

AssemblyLine

December 15, 2019

Volume XXXVIII, Number 50

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 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	December 22 4th Sunday of Advent
<p>Worship leader: <i>Becky Snider</i> Preacher: <i>Lisa Koop</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Tumbleweeds & Well Seasoned</i></p> <p>Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11</p>	<p>Worship leader: <i>Mary Lehman Yoder</i> Preacher: <i>Scott Coulter</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Cashew & Almond</i></p> <p>Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25</p>

CALENDAR

Sat	Dec 14	Advent Spiral 5:30 & 7pm for families with children
TODAY	Dec 15	NO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN DECEMBER
Wed	Dec 18	Small Group Welcome at meetinghouse, 6:30 PM
Sat	Dec 21	7pm Longest Night Service
Tue	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve soup and bread supper at meetinghouse
Sun	Dec 29	9:30am Christmas breakfast, 10:30am 1 st hour worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

TODAY is the third 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](#).

In order to meet our budget this year we need \$42,000 in giving the next three Sundays. 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.

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.

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 most recent email for the 3rd

week of Advent [can be viewed here](#). Children have advent countdown candles in their mailboxes and there are candles for households without children on the literature table.

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 this Wed, Dec 18 at the meetinghouse from 6:30-7:45pm.

2020 Hospitality and Childcare tasks calendars are finished and available to view [on our website here](#) and on the bulletin board outside the CE closet (next to the church office, #10). If you signed up for a task, you should have received an email with your assigned dates, and you will find the same information in your church mailbox. Email office@assemblymennonite.org if you would like a hard copy of the entire year's schedule or if you have any questions/concerns.

John Blosser and Beck Unternahrer have finally joined the 21st century. They've dropped their land line. Please delete their old land line phone number: 534-2356 and instead use their cell phone numbers: John's is (574) 361-0403 & Beck's is (574) 612-8915

Does anyone have a toddler size mattress to lay on the floor, a potty chair, or seat to put on top of the toilet, and a booster chair to sit at the table for our visiting grandson Dec 23-27? Julie Keim, 536-3208

Hospitality for All: We continue to find ways to make our new worship space welcoming for everyone. Please remember that: ♦Needs for personal space are different for different people. Ask before giving a hug or greeting someone in a physical manner. ♦Some of us find the intensity of the LED flood lights in the front of the worship space is too bright. When you turn these lights on, please use the dimmer switches and don't turn them to full brightness. ♦Some have serious scent allergies. Please don't use perfumes or scented lotions as you come to worship. ♦Some have difficulty hearing. Please use the microphone and stand up to speak (if you're able) so that others will hear more clearly. ♦Some are vision impaired and need to hold printed materials close to read them. Please respect their need to use their own song book and handouts; there are also large print hymnals available on the shelf near the entrance to the worship space. ♦Please remember that some children are noise sensitive and to raise your hands to "clap". For noise sensitive children, we have noise cancelling headphones near the entrance to the worship space.

(repeat) **Christmas Eve Candle Dance-** We are looking for a firm commitment from at least 8 people to participate in our annual Candle Dance (it's a simple circle dance with candles that we do every year on Christmas Eve). Please let Linda Schlabach Miller (lschlabachm@gmail.com) know if you are planning to participate. Four feet tall or more please, all dance abilities welcome. We will practice just before the 6pm Christmas Eve service.

(repeat) **Ana Yoder Coulter** will present a piano concert of Christmas music Tues, Dec 17 at 3pm in the Greencroft Community Center. The public is welcome.

(repeat) **Row One Ensemble**, under direction of Jeremiah Chico, will be performing excerpts from Bach's Christmas Oratorio on Dec 18, here in the worship space, at 7:30pm. All proceeds will be donated to [St. Jude's](#).

(repeat) **Christmas Eve Soup & bread** supper and service is at 6pm Tue, Dec 24. Please sign up on the rolling cart in the gathering space if you plan to attend. On that same cart you'll find a 2nd sheet where you can indicate if you are able to help set up, clean up, or bring food. You are

welcome to bring out-of-town guests! Email office@assemblymennonite.org with questions.

(repeat) **At last week's Leadership Group** meeting, the 2020 spending plan was discussed along with Assembly's Annual Retreat and AMC's current financial report. To view all approved meeting minutes, [click here](#).

(repeat) **Roxy Gehring**, a recent Goshen College graduate who attended Assembly and was our Administrative Assistant last summer while Naomi traveled, is currently serving as a volunteer through Mennonite Voluntary Service at the Center for Restorative Programs in Alamosa, CO. [View this newsletter](#) to read more about the work Roxy is doing!

community connections

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.

The gift of nurture and belonging! Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is an interdisciplinary community of Anabaptist health professionals which seeks to nurture the integration of faith and practice, to provide opportunities for dialogue on health-related issues, and to address specific needs through education, advocacy, and service. If you embrace Anabaptism and are involved in healthcare, we invite you to learn more and "Join the Conversation" at www.mennohealth.org/JoinTheConversation/.

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is hiring a full-time Professor of Pastoral Care and Director of Contextual Education professor to start July 1, 2020. Preferred qualifications: Ph.D. or equivalent; expertise in pastoral care; strong organizational, interpersonal, intercultural and communication skills; preparedness to oversee ministry placements and chaplaincy requirements; and the ability to inspire students in face-to-face and online learning environments. ambs.edu/jobs

Please email announcements to assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org by 8 AM local time Friday for inclusion in the following Sunday's *AssemblyLine*. To receive the *AssemblyLine* via email visit <http://eepurl.com/bsXsDr>.

Assembly Mennonite Church

Pastoral Team

Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732

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

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

(repeat) **Sat, Dec 14th - Join the Maple City Community Orchestra** for a Sing-a-Long of Handel's Messiah favorite choruses. Supported by voices from St. Joseph Valley Camerata, we need YOU to contribute your voice to the performance! Goshen College, Sauder Hall will open at 7pm, and the show begins at 7:30pm. If you have your own copy of the music, please bring it along! As always, the concert is free and open to the public.

(repeat) **Join the Journey program!** Nurture your leadership abilities. Tend to your spiritual formation. Deepen your theological perspectives. AMBS's Journey Missional Leadership Development Program offers mentor-mentee partnerships, distance-learning opportunities and community support. Open to all who are exploring what ministry looks like in their life. Save \$100 if you sign up by Dec. 16! ambs.edu/journey

(repeat) **AMBS online short course:** Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 15 – May 26. Join Betty Pries, Ph.D., to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Early registration discount of \$50 ends March 25. ambs.edu/shortcourses

(repeat) **JoinMen is a program of Mennonite Men** for engaging men to grow and serve. With JoinMen, we provide retreats and resources for men from an Anabaptist perspective, such as our [new book, Peaceful at Heart: Anabaptist Reflections on Healthy Masculinity](#). See other offerings for individuals and groups [here](#).

(repeat) **Give a kit for Christmas!** From hurricanes and flooding to conflict and drought, MCC is responding to many disasters around the world. This Christmas, why not gather your family and pack a school kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? For more information about school kit contents and how you can get involved, visit mcc.org/kits/school.

(repeat) **Pathways Retreat's** December edition of their monthly newsletter, Rhythms, [can be viewed here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite Health Services (MHS)** is actively seeking a qualified candidate to serve as Administrative Coordinator for the office. This job is a full-time position working out of our Goshen office 109 E Clinton St Ste 5, and provides administrative support to the leadership staff of MHS. If interested in more info or you would like to apply, please contact Clare Krabill at clare@mhsonline.org

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