

AssemblyLine

December 13, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 50

Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / office@assemblymennonite.org

Join us for Online Worship Sundays at 10 AM

WORSHIP

December 13	December 20
Worship Leader: Karen Graber Roth/Jeanne Liechty	Worship Leader: Steve Shantz
Preacher: Jonathon Schramm	Preacher: Wilma Harder
Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-55	Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:26-38

CALENDAR

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

Sat	Dec 12	4:15 pm Children's Advent in the Woods 4:50 pm Advent Worship-Witmer Woods/GC College Cabin
Sun	Dec 13	10:00 am Worship on Zoom , followed by fellowship time 11:30 am MYF Second Hour 12-3 pm JYF Gathering
Mon	Dec 14	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom 6-8 pm Interplay/Dance Group on Zoom
Wed	Dec 16	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Fri	Dec 18	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Sat	Dec 19	4:15 pm Children's Advent in the Woods 4:50 pm Advent Worship-Witmer Woods/GC College Cabin
Sun	Dec 20	10:00 am Worship on Zoom , followed by fellowship time 4:30-7:30 pm Children's Advent Spiral at AMC outdoors
Mon	Dec 21	8pm Longest Night Service on Zoom
Tues	Dec 22	7:15-8:30 pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom
Thurs	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve Service on Zoom
Sun	Dec 27	10:00 am Lessons and Carols on Zoom

Note: We are no longer requiring a password for public Zoom meetings (including Sunday morning worship). When you join the Zoom meeting, you will be placed in a "waiting room" until the tech host lets you in. **You can also join our Zoom meetings 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

TODAY is the third Sunday of Advent! The Sunday of Joy. This year the Advent planning committee is using Maya Angelou's poetry to speak to the particular and unique convergence of COVID, Advent, Social Injustice and long nights in 2020. The introduction to the Advent theme with preachers and details can be found [here](#). Today we will hear from Jonathon Schramm. If you want to join the group in the woods Saturday at 4:50 sign up [here](#). There is also an option for children to gather earlier for a story and activity on Saturday in Witmer Woods. Sign up [here](#). On Sunday morning at 11 am we will have two "2nd hour" options: a virtual coffee hour and an "Advent in Narnia" for

the young and young at heart.

For many of us, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. This year we will be joining our scripture throughout the season with the poetry of Maya Angelou. We are using materials from the SALT project out of Indianapolis and have purchased a devotional that you can use along with the season. The devotional includes scripture, poems and practices that are appropriate for individual, family or small group use. Burn the Advent countdown candle each day as you make space for the Christ child this season. Countdown candles and hard copies of the devotional are in a bin outside the front doors

of the church. Additionally, a digital copy of the devotional can be found [here](#).

The MYF will meet this Sunday, December 13th at 11:30am for an Advent-themed Second Hour. Please watch for an email from the sponsors announcing whether we will be meeting in person or on zoom.

Cookie Exchange assignments were sent out last Sunday, if you did not get an email and you signed up to participate, check your spam folder. If you still can't find it, please email annays@assemblymennonite.org

Virtual Christmas Play: Children and youth of all ages and abilities are invited to participate in a Zoom telling of the Christmas story to be recorded for our Christmas Eve Zoom service. Please email annays@assemblymennonite.org by **Dec 16** if your children would like to participate, and please specify if they would like a speaking role. I can add as many as we need. I will be putting together bags of costumes, scripts, and Christmas Eve candles for any children who wish to participate. **The bags can be picked up at the church on Sunday, Dec 20** (when you come for the Advent spiral). **We will meet on Zoom at 6 p.m. on Mon, Dec 21.** Parental involvement will be needed on that zoom call.

Virtual Passing the Light. This year for Christmas Eve I would like to make a video of the congregation passing the light to each other before singing Silent Night. If you would be interested in making a short video of you receiving a lit candle from the left of the screen and passing it to the right of the screen, send your video to [Lora](#) by Friday Dec. 18th. If you have questions please ask. Want an example? Look [here](#) or search online for "passing challenge." -Lora Nafziger

Longest Night Service: Mon, Dec 21 is the Longest Night, a time for acknowledging the shadows that many of us experience during this season. There are two ways you can participate in a Longest Night Service. (1) A listserv email will be sent out on Mon with a mix of readings, images and Taize music, which you are welcome to use on your own. (2) Or, you can join others for a communal worship service at 8pm on Zoom using the same materials.

We will end the Zoom worship with time to share the heaviness that you carry in the zoom chat as candles are lit on your behalf in the worship space. Questions? Contact [Anna Yoder Schlabach](#)

Christmas Lessons and Carols Service: The worship committee is still seeking creative folks to help with the pre-recorded portion of the Lessons & Carols service December 27. We are seeking individuals, families, small groups, pods of creative Assembly-ites to contribute to this service. We need "performers" of both the lessons and carols. For the lessons, we are requesting 90 second videos telling the Christmas story: acting, dance, dramatic reading, shadow puppets, playmobile figures, operetta. Use your imagination. For the carols we would like to see a variety of 3 minute videos of ensemble, solo, vocal, and instrumental performances. To sign up follow this [google forms link](#) and select the scripture or carol that you would like to contribute no later than December 13th. Send any questions to Erich Miller (kerichmiller@gmail.com), and your completed videos to Becky Snider (rksnider42@gmail.com) by Sunday, December 20th. ~Thanks, Worship Committee.

Advent Spiral Outdoors Sunday December 20th 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 pm at the meeting house. This is a luminous activity for children. Children are told the story of the light and then get to light and carry their own candles through a spiral of greens. This activity is targeted at children ages 3-11, though older children often find it meaningful. I would encourage Jr youth aged children to sign up for the 6:30 pm time. This year the activity will be outside and adapted to ensure safe COVID practices. Please sign up [here](#).

In order to meet our budget this year, we need \$74,813 in giving in the month of December. In November, \$33,739 was given. Offerings YTD through Nov 30 are \$376,667 (83% of our budget for the year). Expenses through Nov 30 were \$344,369 (76% of budget). Offerings can be sent by mail to the church office to the attention of the Treasurer, or [on the church website](#). Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Leadership Group met Dec 1 and discussed the history of LGBTQ+ inclusion at Assembly, oversight of the Safe

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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

Church policy, and an upcoming congregational-pastoral review. Approved minutes from past meetings can be [found on the church website](#).

There will be **no congregational meeting in December**. We will likely hold a congregational meeting on either January 17 or 24 to discuss the 2021 spending plan. Watch for more information in future Assemblylines.

Assembly listserv emails going to Spam (for Gmail users)? Have you been missing Prayer & Sharing emails, Orders of Worship, or other important emails sent out on the Assembly listserv? If you've been experiencing this problem, and if you use Gmail, [these instructions may help](#).

Lifelong Learning Institute of Elkhart County: Dr. Jep Hostetler will be presenting on the "Novel CoronaVirus and Vaccines: The Latest Information" on December 15 at 7:00 pm. You can read more and also register at www.life-learn.org. This is free and open to everyone - wherever you live.

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.

Happy Birthday last week (12/6-12/12) to: Leon Bauman, Anne Horst Hanby, Char Yutz, Ruth Ann Gardner, Jady Good Kaufmann, Hannah Friesen, Thomas Bona, and Oscar Quintana. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday this week (12/13-12/19) to: Merv Stutzman, Nayo Ulloa, Michelle Miller Good, Jeannie Brunk, Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Wendel Landes, Sarah Horst, Dottie Eberly, and Kim Kurtz. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

(repeat) **Worship Survey:** As you know, worship looks very different this year, and yet, we are still committed to participatory worship. We would love to find ways to involve more of you as we continue to do worship on Zoom. We'd also like to hear from those of you who aren't participating regularly in zoom worship. [Please fill out this short survey](#). The first four people to fill it out will get a prize. And it won't be an ark of the covenant.

(repeat) **New Online Church Directory:** We're trying out a new online directory service here at AMC. To access it, visit <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/> or search for the app in the Apple or Android app stores. At the top of the page, click on "Church Member Sign In." Create an account by using your email address that is on record in the [current church directory](#) and creating your own unique password for your account. Add photos and update information accordingly. If you would prefer, you can [send updated information and photos to Jane at the office](#) and she can add them for you. If you would simply like a PDF copy of the directory instead of accessing it via the website or app, let Jane know and she can print one for you or email it to you for you to print on your own. We will likely not print any immediately but will give folks time to enter and update their information first. Finally, as we navigate this together, your feedback is appreciated as to how you experience using the service. Many thanks to Jim Kaufmann for helping us get this up and running!

(repeat) **Thank you** to all the children and adults at **Assembly** for collecting coins for My Coins Count this year for the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS). We appreciate your contribution of **\$81.27** - helping families gain access to life-giving water. Thanks to congregations and local business matches, we expect to raise over **\$150,000** for MyCC this year. Your coins will help buy pipes to bring water to farmers and villages in India, will help buy tanks and pumps to provide water to school children in Jordan, and help drill wells to bring clean water to children in Mozambique and other equally important water projects around the world. Water is life and its availability improves lives and health and reduces conflicts over scarce resources. Thank you for sharing your resources in the name of Christ, so other families can have their basic necessities met through Mennonite Central Committee and our partners around the world.
~ John Martens, MyCC Coordinator- MMRS

community connections

Goshen College's 2019 broadcast of A Festival of Carols will air on the local PBS station and be livestreamed at

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wnit.org/live in the week leading up to Christmas. See the full lineup [here](#).

Thank you for making the 2020 MCC Great Lakes Alternative Comforter Bash a success! Our total for this year is 641 comforters that will be distributed by MCC to those in need of warmth and comfort around the world. We appreciate the effort and hard work that was done by many hearts and hands. If you currently have packets to complete, please return the knotted comforters to the Depot between the hours of 1:00-4:00 Monday-Thursday or by appointment by calling Nadine Zook Miller at 574-534-4071 when they are knotted. Stay tuned for information on our 2021 Comforter Bash! Fabric packets for making tops for our 2021 event are available at the Depot from Nadine.

Triple P-Positive Parenting Program: Join us December 15 at noon as we celebrate the first five years of Triple P -- Positive Parenting Program -- in Elkhart County during this virtual gathering! We'll tell the story of why community partners came together to bring Triple P to Elkhart County. We will share about the dozens of collaborations we built to create a system of support for parents and caregivers. We'll talk about the positive outcomes we've already achieved for parents across the county. Finally, we will preview what's next and send out a comprehensive report on the first five years of Triple P in Elkhart County! We're excited to share our community's success with you, and we hope to see you at noon (EST) on Tuesday, December 15. If you have further questions, contact Emily Herriott, director of Triple P in Elkhart County, at eherriott@triplepelkhartcounty.org

Christian Peacemaker Teams hosting "Scholar-Activist Encounters" webinar Thursday Dec. 17 at 7:30 pm. In this session, CPTer and lifelong peace activist, Weldon Nisly and biblical scholar Tom Boomershine will discuss their commitment to understand and respond to the Gospel's call to peacemaking — within the academy, within Christian community, and in conflict zones around the world. They will focus on the struggle of the Kurds in Northern Iraq targeted by Turkey's military in the context of the Iraq war, as well as the Palestinian struggle in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. This event is co-sponsored by the Center &

Library for the Bible and Social Justice, New York. [Register here](#).

Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission is recruiting two part time persons for the Goshen, IN office to accompany the incoming AIMM Executive Coordinator leadership team of Bruce Yoder and John Fumana. **AIMM's Office Manager** (16 hours/week) will be a self-starter with a good level of computer literacy and good relationship skills. Duties will include creating, publishing and mailing AIMM print publications; investing in AIMM partner/donor relations; managing website, social media, and office online functions; managing the donor database and banking; and other general office duties. **AIMM's Accountant** (8 hours/week) will be familiar with Quickbooks, track all income and expenses according to nonprofit accounting norms, and work closely with AIMM's external financial reviewer to prepare all year end fiscal entries and reports. The Accountant will also handle payroll, insurance, paying bills, bank reconciliations, and various legal reporting requirements. Both of these positions have flexible hours and can be accomplished in part by working from home, although some tasks need to happen in the AIMM office, which is located in the Depot at 1013 Division St., Goshen, IN. A major job perk is to be part of a team working together to strengthen connections with African church partners and engage in holistic Christian mission together. Preferred starting date for both positions: first full week of January 2021. To indicate interest and receive further information, call Rod Hollinger-Janzen at 574-612-6091 or email at: rod@aimmint.org

Mennonite Church USA's "Equipping" Newsletter is [here](#).

Mennonite Central Committee's Newsletter "In Touch" is [here](#).

(repeat) **Pathways Retreat** invites you to join us for Advent Visio Divina on Wednesdays during Advent (December 2, 9, 16) at 8am. Pathways will not be hosting daily prayers from Dec 21 - Jan 5. Daily prayers continue to happen via zoom. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org. Pathways Retreat Newsletter is [here](#).

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(repeat) **Mennonite Mission Network Free Webinar:** “Holiday Cheer Over Pandemic” Tuesday, December 15 on Zoom at 7:00 pm. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

(repeat) **Elkhart County Summit on Children:** The Planning Committee for Elkhart County Summit on Children wants to invite you to a FREE series of monthly Zoom lunch and learn meetings. For the second year it is not safe to get together, but we can continue to learn and be together virtually. Social Work C.E.U. credits and legal C.L.E credits are available. Our first in a series will be on self-care put on by Yvonne Larrier from G.C. Scored. Dr. Larrier writes that this two-hour workshop will equip and empower attendees with the Mindsets, Activities, Relationships, Knowledge, Emotions (emotional literacy), Resources, and Skills/Strategies (MARKERS™) to Recognize that “Self Care is Not Selfish.” This workshop will educate the attendee on how to “Renew their minds, transform their lives and help them to create safer communities.” It will be a two-part presentation held on Zoom January 20 and 27, 2021, 12-1 p.m. [Registration is required.](#)

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