

AssemblyLine

August 2, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 31

Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / office@assemblymennonite.org

Worship is online weekly. 10am Virtual Worship, 11am Fellowship.

Our meetinghouse will remain closed until further notice.

WORSHIP

August 2	August 9
Digital Summer Worship Look for an email from the Assembly listserv on Saturday with worship materials for your household or small group. All are also welcome to join us online Sunday at 10am where we will use these worship materials together. Worship Leader: <i>Bill Mateer</i> Storyteller: <i>Bruce Glick</i> Scripture: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21	Baptisms & Covenanting Service Join us at 10AM in the parking lot of the meetinghouse. Please wear a mask and keep 6 feet of distance from those not in your own household. Worship Leader: <i>Scott Coulter</i> Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

CALENDAR

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

TODAY	Aug 2	10am Virtual House Church ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153) 11am "Coffee Time" ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Mon	Aug 3	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Tues	Aug 4	7pm Leadership Group Meeting 9pm Take Our Moments and Our Days prayer group at Shanklin Park
Wed	Aug 5	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Thurs	Aug 6	9pm Take Our Moments and Our Days prayer group at Shanklin Park
Fri	Aug 7	9:30am Greencroft meetup ONLINE 12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer ONLINE (https://zoom.us/j/9995275153)
Sun	Aug 9	10am Outdoor Worship Service in the parking lot at the meetinghouse

Note: The password for Assembly Zoom meetings was sent out by email on April 4th and has not changed. (If you don't already have the password, email or message any of the pastors). **Also, 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

Norah Osborne (rising 6th, Goshen Middle School) turned 11 July 28! She spends a lot of time painting, drawing, and taking on various artsy projects. When it comes to reading, Norah loves any book by Raina Telgemeir or Stuart Gibbs. Norah also loves horseback riding in Bristol every week and is focusing on improving her jumping skills. She misses her friends and can't wait for life to get back to normal.

Quinn Landes (rising 8th, Goshen Middle School) turns 13 on August 1! Quinn enjoys playing baseball and swimming when he can. He has been building skateboards and learning some good woodworking skills. He enjoys

reading, playing games with his family and this summer has tried some cooking, the best being soft pretzels!

Caleb Yoder Schlabach (rising 2nd, Parkside) turns 8 on August 3! Caleb loves to play with the family dog Murphy, play with stuffed animals with his sister Sophie and play make believe. He also enjoys building with cardboard and Lego. He plays cello, soccer and basketball and likes to make pancakes with mom and brownies with his dad.

Sophie Yoder Schlabach (rising 2nd, Parkside) turns 8 on August 3! Sophie has been learning how to do tricks on the trampoline and improving her tree climbing skills during the quarantine time. She likes to swim, build Lego and do science experiments with her grandparents. She

enjoys listening to magic treehouse books her dad reads and helping her mom with planting flowers.

Today we continue our summer worship series “Small Things.” Each Sunday's worship (in iMovie format) will focus on a different "small thing". This week our “small thing” is Birds. Please [read the Introduction to the Summer Worship series here](#), which includes a wonderful Wendell Berry poem, along with more information. Remember that if you prefer a “live” format you can join the Zoom group on Sunday at 10 AM with one of our pastors.

Join us today at 10am for Zoom worship as we watch the pre-recorded service and make space for live sharing followed by a pastoral prayer. For those of you wishing we would do Zoom worship every Sunday, we encourage you to show up and try it!

Join us next Sunday, August 9 at 10am for an in-person, physically-distanced service of covenanting, baptisms and blessings in the meetinghouse parking lot. Bring your own chairs or blankets to sit on. Masks will be required. We will also be broadcasting it via AM radio, so if you are more comfortable, you will be able to stay in your cars and listen instead. (There will be no live Zoom worship on Aug 9; we plan to post a video-recording of the service online later that day).

Starting August 16 we'll be experimenting with six weeks of in-person neighborhood backyard house church worship. These clusters will meet on Sundays at 10am, Aug 16-Sept 27, for one hour or less. There will also be an option to meet on Zoom for anyone who is either unable to participate, or uncomfortable with participating in these in-person gatherings. [Click here to read the listserv that was sent out about this on July 27](#). And if you have not yet RSVPed to communicate your intent to participate, please email annays@assemblymennonite.org, or call/text Anna at 574-312-5319. Thank you!

Our prayers are with Kathy Meyer Reimer and the entire family upon the death of Al Meyer on July 31. Al had chosen the hymns he wanted for his funeral. The family would like to invite anyone who would like to participate, to join in the creation of a virtual choir for the funeral. If

you are interested, please email loracn@assemblymennonite.org for instructions.

Help for Joel returning home. As Joel Zwier transitions home from the hospital following his brain surgery he is in need of a shower chair. Please let Patricia know if you have one to loan.

Lora Nafziger will be spending time in Michigan with her family before school begins. She will be away from the office and email July 29 through August 2nd.

Karl Shelly will be in the Colorado mountains from August 7-15.

Anti-Racism book club: This past week we met to discuss the first third of Layla Saad's "Me and White Supremacy." The next meeting will be **August 10 at 7pm on Zoom**. We'll be discussing pages 77-170. Even if you haven't attended before you are welcome to join. Contact annays@assemblymennonite.org for information.

Retreat Committee is working to plan a limited retreat at Camp Friedenswald for Oct 9-11. We expect to be able to accommodate some number of Assembly households in overnight cabins while following the campground's guidelines for social distancing (including limiting indoor gatherings to groups of 10 and limiting outdoor gatherings to groups of 100 with social distancing). Watch your email this week for a survey from the Retreat Committee as we continue to explore the possibilities of holding a retreat safely during the pandemic.

Housing Need. Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite in Constantine, Michigan is looking for a 2-bedroom apartment, preferably close to Goshen College, for a single mother with two early-school-age children. Florence has had a long relationship of walking with this family through the difficult process of becoming documented. They also have worked with her to get her into Goshen College yet this year, and everything is in place except for housing. They are looking for something in the \$900/month range. If you have a lead on this, or can offer a housing situation, please contact Timothy Lind at (269) 244-1000, or email tchristianlind@gmail.com.

Goshen Christian Montessori School (GCMS) moved into Classrooms 1a & 1b at the Assembly/Faith

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meetinghouse last Friday, July 24. Please pray for their teachers, staff, students, and their families as they prepare for the school year, with an anticipated start date of September 8. GCMS will be having class on Tuesdays-Thursdays.

The National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) thanks Assembly for Assembly's gift of \$1,000 through the 2% Fund. You can [read their thank you letter here](#). NIJC works to protect the rights of immigrants and refugees through strategic litigation and advocacy in the Goshen area. [Click here](#) for more information about NIJC, and contact [Sarah Phend Horst](#) for more information about Assembly's 2% Fund.

Happy Birthday last week (7/26-8/1) to: Alfonso Jimenez, Marilyn Miller, Kate Kennedy, Dana Miller, Rachel Hostetler, Norm Kauffmann, Magdalena Bridger-Ulloa, and Alan Greaser. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday this week (8/2-8/8) to: Sara Klassen, Teo Sawatsky-Kingsley, Aaron Yost, Mary Lehman Yoder, Anika Roth, Patrick Coonan, Yabi Kurtz, Mary Roth, and Jared Beasley. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Each week we have been featuring blurbs with updates about households within an Assembly small group. We are taking a break from that this week, but look for this feature again in next week's Assemblyline!

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.

(repeat) **James and Emily Stuckey Weber** would like to introduce their son, **Levi David, born July 24** at 5:41 a.m. (7lbs 13.9 oz. 20.5"). All are doing well. Please help us welcome Levi by providing a meal for the family as well as a short visit when possible. Details for meals and visiting can be found here by using access code 2601: <https://www.TakeThemAMeal.com/BPLH6808>

(repeat) **Meals for the Klassen family.** Small group Hygge is organizing meals for Sara and Chris Klassen upon the

arrival of their baby, June Tyler, on July 8. We are hoping to provide meals for them through August. There are still some dates you can sign up to bring a meal. Please follow [this link](#) for more specific instructions and to sign up. -Small group Hygge

(repeat) **A group will be gathering to pray** from Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book. We will meet by the pond in Shanklin Park at 9 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on July 28. Everyone is invited, and it's totally okay if you can only come every once in a while! Bring the book if you have it or download the free app [for Android](#) or [for iPhone](#). If you have any questions, contact Becky Snider or Lydia Miller.

(repeat) **Replacing the songs of David Haas:** In response to credible accusations of sexual abuse and spiritual manipulation by the hymn writer and composer David Haas, the committee compiling the new hymnal, *Voices Together*, has removed his songs from consideration. ([Read MennoMedia's June 23 statement here.](#)) While these songs will not be included in the new hymnal available this fall, five songs by David Haas are in *Sing the Journey* (STJ) and *Sing the Story* (STS), and others are sung in Mennonite congregations. These include beloved songs: "My Soul Is Filled with Joy," "I Will Come to You in the Silence," "Peace Before Us," "Blest are They," "We Are Called" and "Come and Be Light." Some of these songs are Assembly favorites. It is hard to imagine never singing them again, but it is also hard to imagine singing them while knowing the harm that Haas has done. We will have more conversation about this when we are able to begin singing together again, but we are currently choosing not to use these songs in our worship. You can see some alternative hymns here:

<http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/2020/07/06/replacing-the-songs-of-david-haas/>.

(repeat) **From the Finance Committee:** We received annual tithe contributions early in 2020 and a large contribution for 2020 late in 2019, both of which have made projections as to where we are for the current giving cycle difficult. Having said that, total giving for 2020 was slightly over half of the spending plan total on July first, after half of the year. This is more than usual at this point

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in a normal year. Because of the economic effects of the covid virus, we do not know what to expect in the next six months. What we do know is that you have been in the past and continue to be extremely generous with your resources. That is appreciated on many levels. Thank you! Also:

(repeat) **Assembly's application for a Paycheck Protection Plan loan** from 1st Source Bank was finalized and 34,800 dollars received July 9th. The congregation has until the end of 2020 to document that the funds were used for personnel expenses without significant reduction in personnel costs in order for the loan to be forgiven. This is a nice hedge against the uncertainty of the next six months. – the Finance Committee

(repeat) **A note from Naomi Roots:** Thank you to all who reached out to me with kind words of encouragement and appreciation during my last week in Assembly's office. It has been a pleasure to serve Assembly these last (almost) 5 years. I will miss interacting with the good people of Assembly on a regular basis and look forward to a time when we can be in the same building again without masks on. Thank you again!

(repeat) **Please watch this video message from Johanna Sutter:** <https://youtu.be/x3m2fl-eRTM>! It is school kit time again! Johanna Sutter has collected the contents for school kits. If you would like to sponsor some school kits, they are \$3.00 each. You are welcome to put your money for them in the offering as long as your check or cash envelope is labeled for school kits.

(repeat) **Small group Cantaloupe** is pleased to announce Lydia Miller's plans to covenant with Assembly on August 9. Please share your words of welcome and affirmation with Lydia.

(repeat) **The Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC)** sent a letter to Assembly thanking the congregation for its financial support and providing an update on the work of BMC during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here to read the letter.](#)

(repeat) **The Dove's Nest thanks Assembly** for Assembly's gift of \$1,100 through the 2% Fund. The Dove's Nest works to empower and equip faith communities to keep children and youth safe in their

homes, churches, and communities. [Click here](#) for more information about the Dove's Nest, and contact Sarah Phend Horst at sphend@gmail.com for more information about Assembly's 2% Fund.

(repeat) **Backyard house church needs you!** Starting August 16 we'll be experimenting with six weeks of in-person neighborhood backyard house church worship. We are looking for two types of "host" for backyard house church from August 16-September 27: (1) backyard hosts, and (2) welcoming/logistics hosts. (1) We need backyards that are big enough to accommodate up to 6 households with physical distancing. You do not need to provide chairs or restrooms. Services will be less than an hour. (2) We also need people who are willing to serve as the "host" (could be the same as the backyard host but not necessarily) who are willing to welcome people, assign worship roles, and either print or pick up worship resources at the church. (3) For all who prefer not to gather in person, we'll still have participatory Zoom worship, so we will also require online hosts who feel comfortable using Zoom. Please email annays@assemblymennonite.org if you're willing to be a backyard host or a welcoming/logistics host, or a Zoom host.

community connections

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale is happening virtually September 25-27. For [updated announcements, events, and ways to help out with the sale, please read this flyer.](#)

Mennonite Mission Network invites interested persons to learn more about the Doctrine of Discovery and the work of *Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery: A movement of Anabaptist people of faith (DDoD Coalition)* by registering for the "Mother Earth's Pandemic" conference sponsored by the Indigenous Values Initiative and American Indian Law Alliance, which will happen over three Thursdays: Aug 6, 13, and 20, from 6-8 pm EST. This will be followed by the Coalition's annual gathering over three Sundays: Aug 9, 16, and 23, to discuss what was learned from the conference and attend to the Coalition's work and strategy. For more information or to register, [visit this page.](#)

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's August announcements [can be read here.](#)

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Mennonite Church USA's August announcements [can be read here](#).

As Bethel College (North Newton, Kansas) anticipates students returning to campus soon, the college is seeking donations of masks so that they can provide each student with multiple masks. If you are making masks, you can send them to Masks for Threshers, Bethel College Advancement Office, 300 E. 27th St., North Newton, KS 67117. You can also contribute financially to the "[Masks for Threshers fund](#)".

(repeat) **Race, Church & Change, Part 2** - a churchwide discussion on racism's impact on the church and meaningful approaches for its dismantling - was hosted by the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board on July 23. You can [watch this 1.5 hour conversation on Facebook here](#). If you missed it, you can also [watch Part 1 \(from June 30\) on YouTube here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite World Conference's** July newsletter [can be read here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite Creation Care Network's** July newsletter [can be read here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite Mission Network** shares weekly prayer requests with congregations. [For their August prayer requests, click here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite Education Agency** also shares weekly prayer requests with congregations. [For their August prayer requests, click here](#).

(repeat) **Camp Friedenswald** sent an update; you can [read it here](#).

(repeat) **Job opening: Mennonite Men**, the men's organization of Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada, has an open quarter time position in Communications and Marketing. To see a description of this position, visit [MennoniteMen.org](#) or contact Steve Thomas at SteveT@MennoniteMen.org. Resumes are due by August 3.

(repeat) **Join MCC Great Lakes for a virtual Pipeline to Prison learning tour**. Explore the complex dynamics of the U.S. criminal justice system from different perspectives and learn about practical opportunities for engagement and

advocacy efforts in your local context. Through five online sessions, participants will explore the connections between broad systemic issues of racism and incarceration down through the local level, all through the lens of Anabaptist faith. [This free virtual learning tour will take place each Monday in August from 2-3:30 p.m. \(EST\)](#). Registration is limited to 25 participants. The goal is for all participants to commit to attending each virtual session to get the full learning experience. For more information and to register visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison-virtual or call 574.534.4133.

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