

November 13, 2022

Sunday, November 13, 9:30 am Worship at Salford and on YouTube Live, Lead Pastor Dave Greiser will preach on Rom. 15:7-13; *Separation or Unity*

10:30 am Second Hour for all ages

All Adults and Senior MYF are requested to gather in the Fellowship Hall for Second Hour.

November 6, 2022

Offering

\$33,160

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$5,135

Vanco Online Offering

\$4,660

Total Budget Offering

\$42,955

Children's Offering

\$38

Future Salford Events

November 23 – Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at Advent Lutheran Church, 7:00 pm

December 4 – Fall Congregational Business Meeting during Second Hour

December 10 – Christmas Peace Pilgrimage Walk

December 11 – Christmas Hymn Sing at Salford

If you have information

Path Forward Design Team Update, November 10, 2022

This Sunday we'll conclude the first segment of our second hour discernment. The Path Forward committee is pleased with the steady commitment you've made to participating in these conversations. I'm guessing that this is the longest sustained period of Bible study we have done as a church for some years.

For some of you, these weeks have passed too quickly. We have heard from some that we have gone too hurriedly through the scripture texts, and that it has been a lot to absorb in a short time. If you find yourself in that situation, we recommend a couple of activities. First, go to the church website and click the Path Forward page. That will take you to the videos and the manuscripts that the teachers used during each week of class. You can listen to or read each session. Second, on the same site you can check out the bibliography of readings that have been suggested. These books will deepen your understanding of the scriptures we studied and offer more insight into their contexts and how they have been interpreted.

Some of you have found the pace we've been keeping too pedestrian. You question the relevance of these ancient texts and are ready to talk about the realities faced by LGBTQIA persons. You are eager to decide. From you, I ask forbearance. In the Christian church, scripture is consulted, studied and respected in every decision. It may be old literature, but it is always relevant. Also, while some of us at Salford have been swimming in the vocabulary, literature, and experience of sexual diversity for a long time, others have not. Our church needs to proceed at a pace at which all can learn what they need to know to make a good decision.

Beginning in January we will begin a second series of second-hour meetings. In these meetings, we will talk about something of the range of sexualities – what do we mean by each letter of LGBTQIA and +? We may hear stories from people both inside and outside the Salford family. We hope to give you perspectives and the learning you need as we move toward an informed decision.

In the meantime, friends, give yourselves to prayer and to the spiritual fruit of patience. And pray for the Path Forward Team as we take the next steps. We need it! Dave, for the Pastors and the Path Forward Team

Final Week of Fall Series, Website Information

November 13 during second hour all adults will meet for the last gathering of the fall series of our discernment process. Andrew Zetts will guide us in reflection and conversation. As with previous weeks, the conversation itself is part of our discernment. We encourage all who are able to be present, recognizing with gratitude those who are supporting by teaching Sunday school and volunteering in the nursery. The introduction to the session will be recorded and a written summary of the conversation will be made available afterward.

In preparation please review the videos and notes from previous weeks on the website as needed. Last week's session was not recorded due to miscommunication, but Dave's notes are available on the website. You can also

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

find there information about the process itself.

Following November 13, we will take a rest from active discernment until January 15. During these two months, we ask you to continue to pray and process and learn as you need to, as well as to engage in the very important task of celebrating Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Witting Tree Ceremony

This Sunday, November 13, 2022, Salford will bear witness to the high rate of suicide within American military families. Glen and Mary Miller will lead a “Witting Tree” ceremony during our Sunday service. This is the ninth year that the Witting Tree ceremony is hosted within and around our Harleysville community. Over the past several years, in the week leading to Veterans Day, we have hung dog tags representing suicide on a tree outside our church. This year the ceremony will be inside and after second hour we will meet again to hang 23 dog tags on a tree near the pastors’ offices. As far as we know the first ceremony was begun by Michael McAndrew and Katrina Gehman at Eastern Mennonite University in 2013. They did not call the ritual “The Witting Tree”. However, Roger Kessler and Reverend Scott Hutchinson named the ritual and started the witnessing at St. Andrews, UCC in Perkasio. Before Covid, 25 organizations and churches were witnessing the tragic trend of military suicide by hanging dog tags in a tree and praying. ‘Witting’ means to raise consciousness or awareness to a situation or problem. Glen and Mary Miller ask the Salford family to pray and consider why so many of our American military kill themselves.

Mosaic Conference Assembly Recap

On Saturday, November 5, delegates gathered for Mosaic Conference Annual Assembly. Throughout the day participants alternated between worship, conversation, fellowship, and good food, all of which represented the wide diversity of the conference. The backdrop of the assembly was the May 2022 delegate session of Mennonite Church USA which had changed the denomination’s official position to affirmation of LGBTQ+ people. This change does not require change at the congregational or conference level, and Mosaic Conference still does not permit pastors to perform same-sex marriages, but the change has caused strong and varied reactions. At Conference Assembly delegates heard from the Listening Task Force about perspectives across the conference. Delegates passed “[A Pathway Toward Shaping Our Future Together](#)” by an 81% majority. This pathway initiates a two-year strategic planning process for Mosaic and allows congregations to separate from MCUSA while remaining affiliated with Mosaic. Delegates also welcomed a new congregation and a new conference related ministry.

Salford Mennonite and Advent Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve service at Advent

Salford and Advent Lutheran Church will join together for a Thanksgiving Eve service at 7pm on Wednesday, November 23 at Advent Lutheran Church. This will be a joyful time of music, scripture, and sharing from members of both congregations. The Thanksgiving offering will be divided between Lutheran Disaster Response and Mennonite Disaster Service. An offering of shelf-stable groceries will also be received for Keystone Opportunity Center’s food pantry. A time of fellowship will follow. All interested in participating in the joint choir please contact [Maria Hosler Byler](#) by November 13.

Finance Update for Salford Mennonite Church

For the remainder of 2022, we will present a weekly update of our financial situation.

- We have advised our Staff team and Ministry teams to be conservative with spending for the remainder of the year. No new spending initiatives for this year.
- We will need **\$177,000** in offering and income for the last seven weeks of 2022 to cover our expected expenses.
- We will need an average of **\$15,500** in weekly offering in October and November and an average of **\$36,000** in weekly offering in December. This is a **18%** increase from last year.
- **Average weekly offering needed for October and November: \$15,500**
- **Average weekly offering received so far for October and November (6 weeks): \$17,305**

This Week at Salford

Monday, November 14

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

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

Tuesday, November 15

7:00 pm Church Board Meeting (Friendship Room)

Thursday, November 17

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

Sunday, November 20

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 **Marvin Anders** who is home recovering from successful back surgery.
- For **Ruth Nafziger** who is still recovering from hip surgery in healthcare at Souderton Home, that she would have the strength to do her physical therapy and be able to get good rest at night.
- For **Brent and Laurie Snyder** and the Snyder family at the passing of Brent's Grandmother Thelma Snyder.
- For **Brooke Martin's parents**. Pettisville Grain Company where they work had a tragic accident Wednesday morning that claimed the life of Neil Rupp. We pray for Neil's family, the PGC employees, and especially the two who found him.
- For **Faith Detwiler** - who is so thankful at her quick recovery from gall bladder surgery! Faith asks for prayer for her shoulder - that physical therapy would restore some mobility and reduce her pain.
- For the family of **Ferne Alderfer** who will gather with friends and loved ones for a memorial service to honor Ferne's life this Saturday November 12..
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for **the Mosaic Board** as they lead Mosaic Conference forward, using the Pathway process, proposed and affirmed by a majority of delegates at the recent Assembly. Pray for wisdom, discernment, and sensitivity as they guide us.

Memorial Service Arrangements for Ferne Alderfer

A visitation will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at Salford Mennonite Church from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, followed by a memorial service at 2:00 pm.

Inurnment will take place at Salford Mennonite Cemetery.

Memorial Service Arrangements for Sanford Alderfer

A visitation will be held on Sunday, November 20, 2022 at Salford Mennonite Church from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, followed by a memorial service at 3:30 pm. Private burial will take place at Salford Mennonite Cemetery.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for November - ITEMS NEEDED TO HELP FILL WINTER FOOD BASKETS to Benefit Manna on Main street, Lansdale. French Fried Onions, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Canned Pumpkin, Evaporated Milk, Mashed Potatoes, Poultry Gravy.

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

Garden update, 11/10/22: Greetings fellow gardeners, this past week the weather was not sure what it wanted to do. First it was almost summer like, now it will be below freezing a couple of nights BRRRR. The garden is almost finished as we slowly make our way to the end of the 2022 season. Cabbage and cauliflower will lead the way to the very end. I don't have any solid numbers but we may have a record cabbage harvest this year. Both spring and fall harvests have been out of this world great. We did not lose many plants. I planted the heavier cabbage in the spring because we have longer growing days, I planted the smaller cabbage in the fall because the days are shorter. The deer continue to visit the garden for their square dancing but there isn't much available to snack on, so I am not sure why they want to hang around. They may just like the garden as much as we do. This Saturday, along with harvesting veggies, we will be pulling up the plastic mulch and drip tape. There is rain in the forecast for Friday so wear your boots and old clothes. Pulling plastic mulch is a messy job even when the weather is dry. The rain will make it extra muddy and messy. This will be the last big job before we close out the garden next week. I have started to chop up the leaves that George Gaugler has collected from the grove and other spots around the church. I do believe there are more leaves this year than last year. Not sure why, maybe the trees were happier this year.

Thank you to everyone who helped out in the garden. Every year is different but what never changes is the dedication of our volunteers who keep this mission on track. Steve. 215-872-6616 rsblank@verizon.net

Salford 2022 Reparative Hymn Royalty Payment

On April 3, 2022 Salford hosted a Music and Justice worship service in which we recognized how our worship life benefits from the contributions of creators of Negro spirituals and African American traditional music.

We learned about how, because of historical injustices, some musicians have benefited from copyright and royalties, while others, particularly from BIPOC artists whose songs were a survival tool while facing enslavement and other traumas, have not.

On that day we made the following Commitment to Justice in Music:

We at Salford Mennonite Church acknowledge the history and significance of the spirituals sung in today's worship service. With respect and deep gratitude for the extraordinary musical contributions made to U.S. American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spirituals and their descendants. Each time we sing the spiritual songs of enslaved Black people in our worship together, we commit to:

*Singing and hearing them with reverence and open hearts;
Honoring the unnamed musicians who created them;
And paying royalties to organizations promoting the advancement of Black artists
in the U.S.*

We understand that the harm done to Black musicians and artists can never be fully addressed through payment, and that this payment is a narrow part of the healing process.

Through our prayers, our gifts and our actions, we will strive to do all that we can to end systemic racism in America.

We are grateful to the United Parish in Brookline, MA from which this commitment is adapted.

Since that time, **Salford staff have met with Black pastoral leaders in our area who have advised us to direct our reparative hymn royalty payments this year to the [Reparative Act Fund](#) at Shalom Community Church.**

This allows us to give up full control of where the funds are going, because there is a Disbursement Committee (comprised of Black Mennonite leaders) who will determine where the funds should go.

At the end of November, Salford will make a reparative hymn royalty payment to this fund. The budgeted amount for this year is \$250, half the amount that we pay to One License, for licensing of the copyrighted hymns that we sing. This will be an ongoing (annual) payment from the worship budget. **We hope to grow this amount from payments by participants in the congregation.**

To make a payment, please do one of the following by Nov. 27:

- Write a check or give electronically to Salford with "Hymn Royalties" in the memo. A check will be written at the end of the month.

- Give via PayPal at <https://shalomcc.org/repair/> (note that PayPal takes a 2% cut)

Please contact the church office with questions. Thank you for your participation in this opportunity to, in some small way, make amends.

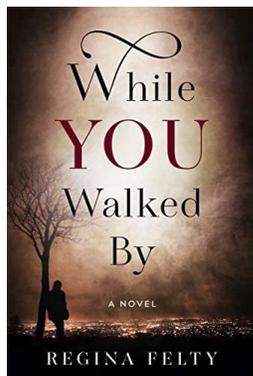
Faith Formation Spotlight

Building Faith's "[Taste the Story](#)" practice for November is [Parable Bread](#). It's an invitation to explore yeast and its microscopic work to create big, visible effects. The Kingdom of God is like that, quietly working in the surrounding world to bring about big change. Read Mat. 13:33, make bread, and do experiments involving yeast.

Wanted: more kids & youth to sign up to help with offering. Four needed each week; sign up for as many as you'd like!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c45a4a62eaaf94-salfo>

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:

While You Walked By, by Regina Felty

A young homeless boy. An old man who had lost everything. An unlikely friendship that brought healing to both.

Ben doesn't know what to think when a homeless boy shows

up late one night behind Angelo's Bakery where he works as a handyman. He'd seen his share of suffering humanity on the streets of Philadelphia, but there was something about this boy—so young, so vulnerable. Pushing sixty and feeling as if his life has no purpose, Ben struggles with his own problems. A recovering alcoholic, he is gripped with remorse over the loss of his wife and son but determined to stay sober.

Twelve-year-old Aden starts to run when an old man comes out of Angelo's Bakery and catches him hiding, but something about the man draws Aden to him. Terrified and naive to life on the streets, Aden was forced to forge his own survival in the face of dangerous predators and violence after his mother abandoned him almost a year ago.

Can Aden trust the gentle old man who offers him food and a hand of friendship? Will Ben be able to forgive himself and look for his son? *While You Walked By* delivers a heartfelt, coming-of-age story about the hope that can be found even in the most desperate circumstances.

News & Notes

All Salford friends at the Souderton Mennonite Home please join us for our monthly gathering on **Monday November 14 from 7-8** in the Friendship Room. Call Karen at 215.237.7367 if you have a question. See you there!

The Justice and Peace Ministry Team zoom meeting has been moved to Thursday the 17th at 7:00 pm. The primary agenda item is to follow up on Gardening for Peace. All invited. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87962021778>

In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement in 2025, MennoMedia is inviting Anabaptists across North America to contribute to a [community Bible project](#). Bible study groups will meet four times this winter and spring to reflect on assigned scripture passages and submit notes which will be published as marginal notes in the new Bible. Would you like to contribute to this project as part of a group from Salford? Let [Maria Hosler Byler](#) know by December 18th. We will form groups and begin study in the new year. This is part of the [Anabaptism at 500 Project](#).

Calling all choir singers for Thanksgiving Eve: This year the Salford and Advent Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve service will be at Advent Lutheran on November 23, with a combined choir. Would you like to sing with us? Please notify Maria Hosler Byler as soon as possible to receive music and recordings and to learn about rehearsal. Maria will need final commitments by November 14. A combined rehearsal with Advent Lutheran choir will take place on Thursday November 17th.

Beyond Salford

You are invited to the [Perkasie Mennonite Church's Patchwork Coffeehouse](#) concert with Piper's Request on November 19 at 7:30 pm. A portion of the proceeds supports [MDS Southwest Florida relief](#). Masks are required.

Join the fun on Tuesday, November 29, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and help "stock-the-shoppes" at **Care & Share Thrift Shoppes** in Souderton. Dress in comfortable clothes, bring a friend, and meet in the Welcome Center. Learn more at careandshreshoppes.org.

