

May 7, 2023

Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Spring Communion and Foot Washing; Mark 14:22-25

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

New Members Class meeting in Room 207

Connections Class with Maria Hosler Byler interviewing Steve & Bethany Schwendy in Room 206

April 30, 2023

Offering

\$4,300

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$7,260

Vanco Online Offering

\$1,652

Total Budget Offering

\$13,212

Children's Offering

\$32

Future Salford Events

May 7 – Spring Communion with Foot Washing

May 28 – Pentecost Celebration Worship

June 4 – Dock Academy Choir performance at Salford

June 11 – Mosaic Conference Pentecost Worship Service, 7:30 pm, Stream on Facebook/YouTube

Why Wash Feet?

Foot washing as a literal practice waxes and wanes in Mennonite churches. For many years, Mennonites in this part of the world washed feet each time communion was observed. They considered foot washing an “ordinance,” something commanded by Jesus for all Christians, an important symbol along with communion or baptism.

As we read the account in the Gospel of John, it sounds as though when Jesus took the basin and towel at the Last Supper, he was doing something spontaneous with the disciples. John tells us, “Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world...having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” Jesus, having invested his heart in these disciples, wanted to leave them with an act that put his love in a visible form. Perhaps as he considers what is ahead for him, his feelings for them are growing stronger. So his love takes the form of a vivid act of serving.

Foot washing, once a necessary practice in a world of sandals and dusty roads, is today an awkward practice that lacks context. We approach it uncomfortably. Perhaps we would rather skip the embarrassment of such an uncomfortable act.

This Sunday, I encourage you to approach this act as a gesture of love. These are the people God has given you to love as well as serve. Some of them are friends, others more like acquaintances; some of them you like, and others not so much.

But when we wash their feet, we remember that Jesus has given us a special ability when it comes to the church. By the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we can love each one of these people to a degree that is beyond the ordinary. In the act of washing feet, we remind ourselves of the loving possibility that is within.

Dave Greiser, Lead Pastor

Communion and Foot Washing: Practical Instructions

Communion and foot washing are both practices which benefit from careful preparation, and yet when we are fully present to them they can shape us in unexpected ways. Together let's pray and remain curious about how God might meet us in these practices.

As you prepare for communion, here are some questions to guide your meditation:

- If you take communion, what are you celebrating? What are you committing to? What are you asking for?
- This meal is a symbol of Jesus' active love of the world. What does it mean for you to participate in this love at the communion table?
- Are you open to the possibility that Jesus might teach, challenge, inspire, or call you through this sacred ritual?

On Sunday morning:

- If you have mobility challenges please sit in the front two rows. Anyone who needs will be served communion in their seats.
- Ushers will invite you by rows to file up front and receive the bread and

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

- cup. Carry them back to your seat and wait.
- Pastor Dave will lead us in eating and drinking together once all have been served.
- Children are welcome: to participate, to walk to the front alongside parents or caregivers and observe, or to remain seated. Parents, please plan with your children about their participation.
- The bread and cup are gluten free and vegan.

For foot washing this Sunday:

- All are welcome to the foot washing basins in the main foyer and the hand washing stations in the sanctuary.
- Men's foot washing stations will be in the pastors' office hallway behind the pulpit. Women's stations will be in the library.
- You may go to a station alone and meet another congregant there to participate, or you may choose someone in advance and go together to wash each other's feet/hands.

Mennonite Education Plan Covenants for 2023/2024

Mennonite Education Plan Covenants for the 2023/2024 school year have been placed in church mailboxes with extra copies at the Welcome Center. Any family with children participating at Dock Mennonite Academy through the Salford MEP will need to complete a new covenant and return it to the church office by May 28, 2023. Ron Freed, Meredith Ehst and Jim Rittenhouse form the MEP ministry team and are available for conversation or questions about the MEP.

Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

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

- We have received \$272,156 in offering and income over the first four months of the year, with a 2023 expense budget of \$898,000. We have received 30.3% of the income needed for 2023 in these first four months (33.3%) of the year.
- 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, including youth auction income (17 weeks): \$16,009**

A Walk Against Gun Violence

You're invited to participate in a peaceful one mile walk against gun violence on **Sunday, May 21 at 3:30** on **Main Street, Lansdale**. The half mile walk begins at St. John's UCC on Main Street Lansdale and ends at Trinity Lutheran. It concludes with worship and an opportunity to write letters to representatives. The walk will be led by "Heeding God's Call," and faith communities in the Lansdale area.

Prior to the march, there will be two activities you can participate in to prepare.

- on **Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m.** come to Salford Church/SMCCC to help create a display of T-shirts on the lawn of the church with the names of all persons killed by gun violence in Montgomery County in the past 5 years.
- on **Saturday, May 20 from 10-11:30 a.m.** we'll gather to **make signs** with positive messages to carry in the march.

This Week at Salford

Wednesday, May 8

7:00 pm Fellowship Time at Souderton Mennonite Homes, with Communion (Friendship Room)

Sunday, May 14

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

Preaching: Laura Alderfer

10:30 am Second Hour for all Ages

Our Church Family

Prayer Concerns

- For **Ben Nase** who is in Grandview for treatment for heart failure.
- For **Glenn Godshall's sister Norell Godshall** who was admitted to Haven Behavioral Hospital in Philadelphia.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for those **who struggle with their mental health** and for those who experience discrimination or stigma due to their mental illness. We pray that our congregations will be a place of welcome and inclusion for all people.

Congratulations...

To **Dietrich & Katie Alderfer**, on the birth of **Eli Sanford Alderfer** on April 29, 2023. Ella is a proud big sister, and Dwight & Bev Alderfer are grandparents.

Congratulations...

To **Matthew Ruth & Kara Miller**, on the birth of **Louisa Mae Miller Ruth** on May 2, 2023. Marlin Ruth & Sharon Metzler Ruth are grandparents.

Congratulations...

To **Andrew & Cassy Zetts**, on the birth of **Carter Marie Zetts** on May 3, 2023. Caleb is a proud big brother.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for May – Granola/Breakfast Bars, Fruit Cups and Applesauce Cups, Raisins and Dried Fruit, Bottled Water, Coffee (Keurig and Ground Coffee – please no whole bean)

Your donations will benefit Manna on Main Street food pantry in Lansdale. Items can be placed on the table by the infant/toddler room entrance OR on the donation shelves in the coat room.

May 4, 2023 Salford/Advent Garden Update:

Greetings fellow gardeners, this past week there was a big swing in the amount of rain that fell. From Thursday 4/27 to Monday 5/1, the garden rain gage shown 3 ¾ inches of rain. WOW! That is a lotta wet! All that rain caused a few issues with the garden. The water rushed down the bottom of the patch and washed out a few rows of straw and cardboard. Not a big deal but we will have to repair the damage. The rows were very saturated and I was unable to repair them during the week. Last Saturday we took a day off as the rain fell. This week we should have much better weather. The pea fence needs to be put in place, the upper end of the plastic rows needs straw and cardboard plus repairing the rain damage. A very busy Saturday. Saturday the 13th is our next big planting day. Tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, string beans and egg plant will be planted. Next week I will be hooking up the water lines to the plastic rows and maybe working on the cooler shed. The ends of the plastic rows need to be doctored up in preparation for our

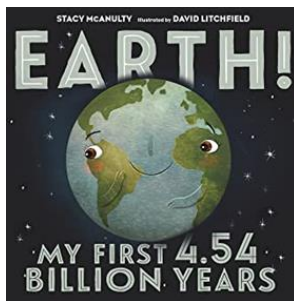
flowers. Our flower beds need a little work. Always something to do this time of year. Something is digging up our potatoes and I am not sure what it is. Maybe a fox or maybe a squirrel?? Not sure who it is. One section of our red potato row was dug up and seed potatoes were everywhere. I was able to replant as many as I could find. I think I got them all. The early spring plants are really looking nice. We did lose a few lettuce plants but that happens. The onions have tripled in size and look to be well on their way. A few potatoes have started to sprout, the sunshine next week should help make them push out even more. A big shout out thank you to Royce Yoder for the extra cardboard that we will use to repair the garden THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helps out with this mission. The garden is not a one man job. It takes a real team effort and our team is the best. If you have never helped with the garden consider this an invite and come on out and see what is happening. We start every Saturday at 8 am and I send everyone home by 12 noon. You may just want to show up and visit that is OK too! 10 am is our break time. Come join us for a little fellowship and greet our volunteers. Steve, 215-872-6616, rsblank@verizon.net

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>

Earth – My First 4.54 Billion Years (Book 1 – Our Universe Book Series) By: Stacy McAnulty



"Hi, I'm Earth! But you can call me Planet *Awesome*."

Prepare to learn all about Earth from the point-of-view of Earth herself! In this funny yet informative book, filled to the brim with kid-friendly facts, readers will discover key moments in Earth's life, from her childhood more than four billion years ago all the way up to present day. Beloved children's book author Stacy McAnulty helps Earth tell her story, and award-winning illustrator David Litchfield brings the words to life. The book includes back matter with even

more interesting tidbits.

The Wish Book Christmas By: Lynn Austin



Best friends Audrey Barrett and Eve Dawson are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in postwar America, thrilled at the prospect of starting new traditions with their five-year-old sons. But when the 1951 Sears Christmas Wish Book arrives and the boys start obsessing over every toy in it, Audrey and Eve realize they must first teach them the true significance of the holiday. They begin by helping Bobby and Harry plan gifts of encouragement and service for those in their community, starting by walking an elderly neighbor's yellow Lab—since a dog topped the boys' wish list for Santa. In the charming tale that follows, Audrey and Eve are

surprised to find their own hearts healing from the tragedies of war and opening to the possibility of forgiveness and new love.

Salford News & Notes

Salford friends at Souderton Mennonite Home: please join us for our monthly

gathering on **Monday May 8 from 7-8 in the Friendship Room**. We will be sharing communion that night. Hope to see you there! Questions: please call Karen.

We will not call for verbal **prayer concerns** from the congregation on Sunday. Please get your prayer concerns to a Pastor by 9:00 am Sunday morning.

The Nursery has been updated! Stop by the nursery entryway to see all the info for parents and volunteers in one place. Volunteers and parents: if you have not received updated procedures and information from Erica Smith-Grasse, please [contact her](#). Interested in volunteering in the nursery occasionally? We could use 15 additional adult volunteers to each serve 3 times per year.

Beyond Salford

Plains Mennonite Church will host a screening of the documentary “**UNSEEN: How We’re Failing Parent Caregivers & Why It Matters**” on Friday, May 12 starting at 7:00 pm. The film is an unfiltered glimpse into the lives of parents caring for children and adults with disabilities or complex medical needs and opens the discussion about what supports are needed in our community. Donations will be collected in support of their new Playground For All which will be built this summer

Join us for the **Dock Country Fair & Auction** on **Friday, May 19** from 5-9 pm. In addition to our Chicken Drive Thru at Franconia Mennonite Church (4-7 pm), you can enjoy BBQ Chicken and Strawberry Pies onsite on our EC to Grade 8 campus at 420 Godshall Rd, Souderton, PA. We will also host a [LIVE auction](#) with auctioneer Sandy Alderfer at 7:30 PM and an [Online Auction](#) from May 12-22, 2023.

Stop by and enjoy delicious Food Trucks, Giant Inflatables, Monkey Motion Bungee Trampoline, Human Hungry Hippos, Selfie Photo Booth, Face Painting, Ben’s Balloon Animals, Climb a Fire Truck, Helicopter Cow and Candy Drop, Music by Keith & Joey & much more! For all the details, visit our website at www.dock.org. Additional shuttle parking available at Marcho Farms/Franconia Café. Don’t miss it!!

Link to Online Auction: <https://www.alderferrealestate.com/auctions/detail/dock-mennonite-academy-online-county-auction>

Link to Auction Catalog:

https://issuu.com/jaygordon1/docs/auction_catalog_web_23?fr=sOThiMzk4NDI4NW

Please join The **Worm Project** on Saturday, May 20 at 9:00 am when they hold a Fun Walk at Franconia Community Park. No sign up required – come and go for a stroll with family and friends and support their mission to treat children suffering from parasitic worms in the poorest countries around the world. Along the path, meet volunteers and Oakley, a certified therapy dog. Every dollar you donate will help treat 40 children. Learn more at www.wormproject.org.