

WORSHIP

Join us on Sundays in Person, or [on Zoom](#)

<p>December 24 9:30AM Worship No Sunday School</p> <p>Worship Leader: Kimberly Glick Sermon: Regina Shands Stoltzfus Scripture: Luke 1:5-13 [14- 25], 57-80</p>	<p>December 31 9:30AM Christmas breakfast potluck 10:30AM Lessons & Carols</p> <p>Worship Leader: Becky Snider</p>
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SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

9:30am Worship. [The Order of Worship can be read here.](#) This is the fourth 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.](#)

There is no Sunday school or 2nd hour this Sunday. There are also no hot drinks for fellowship time. If you are able, please help set up for the Christmas Eve supper in the Multipurpose space.

5:15pm Candle dance rehearsal

6pm Christmas Eve supper & service

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.

PASTOR SCHEDULES

Many of the pastors are traveling at some point during the holidays. Below is a summary through the end of the year.

Karl Shelly will be gone Dec 21-31

Lora Nafziger will be gone Dec 23-29

Scott Coulter is unavailable Dec 23

Anna Yoder Schlabach will be gone Dec 25-31

<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 lorach@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 (out of office through Jan 16) 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 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. 	<i>Office closed</i>					
Dec 31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Christmas breakfast ● 10:30am Lessons & Carols 	<i>Office closed</i>		Jan 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 11:30am Women's lunch bunch ● 5:30-8pm Small group childcare 		Jan 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Greencroft meetup ● MYF Winter camp 	Jan 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am-3pm Women's Christmas ● MYF winter camp
Jan 7 <i>Epiphany</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school ● MYF Winter camp 	Jan 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Dance group 	Jan 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6pm Labyrinth walk ● 7pm Leadership group 			Jan 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JYF winter camp 	Jan 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JYF winter camp

COMMUNITY LIFE

We grieve with Marilyn Miller, Janine & Dave Ostergren and Michelle & Nick Miller Good on the death of Glen Miller on Dec 21. Memorial service arrangements will be communicated at a later date.

Christmas Eve Set up: Those are who are able, please gather in the MP space right after worship to set up for the Christmas Eve service. There are instruction sheets and materials on the chair cabinets. Many hands make light work. Thanks! Anna

Breakfast potluck next Sunday! On Dec 31, at 9:30am please join us and bring a festive finger food to share and your own place settings. A service of Lessons & Carols will follow at 10:30am.

January Women's lunch bunch will be Jan 3 at 11:30am. Anna Yoder Schlabach will be speaking about her sabbatical. Bring your lunch; drinks provided.

Small group childcare: The next small group childcare will take place on Jan 3 from 5:30-8pm. [Please sign up your children here.](#)

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.](#)

Thanks. Alma Boyle would like to thank everyone who participated in her Winter Solstice Restorative Yoga Mini Retreat and Assembly for providing the space. A total of \$440 was raised supporting The Window and First Light Mission who were very grateful for the donations.

ADVENT THROUGH EPIPHANY AT ASSEMBLY AT-A-GLANCE

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.

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.

FINANCIAL LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

End of year offerings: John Nafziger will be out of town from Dec 23 past the end of the year. You can still email him any offering questions during that time at offering@assemblymennonite.org. Please do not put checks in his mailbox, instead, put them in the offering, in the box outside the church office or in the slot for the checks box in the North door.

Thank you for your generous giving! **In order to avoid a deficit for 2023, we still need about \$15,000 in giving by December 31st.** We do have enough cash reserves to pay all our bills.

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](#).

Two Percent Committee met December 10. We suggest these disbursements.

- **LOCAL:** [Church Community Services](#), \$400; [Cora Dale House](#) (formerly Clubhouse), \$500; [First Light Mission](#), \$500; [Goshen Ministerial Association](#), \$1000; [Walnut Hill Early Childhood Center](#) \$500; [The Window](#), \$1,200.
- **NATIONAL AND WORLD:** [Association for a More Just Society](#), \$500; [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), \$600; [Mennonite Central Committee](#), \$1000; [Mennonite Men for trees](#), \$500.

If you have any questions about these disbursements, please talk to a member of the Two Percent Committee: Susan Mark Landis, chair; Glenn Gilbert, Barb Hassan, Marshall King or Barb Swartley ASAP, by **Dec 24**.

GOSHEN MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

Goshen Montessori Preschool is an active and thriving child-care ministry of our church. During the week, our building is filled with a cacophony of sounds from busy toddlers, preschoolers, and teachers. Can you help us fulfill our mission as we move into 2024? We welcome your [donations](#). Read more [here](#).

DOING JUSTICE & SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Young adults! Mennonite Central Committee Appalachia SWAP program is accepting applications for 2024. SWAP is a home repair ministry program in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Volunteers help families make their homes safe, warm and dry, while building relationships and learning about Appalachia. Apply today to reserve your spot at <https://mcc.org/get-involved/volunteer/swap>

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

First Light Mission: You can read their Christmas letter [here](#).

Current COVID-19 Information (Dec 22, 2023)

In Elkhart County, Indiana, the [COVID-19 Community Risk Level](#) is **Low**. (Several surrounding counties have moved to a **Medium** risk level).

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/>

MENNONITE ACTION

There are a number of ways you can take action in support of a ceasefire in Palestine (in order from least to highest commitment):

- Sign a petition with hundreds of other US Mennonites calling on our federal representatives to support a permanent ceasefire. [Click here for the petition](#)
- Join the **Slack Channel** where folks can meet each other and keep up to date for the most recent movement/plans from Menno Action. [Click here to join the Slack channel](#)
- **Action Hours:** On Tuesdays and Thursdays Mennonite Action will hold action hours where they will call our representatives together, as a Mennonite community. We encourage you to join as many of these action hours as you're able, as our representatives need to continue to hear from us.
- On **January 16th**, hundreds of Mennonites will gather in **Washington DC to peacefully demonstrate for a permanent ceasefire**. Together, 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. We will bring this petition with us, to demonstrate that thousands of Mennonites from across the United States stand together for a permanent ceasefire and an end to occupation. As soon as details are worked out, they'll be posted on [MennoAction's website](#).

WIDER CHURCH

Newsletters: [Mennonite Disaster Service](#)

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for peace in the land where Jesus was born more than 2000 years ago. Pray, especially, for partners — Bethlehem Bible College, Nazareth Hospital and Nazareth Village — who faithfully work to peel away the layers of fear and hate that distort Jesus' message of peace, in a time of escalating violence in Israel-Palestine.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Gain peacebuilding skills at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary! Prepare for work and scholarship at the cross-section of theology and transformative peacebuilding through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's **Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies** program. Explore a topic of your choice from multiple angles and design a peacebuilding internship in your area of interest. ambs.edu/matps

The Trail of Death: A Pilgrimage of Remembrance, Lament and Transformation: June 10–24. Participants in this nine-day pilgrimage will trace the route of the U.S. military's 1838 forced removal of Potawatomi people from their ancestral homeland in northern Indiana to present-day Osawatimie, Kansas. This intensive AMBS course can be taken for credit, audit or no credit (trip only). Limit: 15 participants. Sign up by May 1. ambs.edu/trail-of-death

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Hively Avenue Preschool is seeking a teacher to work with children ages 3 and 4. The position involves approximately 20 hours per week. A degree or certification in early childhood or elementary education is highly preferred. Interested candidates should email their resume to Amy Redar, preschool director preschool@hivelymennonite.org

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](#).