

Becoming a People of God

Fall Worship in Backyard Cluster Groups

Aug. 16 - Sept. 27

This fall we will be trying something new, taking a break from our weekly Zoom calls and inviting people to participate in outdoor neighborhood cluster group worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. from Aug. 16 through Sept. 27. We will equip each group with an order of worship/script so that everyone who gathers can be a participant in the service. The cluster groups will not need to create the content, but they will be asked to have roles such as reading scripture, offering prayer or children's time. This is a pretty radical departure from watching the Zoom worship each week. Our hope is that these in-person worship services will engage people as active participants in worship, rather than passively watching a prepared service. Each service will be an hour or less and will have repeated elements from week to week. The congregation has been thoughtfully divided into neighborhood cluster groups. [Cluster Groups Here](#) If you have not been assigned and would like to visit a group please email annays@assemblymennonite.org.

General Guidelines

Worship will be pre-planned each week, but it will be carried out by everyone in the cluster group collectively. Nobody needs to do any preparation, they can just show up and read their part from the worship packet, and participate in the activities described. There will not be one "worship leader," but the logistics host will be responsible for tending the worship each Sunday and making sure the worship duties are covered.

Worship duties may include:

Cantor: a singer will be assigned each week to sing several simple songs outside of the worship circle and with a mask on.

Special music: if you play an instrument that is portable and does not transmit germs easily, consider bringing your instrument.

Readers: scripture, prayers, and other meditations will be an integral part of these services. Services will not use a microphone so please speak (with mask) in your strongest voices.

There will be a ZOOM option at 10 a.m. each Sunday for those who choose not to meet in person. *Link here: [Zoom](#) (password **AMC**)*

In case of rain, in-person gatherings will be cancelled and everyone can join the ZOOM worship service.

We're trying something new together, and things may not always go exactly as planned. Please have an abundance of grace and respect for your fellow congregants, especially as we encounter differences in comfort levels around safety and the virus.

There is not one "right way" to do cluster group worship, so take liberties with your cluster group in a way that feels right to you, while being safe!

The worship content has been planned collaboratively by the Christian Ed Committee and the Worship Committee. We are using Shine Sunday School curriculum for texts and ideas. The overarching theme for the season is **Becoming a People of God**. We will tell the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Jacob, Esau and Joseph. By returning to these familiar stories, we hope to make connections between these stories and our stories. *How is God calling us to new places? How have our relationships been twisted by jealousy and deceit? How might God use our brokenness to transform and heal?* Each week there will be time for reflection on the texts and sharing from your own lives. You are invited to read the scripture texts ahead of time since the scripture each week will be a version from “All of Us,” a new Story Bible/graphic novel from Shine. One of the advantages of reading the Bible sequentially is that we see the way the stories connect to each other, and the way God works in the lives of the people God has chosen. We are all a part of this big story and God is still at work calling, saving, and wrestling with us to become God’s people.

Worship Grid:

Date	Story	Text	Theme
August 16	Abram and Sara	Genesis 12:1-8	We can trust and follow God’s lead
August 23	Sara and Hagar	Genesis 16	God will show up for us in the wilderness
August 30	Angelic visitors promise Isaac’s birth	Genesis 17:1-8,15-19; 18:1-15; 33:1-17	God calls us to make a feast in the wilderness
Sept. 6	Jacob and Esau	Genesis 25:19-34; 27; 32:1-15; 33:1-17	God helps us to forgive
Sept. 13	Joseph, the favored child	Genesis 37	We all make mistakes that have consequences
Sept. 20	Joseph’s rise to power	Genesis 39 & 41	We can choose to follow God even amidst empire
Sept. 27	Joseph and his family reconcile	Genesis 42-46	We are part of God’s big plan for justice