

AssemblyLine

December 1, 2019

Volume XXXVIII, Number 48

Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / office@assemblymennonite.org

Worship at 9:30am, Sunday school at 10:45am

WORSHIP

December 1 1 st Sunday of Advent	December 8 2 nd Sunday of Advent
Worship leader: <i>Mary Lehman Yoder</i> Preacher: <i>Bethany Swope</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Cardinal & Pizza Seed</i> 2% Offering	Worship leader: <i>Barb Swartley</i> Preacher: <i>Anna Yoder Schlabach</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Ad Lib & 8th St+</i>
Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44	Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

CALENDAR

Tue	Dec 3	7pm Leadership Group meeting
Wed	Dec 4	6pm Small group childcare at meetinghouse 6:30pm Small Group Welcome at meetinghouse
Fri	Dec 6	9:30am Greencroft meetup
Sun	Dec 8	Messiah Sing during 2 nd hour Fellowship meal following Messiah Sing 1-3pm JYF December Activity: Gym Time at Bethany Christian Schools
Wed	Dec 11	6pm (K-2) and 7pm (3 rd -5 th) Candle Dipping for K-5 at Steve Shantz's home
Fri	Dec 13	Women's Lunch Bunch Christmas Tea at meetinghouse
Sat	Dec 15	Advent Spiral 5:30 & 7pm for families with children

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

Martha Hanby (K, Waterford) turned 6 on Nov 26! At school, Martha loves music, library and reading. She enjoys playing with her kitty and making up games and imaginative stories with her sister. Martha is really good at riding a bike and is working on getting up by herself and telling time. She enjoys tickle fights with her daddy!

Aydian Smuts (7th GMS) turns 13 on Dec 1! Aydian is good at Minecraft, and especially enjoys building forts and using invisible blocks. He likes to read and is currently enjoying the Hazardous Tales series. He enjoys watching TV with his dad and playing football. He likes playing with his little brother, Ben. He would like a fancy car and a dog.

Bryn Rothshank (PreK Montessori) turns 4 on Dec 5! She likes piggybacks with her brother and looking at the big book of the world at school. She loves sledding and likes to play with her friends and drink tea. She's really good at jumping and loves ice cream. She is looking forward to a butterfly cake for her birthday.

TODAY is the first Sunday of Advent. Our theme this year is "A way where there is no way." Our Advent worship seeks to create a space to slow down and rest; space to reflect on our longings; space to watch for their signs as we wait for Christ to be born in our lives and in our world. Read the introduction to this series [here](#). Next Sun, Dec 8 we will hold our Messiah Sing during 2nd hour followed by a potluck meal.

Join us for Second Hour this Sunday, either: (1) in the Worship Space for sermon response and sharing, or (2) in Multipurpose North (past where coffee is served) for contemplative coloring and letter writing to Eloi detention center detainees. Directions and materials are on tables.

For many of us, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. During Advent, Lora Nafziger has put together simple reflections and activities to help create an alternative space in your home. They are emailed to families with children, and the first in this series is [available for everyone here](#). Children have advent countdown candles in their mailboxes and there are candles for households without children on the literature table.

Free childcare for young children of families participating in a small group will be held this upcoming Wed, Dec 4 from 6-8:30pm. If you plan to bring your child(ren) please RSVP to office@assemblymennonite.org so we can plan to have the appropriate number of caregivers.

Small Group Welcome is a new type of Assembly small group which is open to anyone who wants to show up for: worship (a lectionary reading), quiet reflection, brief discussion, sharing the highs and lows from our lives, and prayer. Come occasionally or come regularly. We will meet 1st & 3rd Wed at the meetinghouse from 6:30-7:45pm (families with young children are invited to use the free childcare on the 1st Wed of the month).

Next Sun, Dec 8, we will hold our annual Messiah sing along. We will have some vocal scores, but please bring your own if you have one. There will be an orchestra rehearsal at 8am. We have instrumental music to distribute, but copies are available to be downloaded for free [here](#). [Click the "Arrangements and Transcriptions" tab and select the Prout edition (which is at the top of the list).] Questions: please email mateers@aol.com

It's never too early to start thinking about the Christmas Eve play! Each year we have a simple soup supper and play on Christmas Eve. If your children are going to be there and would like to participate in a play, please email Anna at annays@assemblymennonite.org. We will find parts for as many children as want to be involved. We'll plan to "rehearse" it during the potluck on Dec 8 and after church on Dec 22.

Candle dipping on Wed Dec 11 – this is an annual tradition for children at Assembly that takes place in Steve Shantz's garage (60728 CR 27, Goshen). Wear old and warm clothes. Children in grades K-2 are invited at 6pm; grades 3-5 at 7pm. (If it is easier for your family to have children come outside of their age group that is ok!) Parents may drop off their children, or stay as they wish. Questions? call Steve at: 574-534-5315.

The Advent spiral, a contemplative, candlelight labyrinth walk is an Assembly tradition for children and adults. This year children ages 3 and up are invited to participate on Saturday Dec 14 at 5:30 and 7pm. Older children (especially junior high age) are encouraged to

attend at 7pm. Please sign up to attend by emailing Loracn@assemblymennonite.org. Adults will be invited into the Advent spiral during 2nd hour on Sun Dec 15.

In order to meet our budget this year we need just a little more than \$88,000 in giving during December. Our giving is up significantly this year, though our budget is bigger too. Our December giving is often strong, so we are hopeful about meeting our budget. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

This is the time of year when non-profits and charities seek donations. Donations made prior to Dec 31 may be tax deductible. IRA distributions, gifts of commodities or large gifts to donor advised funds are worth exploring! Contact your Everence financial advisor for guidance or talk with Assembly's Everence advocate Barb Hassan.

(repeat) **Curious about the letters** we've been reading at children's time each week? See them for yourselves in a display in the multipurpose space. Eleven churches participated in our children's church letter exchange!

(repeat) **Consider signing up** to take a meal to Sean and Becky Smuts.

<https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/UREN1717>

(repeat) **Marna Mateer** will hold a book signing at Fables Books from 6-8pm on Dec 6. [Click here](#) for more info.

(repeat) **Do you subscribe** to The Mennonite magazine? ([Click here](#) for more info if you've never heard of it.)

Assembly has a group subscription, and all are welcome to join! A regular subscription is \$46 per year and Assembly's group subscription costs \$37 per year. Look in your mailbox or on the lit table for a half sheet explaining how to sign up.

community connections

Bethany Christian Schools will hold Christmas concerts for grades 4-8 this week and next week in the school's chapel. On Tue, Dec 3, choral groups will perform at 7pm. On Tue, Dec 10, beginning and intermediate instrumental groups will perform at 6:30pm; the middle school band and orchestra will perform at 7:30. The concerts are open to the public; there is no admission charge.

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Pastoral Team

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Anna Yoder Schlabach annays@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-5319
Scott Coulter scottc@assemblymennonite.org 419-535-2918

Pastor Emeritae: Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

Administrator: Naomi Roots (M/W 9-3:30, F 9-12) office@assemblymennonite.org 574-534-4190

Elders: Dennis Landis (chair), Wilma Harder, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Jonathon Schramm, Anne Horst Hanby, Jamie Lake, Hannah Friesen
Youth Coordinators: Sarah Sutter Kaufmann, Aaron Kaufmann, Ally Mast, Hannah Friesen

Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to be a dynamic Christian community by together meeting God who draws us beyond ourselves into nurturing, sharing, and living the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ. ~ Mission Statement, adopted June 1997

As a reconciling faith community, Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to follow Jesus' example by welcoming all who come our way, regardless of age, economic or social circumstances, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical ability, race, or sexual orientation. ~ Welcome statement, adopted Dec. 1999

Two opportunities to support Bethany Christian Schools: Culver's is having a Give Back Night Tue, Dec 3 from 6-9pm. NO coupons necessary, just show up between 6-9pm! Shop Ten Thousand Villages in Goshen (206 S. Main St.) Dec 9-14. Tell the cashier that you are shopping for Bethany and 20 percent of sales will be donated to Bethany. Your loved ones will enjoy the creative handcrafted gifts you purchase and artisans will receive vital, fair income as you support Bethany.

Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night. Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney basketball games on Sat, Dec 21. Boys game begins at 6 and girls at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

Register now at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) for *Shaping Faith in a Digital Culture*: March 2–5. Join fellow faith leaders at a joint conference of *Pastors and Leaders 2020* and *Deep Faith* on the AMBS campus in Elkhart, Indiana. You'll think and reflect theologically together about living, worshiping and playing in digital spaces. First-time attenders get 25% off!
ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders

Consider recycling more of your waste! Here are two little-known recycling opportunities: 1. Recycle your Styrofoam at Tri-Power Recycling, (1240 Anderson St. in Elkhart), a family-owned and operated recycling company that accepts and recycles Styrofoam (EPS-expanded Polystyrene)! Learn more tri-powerrecycling.com 2. Terracycling! Hively Avenue Preschool (at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, 800 E. Hively Avenue in Elkhart) collects hard-to-recycle waste items to divert them from landfills and earn money. TerraCycle reuses, upcycles and recycles these materials into eco-friendly products and contributes an average of \$.02 per item to the preschool. The preschool began recycling through TerraCycle in 2010 and has helped to collect and recycle more than 600,000 units of waste, raising over \$6,000 for the preschool and \$3,000 for other charities. You can help by bringing in any of the items on the collection list found at preschool.hivelymennonite.org/terracycle, such as inner cereal and cracker bags, drink pouches, foil-lined snack bar

wrappers, chip and pretzel bags, Brita filters, toothbrushes, plastic markers, dry-erase markers and more.

As you determine your year-end giving, The Depot MCC Resource Center welcomes contributions to defray the cost of their solar project that was installed earlier this year. Checks should be made out to The Depot and mailed to 1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN 46528 or given to a cashier at the thrift shop. Please designate your contribution to “Solar Project.” Questions should be directed to Dan Williams at TheDepot1013@gmail.com.

Urgent need! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is seeking contracted or volunteer services, about 1-2 hrs/wk with regular access to the Goshen Post Office. Work involves collecting mail, scanning and electronically sending checks and documents, and depositing funds at Everence FCU. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Paul Leichty at MHF, pdleichty@mennohealth.org. See www.mennohealth.org for more details.

Mennonite Mission Network is seeking a full-time finance assistant and a half time recruiter. You can see the positions descriptions at www.mennonitemission.net under “employment opportunities”. To begin the application process for either of these positions, send your resumé to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net or call Linda Krueger, HR Coordinator (574-523-3009) for more info.

(repeat) **First Friday meal** at The Window: Dec 6, 4:30-7pm. Menu: 2 Salvadoran bean & cheese pupusas, cabbage salad and salsa, rice pudding. \$9 suggested donation, \$2 for each extra pupusa. Organized by Faith Mennonite, with live music performance by Lost Luggage Trio. All proceeds go to support The Window's programs to end hunger locally.

(repeat) **Goshen College will again present** A Festival of Carols, the annual Christmas music extravaganza and one of the most highly-anticipated concerts of the year, on Dec 6 and 7 at 7:30pm, and Dec 8 at 4pm. The concert will feature performances by the Goshen College Choirs, Goshen College Symphony Orchestra and special guests, interspersed with audience singing and readings. Tickets are \$16 and can be purchased online at

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goshen.edu/tickets or through the Goshen College Box Office.

(repeat) **Men's choral singing** meets folk-rock hammered dulcimer in celebration and musical innovation, when Ted Yoder and The Open Fifths join forces for a holiday extravaganza. Ted is a National Hammered Dulcimer Champion; The Open Fifths perform a variety of music for men's voices from sacred to popular. Two Christmas concerts are Sat, Dec 7, 7:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, 3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart and Sun, Dec 15, 2:30 p.m. at Assembly Mennonite Church, 727 New York St., Goshen. Door prices are \$18 adults and \$12 seniors/students. Advance tickets are \$15 and \$10, available through Ted Yoder's website at www.tedyoder.com/concerts. The concerts may sell out in advance.

(repeat) **Greene Road Church** in Goshen is looking for a part-time church secretary for 12 hours a week. A job description is available on their website: www.greeneroadchurch.org. Those who are interested can email the church at: office@greeneroadchurch.org or call 574-533-2676.

(repeat) **Yoder Insurance** (A Division of Hummel Group) in Shipshewana, IN is looking to expand with a full-time Personal Risk Advisor. Personal Risk Advisors are responsible for helping clients manage their risk through the use of insurance strategies. If interested, go online to <https://www.hummelgrp.com/careers>.

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