

AssemblyLine

March 29, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 13

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

March 29

Worship today at the meetinghouse has been cancelled.

Look for an email from the Assembly listserv on Saturday with worship materials for your household or small group, a way to share prayer requests, and more.

Worship Leader: *Jon Zirkle*
Preacher: *Elizabeth Reimer*

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
John 11:1-45

April 5

Palm Sunday

Worship today at the meetinghouse has been cancelled.

Look for an email from the Assembly listserv on Saturday with worship materials for your household or small group, a way to share prayer requests, and more.

Preacher: *Ted Koontz*
2% Offering

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11

CALENDAR

To view a Complete Calendar of Events, please visit <https://assemblymennonite.org/about/calendar/>.

TODAY	Mar 29	Worship at the meetinghouse has been cancelled 11am "Coffee Time" ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Mon	Mar 30	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Wed	Apr 1	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Thurs	Apr 2	3pm Online gathering w/ magic by Jep Hostetler (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Fri	Apr 3	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)

Note: You can join any of these online gatherings by phone. Dial (312) 626-6799, and enter the Meeting ID 999-527-5153, and then press #. Press # again when prompted, to join the meeting. You will be able to hear and talk, but you won't see any of the video.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

Emi Dengler Kaufman (3rd Chandler) turned 9 on Mar 26! Emi enjoys painting, playing with her brother Zakai, and playing board games with her family. She likes to play with her 2 cats, Felix and Oscar. One of her favorite things is writing stories for school and just for fun.

TODAY is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Our preacher is Elizabeth Reimer. She is a Goshen College student in Keith Graber Miller's congregational ministries class. This year's Lent theme is "Show us your Wild Hope." In the midst of crisis and upheaval, we read Gospel stories that present us with the promise of new life and resurrection. We seek after God's wild hope that steadfast love can redeem our broken and violated world. The point of Lent is not to make us feel bad about the grim state of our planet or about ourselves. Gayle Boss, author and theologian writes, "The purpose of Lent has always been to startle us awake to the true state of our hearts and world we've made. Which

wakes an aching, wild hope that something new might be born of the ruin." For more info, [read the series introduction here](#).

TODAY Sunday Mar 29 at 11:00 AM, join others from Assembly for an online informal "coffee time" hosted by one of the pastors. Participants will be sorted into small "breakout" groups. You can join by this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/9995275153>. (You don't need a Zoom account to join. Email the pastors if you have questions about participating in Assembly online Zoom meetings.)

Offerings are still needed to support the ministries of the congregation, and the 2% Fund, while we are not meeting at the meetinghouse. Please [send your offerings by check to the church office](#), or [you can give conveniently on our website via PayPal](#) (PayPal will receive a percentage of your donation for this convenience). You are encouraged to check with your personal bank about setting up one-time or recurring payments to Assembly (through your bank's "bill pay" service).

Psalm Reading & Prayer – Join one of the pastors online at <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153> on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday this week at 12 Noon for a psalm and a couple minutes of silent prayer/reflection. This could last 5 minutes, or people can linger afterward for informal sharing. Contact [Karl Shelly](#) with questions.

Join Jep Hostetler and Lora Nafziger this Thursday Apr 2 from 3-4pm online at <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153> for a fun social gathering. Jep will do some magic! Contact [Lora](#) with questions.

Zoom small group. If you'd like to join a group of 6-10 Assembly people which meets on Zoom, let Karl Shelly (karlss@assemblymennonite.org) know. This is for those who are not in a small group or are in one that isn't meeting electronically. If there's enough interest, Karl will form groups so that people have a place to make connections and participate in mutual care during these isolating times.

The 2 percent committee met virtually on 3/22/20. The following distributions are proposed: Local: Center for Healing and Hope \$3000, Church community Services (seed to feed) \$1000, Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network \$500, Goshen Ministerial Assoc \$1000, The Window \$1000, Walnut Hill day care \$300. World: Association for a More Just Society (Honduras) \$500, Nat. Immigrant Justice Center \$1950, MCC \$1950, Menn. Disaster Service \$1000, Tanzania Education Aid \$500, SEMILLA \$500, MCC great lakes kits \$1000. Please let myself or another 2% member know if you have any feedback. -Sarah Horst, 2% Chair (sphend@gmail.com)

In person worship services at the meetinghouse have been cancelled through May 3. The pastoral team is working to offer creative ways we can be a caring and worshipful community. It is especially important for the at-risk population, in our community and beyond, that we all do all we can to slow the spread of this virus. This is why we are not gathering for worship as a large body (as painful as that is), and it is also why we are cancelling Assembly gatherings larger than a small group. We should all be heeding the important cautions urged on us by public health officials. As of 3/15, [CDC guidance](#) includes

cancelling gatherings of more than 10 people for organizations that serve higher-risk populations.

Aydian Smuts has moved to Damar and is struggling with the transition. He would appreciate correspondence; please do not send food! His address is Aydian Smuts c/o Damar Services, Inc
6067 Decatur Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Anna, Brian, Sophie, & Caleb Yoder Schlabach have a new address: 620 S. 7th St. in Goshen.

(repeat) **Small group reps** were provided with ideas about how groups can stay connected and be supportive during these days of social distancing. Talk with your rep and group about how your small group can stay connected.

(repeat) **Lora sent a listserv to parents** with resources for talking to Children about the Corona Virus, along with some faith formation activities. If others are interested in the material [you can find it here](#).

(repeat) **April small group childcare cancelled.** Monthly childcare provided by Assembly that would have taken place on April 1 has been cancelled. Unfortunately, none of this is an April Fool's joke.

(repeat) **Central District Conference's** March edition of their monthly newsletter, Reporter, [can be read here](#).

community connections

A note from Julia Schmidt, Immigrant Resource Coordinator at [Center for Healing and Hope](#) (CHH): We at CHH decided that we should focus our Immigrant Resource Fund on providing grocery gift cards as food scarcity is a looming concern as people are laid off from their work. If you are able, [please donate to Elkhart County HOPE \(immigrant neighbor assistance\)](#). Your donations will go towards purchasing gift cards to grocery stores, as well as helping with other financial assistance requests that come in. While we are focusing on food security, we also want to raise funds to provide more assistance to immigrant families in the future. [Your donations during this time are crucial to help us help our community](#). Thank you!

Help Ten Thousand Villages Goshen stay open. We want to be sure you get your coffee, tea, soup, gifts and

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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

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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

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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

soap through this crisis. However, we do not have financial reserves to survive a drastic decrease in sales. The Board has made difficult decisions, including closing the store to foot traffic and laying off the assistant manager. Without significant sales and donations through the summer, the Goshen Ten Thousand Villages shop will not be able to stay open.

Our store supports 20,000 at-risk artisans in over 30 countries and want that support to be dependable. [You can help keep the Goshen Ten Thousand Villages store open](#): 1. Continue to shop our store remotely! Contact us at 574-533-8491 or goshen@tentousandvillages.com and leave your name and phone number. We can take photos or video, or use video calling, to help you choose gifts and set up curbside or home delivery. 2. Purchase gift cards from us, to use in the store when we reopen. 3. Shop online at tentousandvillages.com and choose to support the Goshen store when you check out. 4. Donate to help us pay rent, utilities and payroll. Our dedicated donation page: <https://donorbox.org/support-ten-thousand-villages-in-goshen>.

Beginning this week, the Center for Healing & Hope is offering telemedicine phone consults from 10am-2pm every day, both weekdays and weekend. This service is ONLY for people sick with COVID-19 symptoms. No other urgent care needs will be addressed during these times. People without a primary care provider who are sick and need urgent advice can call 574-216-1723 to arrange a telemedicine visit with a provider. Telemedicine visits cost \$30 (credit or debit card required). A provider will assess your symptoms and determine if a COVID-19 test is appropriate (specific criteria need to be met due to an ongoing shortage of test kits). We will provide education and advice on managing symptoms, including advice about when care in an Emergency Department is warranted. [Click here for more information about how Center for Healing & Hope is adapted to continue serving vulnerable populations through this crisis.](#) Call 574-216-1723 to arrange your visit. Call 574-534-4744 with questions.

To help churches address needs related to COVID-19, Everence is introducing several initiatives, including double the Sharing Fund dollars to help any church with

rising needs due to sickness or lost income in their community. [Click here to read more information on assistance and relief options](#), and watch [everence.com](#) for any additional announcements. For information about financial help through Assembly's Members' Needs fund, contact Scott Coulter, our Pastor of Congregational Life. Reach out to Barb Hassan, Assembly's Everence advocate with any questions about Everence services.

Matt Grothouse, Community Health Coordinator for Beacon Health System is coordinating outreach to community organizations for donations of PPE for Beacon Health System's response to COVID-19. PPE equipment include eye protection (goggles and face shields), masks of any kind, gloves, bodysuits, and sterile individually wrapped swabs. There is also a need for sanitizing products. They are also gathering handmade masks. We will accept as many as we can get. The health system is accepting handmade masks of tightly woven cotton and elastic. The video featured in this [press release](#) from the health system features [a tutorial video of how to craft these masks](#). We will accept these masks as a minimum design but allow for other mask designs as well. Completed masks can be dropped off at Beacon's corporate office located at 3245 Health Drive, Granger, IN 46530 Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm. If you have a large quantity of masks (more than 50 masks), or a large quantity of the above listed items to donate, please email Matt at mgrothouse@beaconhealthsystem.org to coordinate item pick up.

(repeat) **Child and Parent Services (CAPS)** has postponed the CAPS Superhero 5K scheduled for April 25 in Elkhart. In addition, the Children's Rally and Pinwheel Planting on April 14 has been cancelled. We hope you'll consider attending the Superhero 5K later this summer. We will be sure to post/send updates when we have more information on the date and time. If you have already registered, you can choose to contribute the cost of your ticket to CAPS to help strengthen Elkhart County families, or request a full refund of your registration. Please contact Jenna Ellis at jellis@capselkhart.org if you prefer either of these options so we can process your request accordingly.

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(repeat) **Pathways Retreat**'s March edition of their monthly newsletter, which includes information about their "hospitality in a time of COVID-19" [can be read here](#).

(repeat) **Persons interested in an open position at Bethany Christian Schools** should contact send a resume and letter of interest to head of school Tim Lehman at tlehman@bethanycs.net or by phone at 574 534-2567. Currently seeking an Advancement Assistant, Spanish Teacher, and PE/Health Teacher. More information at bethanycs.net/employment-opportunities.

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