

# AssemblyLine

April 5, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 14

## Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org)

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

### WORSHIP

April 5 Palm Sunday	April 12 Easter
<p><u>Worship today at the meetinghouse has been cancelled.</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Worship Leader: <i>Lydia Miller</i> Preacher: <i>Ted Koontz</i> <b>2% Offering</b></p> <p>Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11</p>	<p><u>Worship today at the meetinghouse has been cancelled.</u></p> <p><b>10:30am – Live Online Homily &amp; Communion Feast</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Worship Leader: <i>Lora Nafziger</i> Preacher: <i>Anna Yoder Schlabach</i></p> <p>Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18</p>

### CALENDAR

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

TODAY	Apr 5	Worship at the meetinghouse has been cancelled 11am “Coffee Time” ONLINE ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> ) 1pm JYF Gathering ONLINE
Mon	Apr 6	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> )
Tuesday	Apr 7	Leadership Group meeting by ZOOM
Wed	Apr 8	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> )
Thurs	Apr 9	3pm Online gathering w/ Justin Rothshank ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> )
Fri	Apr 10	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> ) 6:30pm Good Friday service ONLINE ( <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9995275153">https://zoom.us/j/9995275153</a> )

**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

**Virtual Palm Processional.** We will not be able to be together for a Palm Sunday processional, but we would like to invite you to be a part of a virtual one. When Jesus marched into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover the people grabbed the branches that were available to them (palms) and laid their robes on the ground. We ordered palms as usual, but due to complications in shipping, they will not be arriving. So grab what is available to you (forsythia, pine branches, your spring jackets and scooters) and take a picture of the people in your household waving and shouting hosanna. [Follow the instructions at this link to upload your picture.](#) Or send it by Saturday night April 4 to [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org).

**TODAY** is Palm Sunday. 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 Apr 5 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.)

**Share Prayer Requests** by filling out the online form at this link. You may continue to do this throughout each week. Prayer requests are sent out to the congregation via the Assembly listserv on Wednesdays, and are also included in the Pastoral Prayer each Sunday.

**TODAY** Mitch Rhodes is hosting a Zoom call for JYF kids and sponsors at 1pm. See the email Mitch sent to JYF families with a link to join, or call/text 574-903-6844 for help joining.

**Join Justin Rothshank and Lora Nafziger** this Thursday Apr 9 from 3-4pm online at <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153> for a fun social gathering. Justin will throw some pottery and give a tour of his studio. Contact Lora with questions.

**If you missed last Thursday’s magic show**, Jep has recorded it on video. Click here to watch it on Assembly’s YouTube Channel.

**Lora sent out a message to parents** full of resources for Holy week and helping children to deal with anxiety. It also accidentally included Advent resources at the bottom! If you didn’t get this in your inbox or you are interested in the resources you can find that message and the resource links here.

**For Holy Week** we will host an online Good Friday service at 6:30pm, and in addition to the worship materials that will be sent on Saturday to use with your household and small group, for Easter Sunday there will be a live homily and communion feast online at 10:30am. Look for an email with more details about these online events this week.

**Healing the world.** Two ways you can join in God’s saving work of justice: 1) Support undocumented people in our midst who are laid off and won’t be receiving a stimulus check. Perhaps you can donate yours to the Center for Healing & Hope which is raising funds to

assist our neighbors in need. 2) Urge your members of Congress to halt deportations and protect the health and security of all immigrants, including those who are in detention centers. See MCC’s call to action.

**ZOOM** is a popular video conference software that we have begun using for many Assembly gatherings and events. You do not need an account with Zoom to participate in Zoom meetings hosted by Assembly. There have been some concerns about uninvited participants joining Zoom meetings and sharing inappropriate content (or “zoom bombing”). Assembly’s Zoom meetings only allow hosts to share screens, so we don’t expect this to be a problem. All of our Zoom gatherings are moderated by the host, and if an Assembly gathering is “attacked” we will immediately end the meeting.

(repeat) **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).

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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](mailto: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.

(repeat) **The 2 percent committee** met virtually on 3/22/20. The following distributions are proposed: Local:

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**Assembly Mennonite Church**

**Pastoral Team**

Lora Nafziger [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-0732  
Karl Shelly [karlss@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:karlss@assemblymennonite.org) 574-621-1037  
Anna Yoder Schlabach [annays@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:annays@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-5319  
Scott Coulter [scottc@assemblymennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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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 (sphen@gmail.com)

(repeat) **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.

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

(repeat) **Anna, Brian, Sophie & Caleb Yoder Schlabach** have a new address: 620 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Goshen

### community connections

**Lacasa, Inc.** has launched a new limited-time free service to help provide guidance on income, upcoming bills, credit health, or loan options. This 15-minute guidance call provides clarity on next steps and resources to help weather the storm. Submit the form at [www.lacasainc.net/guide](http://www.lacasainc.net/guide) and a financial counselor will contact you through text or email to schedule a call with you. Our Financial Empowerment Team can help guide you on a number of topics, including: How to stretch your income, How to prioritize your bills,

How to communicate with creditors, Protecting your credit, Understanding loan/credit options

**Resources for hope and resilience.** The AMBS community offers resources to foster a spirit of hope, trust, resilience and ongoing faith during the global COVID-19 pandemic. We hope these prayers, music playlists, audio files, articles and pastoral care resources can help people to be grounded in and sustained by God's unfailing presence. [ams.edu/publishing/hope-and-resilience](http://ams.edu/publishing/hope-and-resilience)

**Pathways Retreat:** Regular prayers continue virtually via zoom Monday – Thursday and all are welcome. Friday morning's Creation Prayer continues to happen outside, observing social distancing. Stations of the Cross and Resurrection are a way to safely tend your body and spirit during Holy Week and Easter. Go to [pathwaysretreat.org](http://pathwaysretreat.org) to find the latest on what Pathways Retreat in Goshen offers during this time.

**Pathways Retreat's** April edition of their monthly newsletter, Rhythms, [is available here.](#)

(repeat) **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!

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

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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@tenthousandvillages.com](mailto:goshen@tenthousandvillages.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 [tenthousandvillages.com](http://tenthousandvillages.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>.

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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](http://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.

(repeat) **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](mailto:mgrothouse@beaconhealthsystem.org) to coordinate item pick up.

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