

AssemblyLine

December 22, 2019

Volume XXXVIII, Number 51

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

W O R S H I P

<p style="text-align: center;">December 22 4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship leader: <i>Mary Lehman Yoder</i> Preacher: <i>Scott Coulter</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Cashew & Almond</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 29 9:30am Christmas Breakfast 10:30am Worship, no 2nd Hour</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship leader: <i>Barb Swartley</i> <i>A Service of 9 Lessons and Carols</i> Welcome & Take Down: <i>Asabado</i></p>
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C A L E N D A R

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, no 2 nd hour
Fri	Jan 3	9:30am Greencroft meetup

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

assembly life and people

Jeremiah Beachy (5th, Westview) turned 11 on Dec 11! Jeremiah likes listening to all kinds of music, playing piano and doing math. He enjoys reading- especially graphic novels and comic books. He is good at cooking pancakes and chocolate chip cookies. He would like to learn to play more instruments and travel to Ethiopia one day.

Magdalena Gollner (K, College) turned 6 on Dec 11! Magdalena likes playing games with her friends, especially hide and go seek. She makes up stories from her imagination and enjoys jumping on the trampoline with her sister. She likes playing Catan with her dad. Her favorite color is purple, and recess is her favorite time at school!

TODAY is the fourth 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 a little over \$35,000 in giving the next two Sundays. Our December giving is often strong, so we are hopeful about meeting our budget. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Check out the new AMC photo directory in the multipurpose space! A big thanks to Steve Johns who helped organize and format all the photos.

The Longest Night service will be held on Sat, Dec 21 at the meetinghouse starting at 7pm. This contemplative service will feature time and space to wrestle with our struggle to see God's Way, especially in a difficult season. All are welcome. There will not be sermon, but simple prayer, Scripture, and music. Attendees can bring a photo of a loved one or other symbolic objects for centering one's prayer during this 45-50 min service.

Christmas Eve supper and service Starting at 6pm, we will gather for a soup and bread supper followed by a children's play and candle dance. You can RSVP for the supper by emailing office@assemblymennonite.org (and include if you are able to bring soup, bread or butter). There are sign up sheets on the rolling cart in the gathering space as well. You are welcome to come even if you haven't signed up. Bring your own bowl, cup and spoon.

For those of you who have told Linda you will be dancing the candle dance at our soup supper on Christmas Eve, (thank you, we have enough dancers!) please be at the church NO LATER than 5:30 on the 24th to review the steps. For first time dancers or those who would like a few extra minutes of practice, Linda will arrive by 5:15 to teach the dance.

Sun, Dec 29 we will share in a breakfast starting at 9:30am. Please bring festive finger foods to share! Plates and napkins will be provided. A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols will follow starting at 10:30am. From the story of creation, to the promise of a Messiah, the birth

of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation. Come for reflections on the season and singing!

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 4th 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.

The Assembly office will be closed Mon, Dec 23 through Fri, Dec 27. There will be no Assemblyline; a listserv will be sent on Fri with pertinent information.

Pastors traveling: Scott is out of the office Dec 26-Jan 1. Lora is out of the office Dec 27-Jan 3 and then is gone at Wabash Pastoral Leadership Jan 6-8, where they are focusing on Hunger and Poverty.

Mark your calendars: The Women's Lunch Bunch is meeting January 10th from 11:30-1:00. Bring your own lunch and enjoy the presentation and conversation on *Joys and challenges of working in Mennonite institutions: Past, present, and future* led by Bev Lapp.

Comfort ye: The MCC Great Winter Warmup is coming, with a push all across North America to turn in hundreds of comforters to MCC by Jan 18. We'd like to do our bit here at Assembly, so we've set aside Fri, Jan 17 as a day to put together as many comforters as possible at the meetinghouse. If you can donate a pieced top (and/or backing and/or batting), loan a quilt frame, or offer time on that Fri to help knot or stitch comforters, please indicate your interest to Mary Gilbert, so we can plan optimum use of the day. 534-1852 or mgilbert1301@gmail.com

Safety Networks offers ways to support undocumented immigrants in our community, whether it's money for an urgent financial need, driving to an attorney or doctor appointment, providing guidance for a struggling family, or interpreting for someone who doesn't speak English. Learn more and sign up at <http://bit.ly/safety-net-start>.

The December edition of Central District Conference's monthly newsletter, Focus, [can be viewed here](#).

A family letter from Margarita Klassen de Melo (past Assembly attender from '88-'96) [can be read here](#).

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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

(repeat) **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

(repeat) **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.

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

community connections

Sunnyside and Belmont Mennonite Churches are gearing up to host the 8th annual season of Kids' Community Theater. Any child, grades K-5th, is welcome to join! There will be eight Wed night rehearsals in Jan and Feb with a meal beforehand, and two performances--Feb 29 and Mar 1, all at Sunnyside Mennonite Church in Elkhart. This is an incredible intergenerational endeavor that provides a positive faith formation experience for these kids! For more info see the flyer hanging over Assembly lit table or email Sunnyside pastor Amy Kratzer at amykratzer@gmail.com, or call Sunnyside Mennonite Church at 574-875-7790.

Everence has decided to continue their Medicare Monday educational workshops through 2020. All workshops are on a Monday from 6:30-7:30pm at 110 N Main St in Goshen. For a list of which Mondays this will be offered along with info about how to RSVP, [click here](#) or see the poster hung next to the lit table. Topics at these workshops include: Medicare enrollment details and deadlines, Budgeting for healthcare and income in retirement, Social Security- when do I start?, and Plans that supplement Medicare. Questions can be directed to sarah.bonebrake@everence.com

Do you know youth with gifts for leadership and ministry? Through AMBS's !Explore program, students in grades 10-12 can explore ministry and theology, grow in spiritual practices and listen for God's call through a summer congregational internship and a Group Experience (June 30 - July 16, 2020). Scholarships are available. Tap a shoulder! ambs.edu/explore

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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/.

(repeat) **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

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