

WORSHIP

Join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM in Person, or [on Zoom](#)

<p>December 10 9:30AM Worship Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Leader: Sean Smuts Sermon: Isaiah Friesen Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11</p>	<p>December 17 9:30AM Worship Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Leader: Anna Yoder Schlabach Sermon: Karl Shelly Scripture: Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13</p>
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SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

9:30am Worship. [The Order of Worship can be read here.](#) This is the second Sunday of Advent. Our narrative lectionary texts for this season are all related to God’s promises, promises that God makes to people during times of uncertainty. Can God’s promises be trusted? Are new beginnings coming? The prophets remind us that especially in uncertain and disorienting times, God promises to rebuild, restore, and redeem. [Read the introduction and calendar here.](#)

2nd hour. Coffee & hot drinks will be served in the gathering space this Sunday to make room for the advent spiral. Please get your drink and then continue visiting in the worship space or participate in one of the two activities listed below.

- A gratitude activity being led by Brooke Rothshank in the Multipurpose space North. Please get your coffee and enter through the door across from the office. (Please stay for the whole time)
- An opportunity to walk the advent spiral. Please enter through the east doors. There are instructions on the door to the multipurpose space and on the tables inside the space. Please enter and exit quietly and follow the instructions. (Come and go)

Sharing Prayer Requests. Prayer requests are sent out to the congregation via the Assembly listserv on Wednesdays. If you have something to share with the congregation and are not able to share it on Sunday morning during sharing time, [please fill out this Google Form.](#) If you wish a pastor to follow up with you, please contact a pastor directly via email or phone.

<p>Assembly Mennonite Church Pastoral Team Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037 Anna Yoder Schlabach annays@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-5319 Scott Coulter scottc@assemblymennonite.org 419-535-2918 Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732 Pastoral Intern: Isaiah Friesen ifriesen@ambs.edu Pastor Emeritae: Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder</p>	<p>Elders: Sara Morris (chair), Randy Roth, Leon Bauman, Cheryl Shreiner, Trevor Daugherty, Ben Sywulka, Alex Graber Neufeld Youth Coordinators: Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Ryan Gomez Wengerd, Stephen Lowe, Gretchen Krause</p>
<p>Administrative Assistant: Becky Overholt (Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm) office@assemblymennonite.org; 574-534-4190 Church Administrator: Naomi Roots (M,W, Fri 9am-12pm) naomikr@assemblymennonite.org</p>	
<p>Please email announcements to assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org by 11PM local time Thursday for inclusion in the following Sunday’s AssemblyLine. To receive the AssemblyLine via email visit https://tinyurl.com/Aline-subscribe.</p>	

COMING UP

<https://assemblymennonite.org/about/calendar/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Dec 10 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:30am 2% Committee ● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school ● 2-4pm JYF cookie decorating ● 2pm Adult candle-dipping at Shantz's ● 7:30pm Holden evening prayer 				Dec 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8:30pm Reparations meeting on Zoom 		
Dec 17 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school ● 1pm MYF activity ● 7:30pm Holden evening prayer 	Dec 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Winter yoga retreat ● 6:30pm Dance group 	Dec 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Labyrinth walk 		Dec 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Longest night service 		
Dec 24 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship. No Sunday school ● 5:15pm Candle dance rehearsal ● 6pm Christmas Eve supper & service. RSVP required. 						
Dec 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Christmas breakfast ● 10:30am Lessons & Carols 		Jan 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5:30-8pm Small group childcare 		Jan 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Greencroft meetup 		Jan 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am-3pm Women's Christmas

COMMUNITY LIFE

Adult Candle-making fundraiser this Sunday, Dec 10! You are invited to Steve Shantz's at 2pm to make some candles and help pay off the mortgage! \$10 donation requested for each candle set. Address: 60728 CR 27, Goshen

End of Year Giving. In order for offerings to meet our anticipated expenses for 2023, we still need \$50,000 in giving before Dec 31. **Sunday, Dec 31** is the last opportunity to put money in the offering basket during worship this year, but you can also give by sending a check to the church office, or dropping it in the check drop box in the north door, or you can donate through the church website [here](#). Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Labyrinth walk: Join Meribeth Shank, certified labyrinth facilitator, on Tuesday, Dec 19 at 6pm in Assembly's multipurpose space. After a brief introduction to the labyrinth as a meditation tool, we'll walk together using a smaller canvas labyrinth, concluding with a chance to reflect together. Contact Meribeth Shank with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service: Join us at 6 pm for a simple soup and bread supper, followed by a play and candle dance. [Sign up here](#) to indicate interest in attending and bringing food. Please email annays@gmail.com if your children want to participate in the play. We'll rehearse after church on the 17th and 24th.

Women's Christmas, Sat., Jan. 6 at the meetinghouse, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The title for this year's retreat is "In the Light of a New Constellation" by Jan Richardson. This five-hour gathering will offer time for conversation, quiet reflection, and artistic expression. A \$10 registration fee covers the cost of materials. Note paper will be included, but feel free to bring your journal. You may want a sweater or jacket. Hot drinks will be available. A variety of soups will be provided for lunch. Please bring finger foods or desserts to share (remember: some eat gluten-free, others are vegetarians). Bring your own table service: bowls, spoons, mugs, napkins. RSVP by Dec. 31. To sign up, [click here](#).

ADVENT THROUGH EPIPHANY AT ASSEMBLY AT-A-GLANCE

Holden Evening Prayer (joint Assembly & Faith): Sunday, Dec 10 & Dec 17, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for this simple 20-minute vespers service of spoken and sung [prayers from Holden Village](#).

Adult Candle Dipping Fundraiser: Sunday December 10, 2:00 p.m Steve Shantz's home (60728 CR 27, Goshen) Make candles and pay off the mortgage! \$10 per candle pair.

Longest Night Service: Thursday, December 21, 7 p.m.

In the midst of this season of expectation and joy, we pause on the Longest Night of the year to also acknowledge our sorrows and longings. This service is geared for quiet reflection and will include singing, scripture, words of lament and assurance, and candles.

Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 6 p.m.

Multipurpose space and worship space

5:15 p.m.: Candle Dance rehearsal

6 p.m.: Join us for a simple soup and bread supper, followed by a play and candle dance. [Sign up here](#) to indicate interest in attending/participating.

Please email annays@gmail.com if your children want to participate in the play. We'll rehearse after church on the 17th and 24th.

Breakfast Potluck, December 31, 9:30 a.m.

Bring a festive finger food dish to share and your own place settings

Followed by a service of Lessons and Carols at 10:30 a.m.

Women's Christmas, Saturday, January 6, 10a-3p

Women's Christmas offers an opportunity at the end of the holiday season to celebrate with friends and to gather ourselves before diving into the year ahead. Suggested \$10 donation. Please [RSVP here](#) by Dec 31.

Epiphany/ Assembly's 50th Birthday kick off Sunday, January 7, 9:30 a.m.

DOING JUSTICE & SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Calling all pie bakers - Please consider donating some pies for the Goshen Presbyterian Church Christmas day meal. Contact Julie Mark with questions or to donate at 574-220-2592

Bushelcraft Farm has two upcoming opportunities for folks to directly support its work in the community. 1)

Bushelcraft Farm will offer food baskets to families at Boys & Girls Club of Goshen and to The United Village from Dec 15th through early April. Baskets will include a few vegetable items, as well as specific grocery items named in recipes. We'd love donations of gift cards to Kroger and Martin's Supermarket and/or directly purchasing and donating items needed (items vary per delivery). 2) On Sat. Dec 16th, Bushelcraft Farm is hosting volunteers from American Dream Project between 12:45-2pm at the farm and would like to offer a quality catered snack, hot beverages, and/or homemade goodies to thank volunteers. If you would like to contribute financially, materially, or by giving volunteer labor, contact Jon Zirkle (574-612-5063 or bushelcraftfarm@gmail.com).

Our neighbors are hungry. This is the last month to add a donation to the grey bin under the mailboxes. Barb Hassan will be taking your contributions to Center for Healing & Hope. Their Tiny Pantry is a no-barrier access to food at any time for anyone. They especially need rice, canned beans, tortillas (flour or corn), applesauce, peanut butter, toilet paper, feminine products and soap. Want to take something special for the holidays? Winter hat/glove sets, socks, Abuelita Mexican hot chocolate and oranges are welcome. Assembly is not solely responsible for filling the pantry this month, but we will be again sometime next year. Comments? Susan Mark Landis

MENNONITE ACTION

Mennonite Action's 2nd Mass Meeting - Tuesday, December 12th at 8pm EST. You're invited to participate. At the last virtual meeting, more than 850 Mennonites joined together to grieve the ongoing violence in Palestine, to call for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, and to prepare to take nonviolent action together. The 12/12 mtg will include updates about the work that has taken place, preparation for upcoming actions, and hearing from speakers who will remind us that our faith as Mennonites and Christians compels us to act. [To sign up, visit mennoniteaction.org/call](http://mennoniteaction.org/call)

Join Northern Indiana-area Mennonites and interfaith allies for the Day of Mennonite Action for a Ceasefire on December 19th. On Tuesday, December 19th, hundreds of Mennonites across the US and Canada will hold peaceful demonstrations at their representatives' offices calling for a ceasefire and an ending to the bombardment of Gaza. The demonstrations are part of an international Day of Mennonite Action for a Ceasefire, organized by Mennonite Action. We will show our political leaders, our fellow community members, and our Palestinian, Jewish, Arab and Muslim loved ones that there are Christians and Mennonites who stand with them in their call for peace and a ceasefire now. Here in Northern Indiana, we will gather on December 19 at Representative Yakym's office, located at 2410 Grape Road, Suite 2A, Mishawaka at a time to be determined. We will sing songs, share our stories, pray for peace, and call on him to support a permanent ceasefire in Gaza immediately. If you can join, please email Julia Gautsche at juliagautsche@gmail.com. For more information about Mennonite Action visit mennoniteaction.org

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Out of Office: December 8 will be the last day that Naomi Roots will be in the office until January 17, 2024. She will be traveling with her family to Peru for the holidays. Please direct all check requests to Becky Overholt at office@assemblymennonite.org. All offering questions should be directed to John Nafziger at offering@assemblymennonite.org.

An Immigrant Ministries Team is being formed at Assembly Mennonite Church to continue the work that was started by Small Group Crisalida. We are accompanying an immigrant family as they navigate the ongoing and ever changing challenges of learning to live autonomously in a new culture/country. We are looking for others to join us in this work. There are different ways and levels of participation that you could become involved in. Examples are providing oversight, working on long term issues, like housing, or direct support such as assisting with language education, tutoring, mentoring, occasional help with transportation, or financial assistance. Spanish language ability is not required but some is useful. For more information regarding the structure of this group, click [here](#). If you are interested, contact Naomi Roots, Char Yutzy, Leon Bauman, Patricia or Joel Zwier.

Goshen Montessori Preschool Update: Please read about changes involving GMP [here](#). Goshen Montessori Preschool operates in the Assembly meetinghouse Tues-Thurs (<https://goshenmontessori.org/about-us/>).

ADVENT RESOURCES FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

LGBTQIA+ Advent Devotional - *What are you waiting for?* Organizational leaders came together from the National LGBTQ Task Force, Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, Room for All, and Transmission Ministry Collective to build this resource as representatives of the Collective of Queer Christian Leaders. Within this Advent devotional, we hope to subvert aspects of our traditions that bind us to prejudice and injustice, while offering grounding for the present and hope for the future. This resource is available as a PDF to our communities to download, print and distribute within your communities at no charge. [Download the advent devotional here](#).

Community Peacemaker Teams Advent Calendar. As many Christian communities anticipate Advent, join us daily to discover profiles of Palestinians who embody resistance through impactful art, music, and poetry. Explore narratives of strength and unity, featuring individuals dedicated to cultivating solidarity with Palestine. Let's celebrate the season with interconnectedness and shared stories, working together toward a free Palestine! [English](#). [Spanish](#).

Advent at Home. "How will we know?" This free worship guide written by Talashia Keim Yoder "encourages us to do the spiritual work of this season: to watch and wait, to discern, to 'wonder and wander,' to ask questions, to live without instant gratification, to do the work of the present while anticipating the fulfillment of the future." You can use this guide weekly, daily, or some combination of both. [Available in English and Spanish from Mennonite Education Agency here](#).

WIDER CHURCH

Mennonite Church USA launches Safe Church webpage. [Safe Church](#), Mennonite Church USA's newly formed abuse prevention ministry, now has a webpage available on the MC USA website. The webpage offers resources to help faith communities keep children, youth and vulnerable adults safe from all abuse.

[Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of War](#) - [Becoming undone: Grief work as a vital spiritual practice](#). As the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues to rage on, Chris Hoover Seidel reflects on how she has learned to handle her own grief, while also holding space for those grieving around her.

Newsletters: [Mennonite Central Committee](#)

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren, who have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches and communities in the Argentine Chaco since 2004. Pray for them as they provide continuity in long-term relationships and encourage the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Goshen Community Chorale will be presenting *Light of Love: Songs for Advent and Winter Solstice* on December 17, 4:00 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church, 202 S. Greene Road, Goshen, IN. Along with selections written by John Rutter, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Robert Shaw, and Donald Fraser among others, the concert is a special collaboration with Nayo Ulloa, Peruvian born composer and flutist singing Ulloa's original compositions for the Christmas and other Latin American carols arranged for chorus by Bradley Kauffman, the Chorale's Artistic Director and conductor. The concert is free to all. Donations will be welcomed at the close of the concert to help defray expenses. Join Ruth Kaufmann and Katie Schramm of Assembly as they join with fifty other singers to make this concert an important part of your preparations for the Christmas season.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Pollinator's webinar (focus on Europe). Hosted by Mennonite World Conference. Tuesday, Dec 12 at 9am EST. [Register here.](#)

"Faithful at Work: Unveiling Justice Through Anabaptist Principles in the Workplace" webinar. Hosted by Mennonite Health Services Association and led by Regina Shands Stoltzfus on Tuesday, Dec 19 at 2 pm EST. [Register here.](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Hively Avenue Mennonite Church is seeking a half-time Administrative Secretary by March 1, 2024. We seek an office manager who will maintain records, supplies and equipment, and be responsible for communication within the congregation and online. This position involves regular office hours M–F with flexibility for personal needs. Requirements assume familiarity with office software and equipment and the ability to work independently and interact easily with adults and children. For information, see the job description: www.hivelymennonite.org/About/staff. To apply, send a letter and resume to Moderator@hivelymennonite.org

Bethany Christian School job openings can be found [here](#). **Goshen College** job openings can be found [here](#). **AMBS** job openings can be found [here](#). **Other Mennonite Education** job postings can be found [here](#). **Mennonite Church USA's** job postings are [here](#).

Current COVID-19 Information (Dec 8, 2023)

In Elkhart County, Indiana, the [COVID-19 Community Risk Level](#) is **Low**.

Masks are optional. Please join on Zoom if you are feeling sick.

We encourage everyone to stay up to date on vaccinations and boosters.

For current vaccination recommendations see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

For more information visit <https://assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information/>