

October 29, 2023

**Sunday, October 29,
9:30 am Worship at
Salford and on
YouTube Live,
Associate Pastor
Andrew Zetts will
preach on Galatians
3:1-14;**

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

**Centered Set Church
Elective Second Hour
Class will meet in the
Right side of the
Gathering Room with
the Gospel Herald
Class, Dave Greiser
will lead. All are
welcome!**

**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.**

October 22, 2023

Offering

\$2,588

ACH Electronic

Offering

\$1,960

Vanco Online Offering

\$3,378

Total Budget Offering

\$7,926

Children's Offering

\$28

Future Salford Events

November 4 – Mosaic

Conference Fall

Assembly

Centered-Set Church Second Hours

During Second Hour this Sunday, the Gospel Herald class will host a brief new elective taking us deeper into our current sermon theme, "Centered-Set Church." We'll learn more about Salford's history as a bounded-set church, where we are at present, and what it might look like to live into an identity that is deeply and fully centered in Jesus.

If you want to go deeper in this study, please find a copy of Mark D. Baker's Centered-Set Church, published by InterVarsity Press and available from Amazon and many other booksellers. It would also be good to read through the book of Galatians, which has formed the scripture basis of the fall sermon series.

The class will meet in the Gathering Room on the second floor.

Mennonite Central Committee Calls For Immediate Cease Fire

As we watch a humanitarian catastrophe unfold in Gaza, Mennonite Central Committee, a relief service and peace agency representing 15 Anabaptist bodies including MCUSA, is calling for action for an immediate ceasefire and aid for Gaza. MCC urges us to contact our representatives to call for an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian aid for the region. More information on this action can be found on the MCC website with options for letter writing available.

Please click here for the [MCC website and more information](#).

Faith Reflection: "Violence begets violence; hate begets hate; and toughness begets a greater toughness. It is all a descending spiral, and the end is destruction — for everybody. Along the way of life, someone must have enough sense and morality to cut off the chain of hate." -Martin Luther King Jr.

- From the Salford Justice & Peace Ministry Team

Update from the Welcoming Path Ministry Team; Looking Ahead

Last week, the Welcoming Path ministry team met with the church board and pastors to provide an update on our progress and recommendations. Our mission is to journey with you to create a safe and welcoming space for LGBTQ+ people that celebrates the perspective they bring on life, love and faith, as well as the diversity of gifts they bring to our community, so that our hearts may be transformed as we grow in Christ's love together.

Since late July, we have been gathering information from welcoming churches and other organizations, as well as LGBTQ+ individuals. Our main question has been, "**What makes a church a safe and welcoming for LGBTQ+ people?**" Here are the themes we heard in response.

- **Diversity Matters** – The number one sign of a safe, welcoming space is seeing other LGBTQ+ people and people of color in the space.

November 5 – Witting Tree Ceremony following Second Hour
November 8 - Family Faith Formation Night
November 19 – Fall Congregational Business Meeting
November 22 – Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:00 pm
December 9 – Red Cross Blood Drive at Salford

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

- **Justice and Peace** – Integrating LGBTQ+ concerns with other forms of missional work is key.
- **Outward Symbols** – Things like a Pride/Progress flag affixed to our entrance sign and symbols of inclusivity within the church building create an immediate sense of safety, but must be backed up with inclusive action.
- **Inclusive Language** – Language used by leaders up front is important, such as including LGBTQ+ concerns during time of prayer.
- **Web Presence** – Including LGBTQ+ symbolism and leaders' bios identified with pronouns is important.
- **Pastoral Support** – This may include a pastoral care group for LGBTQ+ folks and/or their families, and possibly crisis response.
- **Ongoing Learning** – Additional training is needed for pastoral staff, Sunday school teachers, and the broader congregation. Having inclusive books in our library is part of this, as is addressing microaggressions and having protocol in place to prevent/avoid them when possible.
- **Facility Updates** – A few changes will be needed, including welcome center updates and gender inclusive bathrooms, which provide a safe, private, and comfortable space for all.
- **No Re-Hashing Theology** – Now that the 2023 [Welcome Statement](#) has been published, it would be harmful to LGBTQ+ folks if we keep debating our theological position.

The church board affirmed the recommendations we made with these themes in mind, so over the coming weeks and months, our team will be working to implement changes to help Salford become a more safe and welcoming space for LGBTQ+ people. If you have any questions, or would like to make a suggestion, please feel free to contact one of us. **The Welcoming Path Ministry Team**

Phil Alderfer (he/him), Aaron Bishop (he/him), Vince Causerano (he/him), Liza Heavener (she/her), Tori Jones Long (she/her), Kyle Longacre (he/him), and Mandy Martin (she/her), chair

This Week at Salford

Wednesday, November 1

8:30 am Sewing Circle (Gathering Room)

Sunday, November 5

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 **Donna Barndt** who is recovering from knee surgery earlier this week.
- Thank God for adults who have responded to the call to nurture children in early childhood settings. Pray that God may grant them insight, patience, endurance, gentleness, and understanding as they reflect the love of God. May adults create an environment in which peaceful living, guided by the Prince of Peace, may thrive in spite of conflicts, differences and while learning self-control.

Birthday Blessings...

To **Ruth Alderfer**, who celebrates her 88th birthday on November 4th.

Your Prayers Requested...

Your prayers are requested for **Valetta Kaczor, Allen & Suzanne Kaczor, Carla**

Kaczor and the entire Kaczor family. **Gerald Kaczor**, Age 82, passed away early Saturday evening, October 21, 2023 at Grand View Hospital. Prayers for comfort and strength for Valetta, Allen & Suzanne, Carla and family as they remember his life and mourn his passing.

A service of remembrance for Gerald Kaczor will be held at Souderton Mennonite Homes on Sunday November 5th beginning at 2:30 with a time of visitation to follow.

Service & Mission

Donation of the Month for November - Laundry, dish, bar, hand soaps, body wash, Toilet paper, paper towels, and period products

Some items collected this month are not covered by SNAP; therefore, Keystone community shoppers are always happy to find these items stocked in the Keystone Pantry. Thank you for your donations which will benefit Keystone Opportunity Center (KOC) Food Pantry in Souderton.

Family Faith Formation Spotlight

Save the Date for Faith Formation Night on November 8, 2023

We will resume our Faith Formation Nights for this school year on **November 8, 2023**, from **5:30 to 8:00 P.M.** Please see below for the evening's schedule and let Pastor Andrew (zetsa@salfordmc.org) know by **November 6** how many people from your household plan to attend; RSVPs are very helpful for meal planning.

- 5:30-5:45 P.M.: Dinner
- 5:45-6:30 P.M.: Worship
- 6:30-8:00 P.M.: Age-specific programs

The different programs include:

Kids Club: A space for 1st-5th graders to have a fun time exploring various themes and stories from Scripture through crafts, games, and a variety of activities.

Junior and Senior MYF: A gathering of 6th through 12th graders that connects for games, conversation, and contemplation to provide mutual support and foster spiritual growth. This month we will continue investigating the question: *How can we be a community that supports each other?* as well as practice a time of rest and reflection.

Adults: What Do You Say When You Don't Know What to Say?

Have you ever been lost for words when talking about faith with the youth in your life? Have the difficulties and pain you've experienced on your own faith journey made it difficult for you to discuss faith and invite your youth into a faith journey of their own?

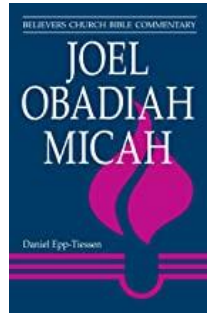
At this month's Faith Formation Night, Marlene Frankenfield will discuss the complexities she faced while striving to pass on the faith to the youth in her life. She will talk about the ways processing her own journey while parenting and serving in youth ministry at Salford Mennonite and Franconia Conference impacted her approach to youth faith formation. Marlene will be joined by her daughter, Meredith Ehst, as they share how they have tried to navigate youth faith formation in different contexts and invite participants to reflect on their own experiences. This session is meant as a time for families to connect with each other as we work as a community to invite our youth into a life of discipleship.

Also, please mark the following dates for the future Faith Formation Nights this school year; they are the second Wednesday of each month. December 13, January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, May 8

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>

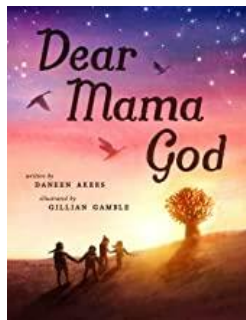
Joel, Obadiah, Micah – Believers Church Bible Commentary By Daniel Epp-Tiessen



"Although each is quite different, the books of Joel, Obadiah, and Micah are all survival literature. All three address the community that survived the crushing Babylonian destruction of Judah in 586 BCE. And all three seek to help this community cope by giving voice to its disorientation, trauma, anxiety, and rage. Each book insists that God will wrestle a positive future out of catastrophe, granting both physical and spiritual renewal. No matter how dire the circumstances, Israel can trust in the gracious God who will never abandon the faith community. In this thirty-fifth volume in the Believers Church Bible Commentary series, Old Testament

scholar Daniel Epp-Tiessen explores the diverse, yet related content of these three prophetic books, always paying attention to how they might speak words of grace and healing into the disorientation, exile, and challenges of our own time. He also confronts the theologically problematic features of these books, especially their conviction that the salvation of God's people requires that God obliterate their enemies. This volume explores how we might read Joel, Obadiah, and Micah in light of the larger biblical story of God's saving purposes that reach their fulfillment in Jesus Christ"—DONATED

Dear Mama God By: Daneen Akers



"Dear Mama God - Thank you for the earth and all living things." So begins this wonder-filled prayer of gratitude from a child addressed to Mama God.

Combining stunning illustrations with simple yet profound prayers, "Dear Mama God" is the perfect children's book to introduce children (and their adults) to the heart-expanding practice of referring to the divine in feminine form. The text thanks Mama God for trees for birds to nest in, hula hoops for dogs to jump through, paper to draw on, cozy fires, loving hearts, and the universe that is our home. The illustrations

invite readers into a luminous, comforting presence.

The author is part of a broader movement to incorporate explicitly feminine God-language into spiritual practices. Though it's not a new movement—feminine images and language for God abound in the Jewish and Christian scriptures, and for decades, womanist and feminist scholars have pointed out the harm done by male-centric God talk—the conversation is vibrant and growing. Our God language matters because it is how we symbolize that which we hold as ideal. And while metaphor is all we ever get for the Mystery we call God, we have a big problem with stuck metaphors.

Due to a combination of tradition, sexism, and the limitations of language, our God-language and metaphors are almost exclusively masculine. This harms all of us. Thinking of God only in masculine terms has enormous implications for how children of all genders grow up. It has contributed to a world in which girls, women, and anyone not traditionally male-bodied remain marginalized and seen as less than. Plus, the feminine qualities in all genders are undervalued. Feminine God-

language is liberating for all of us.

This book is a simple and beautiful way to share this expansive and life-affirming concept that God is also a mother with children, families, and spiritual communities everywhere. Mama God has love enough and space enough for us all. DONATED

News & Notes

CHRISTMAS CHOIR!! Yes, you read that correctly! We will have a Christmas Choir, led by Justin Yoder to sing on Sunday morning on **December 10th**! Please join us – there will be two rehearsals: **Wednesday, 11/29 and Thursday 12/7 each from 7-8:30** and an early soundcheck rehearsal on December 10 at **8:30**. Please reach out to Karen at bergeyk@salfordmc.org or 215.237.7367 to join the choir.

David Peters has just released his documentary on the Life and Legacy of William Penn. This film explores the historical contribution of Penn to the foundation of the United States, but more importantly explores how the latent legacy of Penn's commitment to global peace and religious freedom is emerging in both national and global contexts.

John Ruth was a story consultant for the film, as well as being a featured historian whose interview is woven throughout the narrative. John lends insight about our local connection to William Penn discussing Penn's commitment to the Lenape people and the Mennonites who originally settled this land.

It can be watched for free on RedeemTV.com. Search for Penn's Seed: The Awakening.

Do you collect unique nativity sets? They may depict images of people around the world or be intricately carved or very simple – we'd love to borrow it! We'd like to display a set on each windowsill during Advent. If you have a set you are willing to loan for that time, please let Deanie Frankenfield know at deaniefrank50@gmail.com You can bring your set to Deanie at the Welcome Desk anytime, beginning this Sunday. Thank you for sharing!

Want to read **Centered-Set Church** for yourself? The library now has a few more copies in the New section – check it out!!

Beyond Salford

Bakers needed for the Souderton Mennonite Homes Auxiliary Holiday Bazaar, Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11. Baked Goods can be dropped off Friday or Saturday in the Fellowship Room. For more information, contact Alta Yoder at Ext. 42229. All proceeds benefit the Agape Fund.

The October edition of On the Level is now available from **Mennonite Disaster Service**. In our current issue: Kevin King shares the health benefits of being a volunteer; an old grocery store is transformed near Red Lake, Minnesota; and if you enjoy quilting, knitting or crocheting you'll want to learn more about the MDS Housewarmer Project. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3FnVTrJ>