

## WORSHIP

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 3</b>  <b>9:30AM Worship</b>  <b>Second hour: <i>Messiah Sing</i></b>  <i>Fellowship Meal</i>  <i>2% Offering</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship Leader:</b> Stephen Lowe  <b>Sermon:</b> Scott Coulter  <b>Scripture:</b> Jeremiah 33: 10-18, 25-26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December 10</b>  <b>9:30AM Worship</b>  <b>Sunday School</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Worship Leader:</b> Sean Smuts  <b>Sermon:</b> Isaiah Friesen  <b>Scripture:</b> Isaiah 40:1-11</p>
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## SUNDAY DECEMBER 3

**8:00am Messiah orchestra rehearsal** Instrumentalists of all abilities are welcome, especially our youth. Please bring a music stand if you have one and plan to play with the orchestra.

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> hour Messiah sing** Join us for Second Hour for this annual tradition, bring your own Messiah score if you have it. Children through 4th grade will have Sunday school as usual and then join in the end of the Messiah singing. 5th grade and above will be with parents/mentors and participating in the Messiah singing.

**Potluck.** Following the Messiah Sing there will be a potluck. Please bring a dish (or two) to share, and plates and utensils for your household. The Hospitality Committee requests that households with names beginning with A through L bring a main dish, and M through Z bring a side or salad. Everyone should feel free to bring a dessert in addition. If you prefer to bring something different than requested that's fine; what's important is to have plenty of all types of food, especially as we anticipate hosting additional visitors because of the Messiah sing.

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

## COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Dec 3 <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> hour Messiah Sing</i> <i>2% Offering</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>• 12pm: Fellowship meal</li> <li>• 7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>	Dec 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6:30pm Dance group</li> </ul>	Dec 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm Leadership group</li> </ul>	Dec 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11:30am Women's lunch bunch</li> <li>• 5:30pm Small group childcare</li> </ul>			Dec 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5:30 &amp; 7pm Advent Spiral</li> </ul>
Dec 10 <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:30am 2% Committee</li> <li>• 9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>• 2pm Adult candle-dipping</li> <li>• 7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>		Dec 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6pm Labyrinth walk</li> </ul>				
Dec 17 <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>• 1pm MYF activity</li> <li>• 1pm JYF caroling</li> <li>• 7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>	Dec 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6pm Winter yoga retreat</li> <li>• 6:30pm Dance group</li> </ul>			Dec 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7pm Longest night service</li> </ul>		

## BIRTHDAYS



**Betsy Lehman (Magnolia Ct, Greencroft) turns 90 years old on December 3!** Betsy was born in Beatrice, Nebraska. She met Jim at Bethel College where she was a nursing major. She went on to get a doctorate in nursing education from Columbia University. She spent many years working in India with the Christian Medical Association of India where she traveled extensively as a consultant and then returned to the US and worked as a professor of nursing at Pace University in New York. She and Jim have six children and fourteen grandchildren.

**Bryn Rothshank (2nd, BCS) turns 8 on Dec. 5th!** Bryn is great at telling time, using her imagination, and doing math. She loves that each day at school is a special National celebration! She loves roller skating in gym and movie night with her family. She is good at baking brownies and is learning to play piano.



## COMMUNITY LIFE

**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](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org). All offering questions should be directed to John Nafziger at [offering@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:offering@assemblymennonite.org).

**December Lunch Bunch Program - *Piano and Poetry*** - We will gather on Wednesday, December 6 at 11:30am in the worship space for a program of singing, poetry, and piano duets performed by Patricia Nuyken and Rebecca Slough, followed by food and fellowship in the multipurpose space. Please bring finger foods to share for our lunch. Coffee, tea and water will be provided. Please RSVP to Amy Kauffman.

**December Small group childcare** will be happening Wednesday, Dec 6 from 5:30-8pm. [Please sign up your child here.](#)

**Two Percent Committee** meets December 10 for the last time this year. Please contact [SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com) with suggestions or requests, including for public school funds, by December 2. Remember that we give to established organizations, not individuals. We don't begin programs. Other members on the committee are Barb Swartley, Glenn Gilbert, Barb Hassan, Joel Zwier and Marshall King.

**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/>).

**Fundraising winter solstice restorative yoga mini retreat** – Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm in the Gathering space. This event is already full but please let Alma Boyle know if you want to be on a waiting list.

## **ADVENT THROUGH EPIPHANY AT ASSEMBLY AT-A-GLANCE**

**Advent countdown candles can be picked up on the table outside the worship space.**

**Holden Evening Prayer (joint Assembly & Faith): First three Sundays of Advent, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**Candle Dipping: Saturday, December 2, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. (3:00p.m. JYF only)**

Steve Shantz's home (60728 CR 27, Goshen)

1pm and 2pm times are for children K-5th grade. Younger children are encouraged to come at 1p.m.

**Messiah Sing along and Potluck: December 3**

8 a.m. Orchestra rehearsal (all musicians welcome! Scores for singers and musicians can be found in the music closet) Join us for Second Hour for this annual tradition, bring your own Messiah score if you have it.

**Advent Spiral: Saturday December 9, at 5:30 and 7 p.m.** Multipurpose space

The Advent spiral, a contemplative, candlelight labyrinth walk is an Assembly tradition. Children ages 3 and up are invited to participate. Older children (especially Junior high age) are encouraged to attend at 7 p.m. Please sign up to attend by emailing [Loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:Loracn@assemblymennonite.org). We will leave it up for adults to use second hour on Dec 10.

**Adult Candle Dipping Fundraiser: Sunday December 10, 2:00 p.m** Steve Shantz's home (60728 CR 27, Goshen) [Sign up](#) to make candles and pay off the mortgage! \$10 per candle pair. There is still plenty of space. Please come!

**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](mailto: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. Look for more info in the coming weeks.

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

## DOING JUSTICE & SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

**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.

**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 and 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 sometime next year again. Comments? Susan Mark Landis

## ADVENT RESOURCES FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

**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

**Pathways Retreat** is offering several retreats this winter: [Living that Matters for Men](#), [Meditative Zentangle-inspired Art](#), and [Breathing in Harmony with Sacred Time: A Yoga Practice for Every Body](#). Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at [pathwaysretreat.org](http://pathwaysretreat.org).

**Bethany Christian Schools 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Christmas Gala – Friday, Dec 8 at 7pm.** Doors open at 6:30pm. Sauder Concert Hall, Goshen College Campus. This event is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. On-site overflow seating with livestream viewing will be available as needed.

**New *Vision* issue on "Family" available for free online.** The Fall 2023 issue of *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* — edited by Andy Brubacher Kaethler, PhD — explores how the church can play a positive role in supporting families without relying on a narrow understanding of the ideal family unit itself. [ams.edu/vision](http://ams.edu/vision)

**Newsletters:** [Pathways Retreat](#), [Jubilee Partners](#)

**Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer.** Pray for the participants in Mennonite Mission Network's Tucson, Arizona, Mennonite Voluntary Service unit — Nely Cotuc, Hannah Nuest, Ally Weaver, Magdalena Wenger and Deborah Yoder — as they help extend the ministries of their host congregation, Shalom Mennonite Fellowship, through welcoming immigrants, promoting literacy and working to protect the environment.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Everence webinar - "Make Medicare an Easy Step":** Monday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. EST on Zoom. [Register here](#).

**Racism is Real Dialogue Series: "Healing White Body Supremacy" webinar.** Join Roots of Life on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. EST via Facebook Live. Register [here](#) to learn more and receive a link to the recording. Contributions appreciated.

**Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Jan. 31 – March 12.** Study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and consider those similarities and differences in light of today. Instructors for this six-week AMBS Online Short Course are Laura Brenneman-Fullwood, PhD, and David Cramer, PhD. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Sign up by Jan. 10 to save \$50. [ams.edu/online-short-courses](https://ams.edu/online-short-courses)

## 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](https://www.hivelymennonite.org/About/staff). To apply, send a letter and resume to [Moderator@hivelymennonite.org](mailto: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 1, 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/>