for a time of prayer. We will then go to breakfast together!

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.

May 19, 2024

Offering

\$7,045

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$1,980

Vanco Online Offering

\$4,381

Total Budget Offering

\$13,406

Children's Offering:

\$44

Future Salford Events

June 2 – Monthly Communion

June 16 – Summer

Renewable Energy Project Update

The Renewable Energy Project is well underway. Some of you may have noticed the re-roofing of the 2005 building addition section that was completed last week. All roofs are now ready for the solar panel installation that will produce 125% of our annual electric usage. PECO has given "approval to install" for the project. Final electrical engineering plans have been produced and will be submitted to Lower Salford Township next week for local permitting approval. PowerStream LLC has put us on the schedule for August 2024 for equipment install and expects that once install is complete it will take approximately two months for final PECO Interconnection approval. We are hopeful to be producing our own electricity by mid-fall. This past week the Church board approved a \$2,500 Foundation fund grant for the project, and we have received \$37,165.43 in donations towards the project so far. We are hopeful to receive an additional \$5,000 grant for the project and approximately \$50,000 in direct payment by the federal government from incentives available in the Inflation Reduction Act legislation. If you would like to contribute towards the remaining \$130,000 cost for the project, please mark your offering envelope or contribution for the "renewable energy project"

Artwork for Bulletin Covers

Are your children cleaning out desks and lockers as the school year ends? Do you have a great piece of artwork hanging on your fridge from the past year? Now is a great time to submit artwork for bulletin covers. We get so much joy from the images provided. Please submit good quality digital photos of you children's artwork and we will feature as many as we can on bulletin covers in the coming week. Adults, we appreciate your artwork as well! Please submit your images to alderferb@salfordmc.org

Asylum Seekers in Calais (part three)

From London, our pastors' group took the Channel Tunnel (sometimes called the "Chunnel") to France. Our drivers were Juliet Gilpin, the founder of Peaceful Borders and a member of the Anabaptist Network, and Simon Jones, a retired Baptist minister whom I mentioned last week.

Peaceful Borders was begun in 2016 in response to the growing refugee crisis in western Europe. The town of Calais, France, on the shores of the English Channel, became the site of a large tent city of people seeking asylum. At one point, 10,000 people from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Iran, India and Viet Nam were housed in tents.

Peaceful Borders created a network of volunteers from England and France, including people from the Anabaptist Network. Workers began gathering food and other emergency practical aid and providing emotional support to people. They built partnerships with church and social service groups already in Calais, particularly Secour Catholique, a hospitality center that serves men and women, and Maria Skobtsova House, which provides a short-term home for women with young children. Mennonite Mission Network has placed a family of workers as

Worship Schedule
Begins, 10:00 am
worship start time and
no Second Hour

June 16 – 20 – Peace
Camp at Salford

July 7 – Monthly
Communion

July 28 – Annual
Outdoor Worship and
Fellowship Picnic

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

house hosts at Maria Skobtsova. Joseph and Rachel Givens, along with their two children, are serving a four-year term; they offer a safe environment to an ever-changing household of guests. We shared lunch and an informal worship time at the house and listened to the guests' stories.

One challenge of coming alongside refugees and asylum seekers is that government policies are ever-changing. In the U.S. at present, political candidates are trying to outdo one another in inventing ways of limiting the access that asylum seekers have to a life in the U.S. The British government is moving in this same direction. In 2023, the UK created "The Rwanda Plan". Under this plan, people seeking asylum in England must present completed paperwork when seeking to enter the country. Anyone not complying is subject to being deported to Rwanda. The controversial plan has been challenged in the British courts, but at present it remains the law.

Despite the near closing of the English border, people are still attempting to cross the channel and enter England. They crowd onto unsafe rubber rafts piloted by 16-year-old boys, braving the journey across the often-wind-swept channel. Dozens have disappeared and died as flimsy rafts have capsized.

Our group visited a parking lot which is serving as a daytime gathering place for unhoused asylum seekers. About 50 teen-aged boys, mostly former child-soldiers from Eritrea, were kicking soccer balls, playing chess on plastic tables, and giving one another haircuts. Some of the guys practiced their English with us. Despite the desperate setting, I saw a lot of smiles and other signs of resilience.

It took me some time, after we returned to England, to begin to access my thoughts and feelings about what I saw. To someone who would say, "Why did you go there? You can't do anything about it" I suppose I would say, it is important to see, to hear, and to feel. And to know that in the person of each one of these hopeful travelers, Jesus is present. If that feels like a cliché, it is also good New Testament theology.

This Week at Salford

Monday, May 27

Church and Child Care Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

Sunday, June 2

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 **Suzanne Kratz** who will have a knee replacement on Tuesday, May 28. Pray for a quick recovery.
- For **Wayne Speigle** who had a knee replacement on Monday, May 20th.
- For **Katie Alderfer** who is recovering well from her gallbladder removal. Katie is so grateful for the love and support her family has received in visits and wonderful meals.
- We pray for **Cassie Singh-Hueter**, daughter of Mark Singh-Hueter, pastor of Advent Lutheran. Cassie is undergoing chemo treatments for cancer that was found in her abdominal area.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the work of Conference-Related Ministry **Amahoro International**, which cares for the spiritual, psychological, and economic empowerment of Burundian refugees. Please pray that God, the only Just Judge, to intervene and end the ethnically-

motivated violence in Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Earl Alderfer**, who celebrates his 89th birthday on May 31st, and to **Tom Nolan**, who celebrates his 81st birthday on May 31st and to **Wib Zook**, who celebrates his 80th birthday on June 2nd.

Congratulations to our College Graduates!...

Sydney Seffing graduated from Messiah University on May 11 with a bachelor's degree in Biopsychology. She is currently co-leading a service trip to Poland with Messiah University students and will return home the end of May. In August, Sydney will begin a 1-year "gap year" with Shalom Project based in Lancaster City, PA. Sydney is also employed by Common Good Family Business Advisors.

Hannah Richter graduated from Marywood University on May 18th with a Master of Social Work degree. She was full time for two years. Her future plans consist of taking the licensing exam and taking a couple of much needed vacations, staying home with my children for the summer to rest, and job searching to hopefully start somewhere in August when school starts up again for the kids.

If you graduated this spring and are not mentioned here, please let the church office know.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for May – Access Services: warm weather sleeping bags, small portable tents, bug spray, \$10 WAWA or McDonalds food card.

The Access Services Street Outreach Program provides **whole-person intervention** for those facing housing instability and homelessness in Montgomery County.

Links to purchase items from Amazon:

[Tent](#)

[Sleeping Bag](#)

[Sleeping Bag](#)

[Bug Spray](#)

Purchased items can be placed at the donation table by the infant nursery. Special donations can be made through offering envelopes or checks to Salford Mennonite Church marked for "Access Services"

The **Svetlik-Goods (Sheldon, Jenn, and family)** are opening the basement in their home in Lansdale as a guest room, with the goal of welcoming 1-2 immigrants at a time to reside in their home for short periods to assist with obtaining stability in the community. We are currently developing a partnership with a congregation in Mosaic Mennonite Conference.

We will be sharing more about our vision soon, and inviting ways for you to get involved, but for now, [here is a document](#) that lists the furnishings and items we still need for accommodating our guests -- please be in touch with Jenn if you can donate any of these.

If you'd like to stay connected through email updates to these efforts and future opportunities to support, please [sign up via this form](#). Thank you! - **Sheldon and Jenn**

Salford/Advent Garden Update, May 23,

Greetings fellow gardeners last Saturday was a wet drippy damp day. A little on the cool side. Our volunteers worked their way through it, and we were able to plant 450 pepper plants and 110 tomato plants. The garden is really coming to life. The string bean seed and Lima bean seed we planted are up and running. I ran water every day when the sun finally came out and boy did it ever. HOT HOT HOT> I was able to hill our potato rows. Now we have to add some compost to the potato beds so when the spuds start to develop, they are covered and grow under the mulch. This week we will plant our sweet potatoes. You plant "slips" these are plants that grow out of a sweet potato and then vine out eventually forming sweet potatoes at the base of the original slip. Usually around 100 days to harvest. Flowers are on the menu too.

There are a lot of small jobs around the garden that need to be done all summer long. One of those jobs is weeding. Weeds never take a vacation and need to be delt with constantly. I am asking for volunteers to come in during the week and weed as much as you want. The raised beds are the most vulnerable followed by the plants in the plastic. Weeds find their way up through the holes we make to plant the plants. Weeds pull nutrients and water away from our veggie plants and can stun the veggie plants growth if the weeds are not controlled. We do our best to hold the weeds down to a mild roar but a little help from our friends would be appreciated. Let me know if you are up to the challenge and we could work out a time that is right for you. Thank you to everyone who helps out with this mission. Steve, rsblank@verizon.net 215-872-6616

Welcoming Path Spotlight

For the month of June, worship will reflect both care and celebration for our LGBTQIA siblings. Our sanctuary space will contain some colorful visual elements, provided by our Flower Ministry Team. The children from the 2nd hour classes are helping create some window art. Our worship in June will contain prayers of blessing, confessions, and liturgies written by queer Christians. We'll begin the month with Communion – uniting us as a community at the Table, trusting the Holy Spirit to continue in us the work of healing and reconciliation. If you have questions about Communion at Salford, please [read more here](#). Please join us!

Lansdale Pride - Sunday, June 9th at Noon at the Lansdale Train Station - Salford, along with Zwingli UCC (Souderton) and Trinity Lutheran (Lansdale) will host a table of goodwill in the Lansdale Train Station Plaza on Main Street following the walk. If you come for the walk, be sure to stop by and say hello! We will be there 12-3 so even if you are a little late, you can come hang out with us for a bit and take in the vendor area. Our table will be a place where people can leave a hand tracing and/or a message of hope, love and encouragement. There is free parking in the massive parking garage next to the train station - very easy! We hope to see many of you there. -Pastor Karen

Faith Formation Spotlight

The children's Sunday School program for 2024-25 is almost fully staffed! **However, we are still in need of at least one helper/aide for each age group (2s&3s, 4s&K, 1st-2nd, 3rd-5th).** This role is involved on no more than half the Sundays of the year and requires absolutely no preparation. Please be in touch with Jenn Svetlik if you're willing to explore this possibility!

Did You Know? Celebrating Salford Mennonite Child Care Center's Upcoming 40th Anniversary

This week features Ron Freed, a long-term member of the SMCCC board, discussing his service as a board member these many years.

In the late 1990's I started working with Tom Nolan to maintain the church and Child Care computers. Tom was already on the Child Care board, and he and Linda Martin asked if I would like to join it as well. I agreed because I believed in SMCCC's mission. I was part of the board that created the mission statement of "The Salford Mennonite Child Care Center seeks to provide a secure and stimulating home away from home where children are individually loved, valued, cared for, delighted in, and respected."

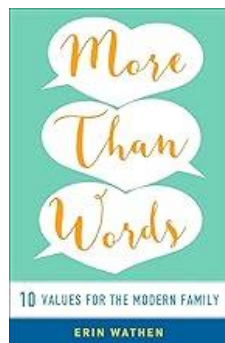
The Child Care was always challenged in multiple ways, but in the early years a good portion of that was financial. Finance was, and still is, a strong suit for me. I am a left-brainer, and much of the time there are more right-brainers than left-brainers on the SMCCC board. I think that it is a little the nature of what draws individuals to be willing to participate on the board - they are more creative and interested in the program itself and in interactions than perhaps financial details. There have been a couple of times that I felt I was the only left-brainer on the board. However, over my years there have been other strong finance members such as Tom Nolan, Wib Zook, Jim Styer, and Mark Nice, among others.

I have continued to feel the value of the program, all along. There were times that it was difficult to find board members at all, and I was willing to continue through those periods. Term limits get a fair amount of support these days, but there is something to be said for continuity. I certainly feel a little satisfaction that this ministry has faced and made it through several significant transitions through the years. I, with others, have been privileged to be a part of those transitions.

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>

More Than Words – 10 Values for the Modern Family By: Erin Wathen



The values we live and raise our families by are grounded, first, in love. Contrary to many of today's so-called family values, our values go beyond one or two loaded social issues to a wholehearted lifestyle of practicing compassion, hospitality, justice, peace, and belonging.

More than Words articulates ten values that forward-thinking, openhearted people want to embody in their lives and pass on to their children. With practical ideas and thought-provoking questions, this book inspires families to live more intentionally, engage their communities, and make a difference in the world.

DONATED

All Dogs Have ADHD By: Kathy Hoopman



This delightfully revised edition of *All Dogs Have ADHD* takes an inspiring and affectionate look at Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). With all-new images from the canine world, it explores a variety of traits that will be instantly recognizable to those who are familiar with ADHD. Charming color photographs of dogs bring to life familiar ADHD characteristics such as being restless and excitable, getting easily distracted, and acting on impulse. It combines humour with understanding to reflect the difficulties and joys of raising a child with

ADHD and celebrates what it means to be considered 'different'. DONATED

News & Notes

Sunday May 26th will be the last 2nd Hour Contemplative class with Pastor Karen. Please meet in 206 for a time of prayer. We will then go to breakfast together!

Mennonite Education Plan covenants have been placed in all church mailboxes, with a few additional copies placed at the Welcome Center. For families planning to participate in the MEP, please return the covenant to the church office by May 26, 2024. Please contact the MEP team; Ron Freed, Meredith Ehst or Jim Rittenhouse if you have questions about MEP participation.

Welcoming the Child! We will have a time for Welcoming our children on Sunday, June 16th. Contact Pastor Karen if your family would like to be a part of this time.