

September 1, 2024

**Sunday, September 1, 10:00 am Wild Church Outdoor Worship and Communion at Salford in the Oak Grove.** This service will feature a time of wandering in nature and sharing in small groups; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18

**No Second Hour during Summer Season**

**August 25, 2024**

Offering

\$5,230

ACH                      Electronic

Offering

\$1,980

Vanco Online Offering

\$2,823

**Total Budget Offering**

**\$10,033**

**Children's Offering:**

**\$29**

**Future Salford Events**

**September 1** –

Outdoor Worship with Monthly Communion

**September 8** – Return

to Regular Worship Schedule and Second hour

**September 21-22** –

Finding Ourselves in God's Story Weekend Event with Michelle Hershberger

**September 29** –

Outdoor Worship with Baptism at

Branchwood Park, Franconia Township

**October 4-6** –

Women's Fall Retreat

## A Proposal from Mosaic Conference concerning MCUSA

As you may have seen in *Anabaptist World*, [read the article here](#), the Mosaic Conference Board is proposing to the conference delegate body that it act at November's assembly to withdraw Mosaic's membership in Mennonite Church USA, while continuing in "partnership and collaboration" with the denomination. The proposal was developed by a special Pathways Steering Team which has been listening to conference churches and ministries for the past two years.

The proposal comes in response to the dissatisfaction of many congregations following MCUSA's delegate assembly in 2022 which approved an LGBTQ affirming "Repentance and Transformation" resolution and rescinded MCUSA membership guidelines which had prohibited pastors from performing same-sex marriages.

As you recall, Salford's church board recently sent a letter to the Mosaic Board calling our conference to continue its membership in the denomination. The church staff is setting up a meeting with Salford's Mosaic delegates to consider how to respond to the proposal. Salford's board will also have substantive discussion of the proposal at its September meeting.

There will be a congregational meeting prior to the fall assembly at which you may ask questions and offer counsel to our Board and delegates. Meanwhile, let's hold ourselves and our conference in prayer as we seek wisdom. - Dave Greiser, lead pastor.

## New Choir Director Emily Buckley

We have a Choir Director! Please welcome **Emily (Derstine) Buckley** as our new Choir Director! Emily grew up attending Salford. She has a BA in Music and interfaith Leadership Studies from Elizabethtown College and years of experience leading and teaching small groups of musicians. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please contact Emily at [emilyfave63@gmail.com](mailto:emilyfave63@gmail.com). There will be an informal night of singing and introductions in October and the choir will sing in the Christmas Eve Service; more details and rehearsal schedule to come.

## Final Sunday Summer Outdoor Service – September 1

**Final Sunday Summer Outdoor Service** – September 1 Final Summer Sunday Service – a Wild Church Communion Outdoors in the Oak Grove: Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Bring your wide-eyed, open-eared, ready[1]hearted curiosity to hear what God may whisper to you through the trees and in the elements on Sunday, September 1. We'll meet for an unplugged gathering of listening, singing, sharing, and Communion. ***This service will not be streamed or recorded.***

As you prepare your heart for Communion, consider these questions:

- 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?

**October 12** – 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](mailto:alderferb@salfordmc.org)

- Are you open to the possibility that Jesus might teach, challenge, inspire, or call you through this sacred ritual?

If you are unable to participate in our outdoor service, you can try this listening experience on your own any time:

### **WANDERING AND WONDERING**

We are on the edge of a new season and many of us are experiencing transitions of one kind or another. What is changing? What is constant?

Take 15 minutes to wander. You may also choose to wonder from a seated space, either outside or by a window:

- What changes are happening in your life that you observe right now?
- What changes are happening in the rest of creation that you observe right now?
- How do you experience the divine presence of love amid change?

Thank God for all the ways you hear God's voice today.

## **September 8 Return To Regular Schedule**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, we will return to our regular schedule. The Worship service will begin at 9:30 am, followed by Second Hour for all ages at 10:30 am.

## **Finding Ourselves in God's Story: A Day with Michele Hershberger (September 21, 2024, 10:00 A.M.-6:30 P.M.)**

This fall, Salford will be hosting **Michele Hershberger, Bible and Ministry Professor and Co-Campus Pastor at Hesston College** for a weekend. Prior to preaching on Sunday, September 22, Michele will lead an all-day session on Saturday, September 21, about the story of the Bible and how we are invited to situate the story of our lives in it. The day will be a condensed version of her popular Biblical Literature course that she teaches at Hesston.

Attendees should pack a lunch, but dinner will be provided at the conclusion of the event at 6:30 P.M. Additionally, child-care will be provided.

The registration for this event is now open to Salford folks and people outside of Salford. Please register today, registration will be limited to 100.

You may **register here** using this [form](#).

## **Women's Fall Retreat**

Sign up for the **Women's Retreat: October 4-6 at Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center!** Join us for a weekend of relaxing, connecting, and growing together with our leader Samantha Lioi. The theme for the weekend is Peacemaking Within: Welcoming our Whole Selves, Psalm 139. Cost is \$120 for the weekend. Payment received in the church office reserves your spot. Call Pastor Karen with any questions. Cost will not be a barrier to participation: talk to Karen. ***Deadline to register: Sunday, September 15!!***

## **40 for 40 Salford Mennonite Child Care Center Birthday and Playground Maintenance/Upkeep Fundraiser**

As SMCCC prepares to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 15<sup>th</sup>, you can join in the celebration and help give a little love to our playground and 35 year old big blue shed. Please consider donating \$40 dollars for 40 years of service to the community, or pick up 40 sticks, 40 acorns, or pull 40 weeds on the playground.

You may do this on your own schedule, or can contribute on Sunday morning, September 15<sup>th</sup> at the official celebration, or join a planned upcoming activity.

The big blue shed needs love and is undergoing renovations - repairing of rotten wood, re-painting of the entire shed, removal of a rotten awning, and refreshing of the shrubbery around the shed. The approximate cost of this work will be \$5,000.

The Child Care playground needs love too. The reading bench around the tree has been repaired, the fence and gate need repairs, two large dead trees need to be removed and others need to be trimmed. We also add woodchips annually for our children's safety. This upkeep will cost approximately \$8,000.

Watch for organized activities to assist with this work. Bring your extra offering on September 15<sup>th</sup> to the official celebration through cash, check or offering envelope marked "SMCCC 40 for 40". See you out at the playground!

## **This Week at Salford**

### **Monday, September 2**

Church and Child Care Offices Closed for Labor Day Holiday

### **Wednesday, September 4**

8:30 am Sewing Circle (Gathering Room)

7:00 pm Adult Second Hour Resourcing Meeting (Zoom)

7:00 pm Mennonite Education Plan Ministry Team Meeting (Library)

### **Thursday, September 5**

8:30 am Weekly Morning Centering Prayer (Labyrinth)

2:00 pm Pavilion Planning Team Meeting (Library)

### **Sunday, September 8**

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 **Beth Yoder** who will speak before the Mosaic Conference Ministerial Committee on Wednesday, September 4. Pray for peace for Beth.
- For **Dave Peters** who has had a recent scan show cancer is in a few new lymph nodes, a vertebrae and his sacrum. Pray for wisdom and clarity as they discuss treatments and for peace for Dave and Kathi.
- For the **family from Haiti** that is currently staying with the Svelik-Goods, for the family's well-being as they make connections, build relationships, and seek stability. And for the children who just began school for the first time in the U.S.
- All Mosaic congregations are invited to pray for the faculty, staff, and students of the Conference-Related Ministries, **Dock Mennonite Academy** (Lansdale, PA), **Quakertown Christian School** (PA), and **The City School** (Philadelphia, PA), as they start a new school year. Pray for wisdom and for God's guiding in the teaching and learning.

### **Birthday Blessings...**

To **Curt Barthel**, who celebrates his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and to **Elizabeth Frederick**, who celebrates her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Are you anxious about current events? Feeling like life is just too much some days? Finding very little peace in each day? **Join Pastor Karen for a weekly morning Centering Prayer.** This will be a time of quietly seeking God's presence

together. We'll meet at the Labyrinth. Bring a blanket, chair or something to sit on if you like. We'll meet Thursday mornings at 8:30 for 15 minutes of silent group prayer. You may linger after to walk the labyrinth or enjoy the quiet of the morning. Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 5.

Strader-Bergey Open House is rescheduled to **this Sunday, September 1 from 12-3** in the Fellowship Hall. Stop by to congratulate Lee and Josie, see some photos, and have light refreshments. All are welcome!

### **Service & Mission**

#### **September Donation Of The Month - Shampoos, Conditioners, Laundry & Dish soaps, 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.

Items may be placed on the Donation of the Month table by the infant nursery.

### **Faith Formation Spotlight**

#### **Important Announcements for Sunday School, which begins Sept. 8:**

Students in 1st-5th grades will begin singing in the Fellowship Hall, 10 minutes after the end of the service. Please make sure your kid gets safely to the basement. Kids ages 2-5 will begin singing downstairs in the hallway. Toward the end of the second hour, there is a 5-minute warning bell. Parents are asked to begin wrapping up conversation so that they can arrive promptly at the second bell for pickup.

**On Sept. 8, families of children and youth will gather for a potluck** after second hour, to receive important info about the year. Please plan to attend.

### **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>

#### **Mary Wears What She Wants By: Keith Negley**

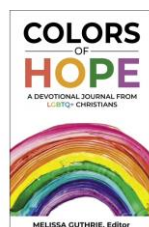


Once upon a time (but not *that* long ago), girls only wore dresses. And only boys wore pants.

Until one day, a young girl named Mary had an idea: She would wear whatever she wanted. And she wanted to wear pants!

This bold, original picture book encourages readers to think for themselves while gently challenging gender and societal

norms. DONATED



#### **Colors of HOPE: A Devotional Journal from LGBTQ+ Christians By: Melissa Guthrie, Editor**

Enhance LGBTQ+ understanding while making spiritual connections in this book of devotional writings. The colors of the Pride flag are explained with personal stories and scriptural reflections. Readers are given opportunities to think through

specific aspects of each writing with questions to respond to. This is a complete devotional that produces thoughtful growth. (reviewed by Monica Schroeder)

## News & Notes

**Thank you, Ken Henke!** Last Saturday, a group of eight people completed a four week seminar in the history of Christian spirituality, led by Ken Henke. Ken (and his extensive library) made the long trek from his home in Princeton, NJ to guide eager students into the thoughts of great spiritual teachers from early Christian history to recent times.

In the final two hour period we heard student papers and reports about Gregory of Nyssa, Julian of Norwich, Ignatius of Loyola, Evelyn Underhill, Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Desmond Tutu.

Salford Church is a community of learning! And for all who now wish they had been in this class, there will be more opportunities in the days ahead, featuring others from our "deep bench" of teachers.

### Address Update:

#### John & Roma Ruth

181 Dock Drive, Lansdale, PA 19446

New Landline Phone #: (215) 393-6831

**Dreamers and Creators:** our theme this fall is Grounded and Centered in Jesus. What is grounding YOU to the Center these days? Would you share it in word or image? Maybe you have or are inspired to create:

- A piece of artwork in any medium
- A poem
- A Photograph
- Favorite hymn lyrics
- A Prayer
- A favorite verse or passage

We will display these inspirations around our worship space until Advent. Please bring your creative piece to the basket on the bench by the church offices or call Pastor Karen. Include your name on or with your piece, please.

Souderton Mennonite Homes friends: Join us for our monthly gathering at **7:00 on September 9 in the Friendship Room**. Call Pastor Karen with questions. Hope to see you there!

**Mama Bird Coffee:** is your nest a bit quiet these days? One or more flown? Come commiserate or celebrate with other mamas at the Broad Street Grind on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9:30-11. No RSVP, just show up. Questions: call Pastor Karen.

## Beyond Salford

If you're grieving a loved one's death, you can find comfort, direction, and peace of mind at a **GriefShare grief recovery support group**. Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton, PA hosts a weekly group on Thursdays beginning September 5, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. For more information call 215-723-3592.

All are invited to a **Mosaic Fellowship Meal hosted by the intercultural team**. Bring a favorite dish to share, connect with others within Mosaic Conference, and enjoy improv games. Saturday, Sept. 28 at 11am at Salford Mennonite (480 Groff

Mill Rd. Harleysville, PA). [RSVP here](#).

Our August Edition of **On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Mennonite Disaster Service Executive Director Kevin King shares our need for volunteers at our warehouse in Mississippi, read the latest on our flood response in Vermont, meet an inspirational 22 year-old volunteer and get the back story on a popular MDS photo. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/46Ym9WM>

The **North Penn/Lansdale CROP Hunger Walk** is a fundraiser that returns 25 percent of the funds it raises to **Manna on Main Street**, a Lansdale-based food pantry, soup kitchen, and job training program, and the rest of the funds go towards fighting food insecurity on a global scale. Manna is proud to partner with you and Church World Service in hopes that “everyone might be fed.”

Sunday, October 13, 2024 – 2:00 pm

Manna on Main Street (606 E. Main St in Lansdale)

Registration and donation information can be found here:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/lansdalepa>