

# AssemblyLine

December 20, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 51

## Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

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

Join us for Online Worship Sundays at 10 AM

### WORSHIP

December 20	December 27
Worship Leader: Steve Shantz	<b>Lessons and Carols Service</b>
Preacher: Wilma Harder	Worship Leader: Becky Snider
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 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 <a href="#">on Zoom</a> , followed by fellowship time 1-3 pm JYF meeting @AMC-Classroom 3 4:30-7:30 pm Children's Advent Spiral at AMC outdoors 5:00 pm Singing Group @ AMC-Worship Space
Mon	Dec 21	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a> 8pm Longest Night Service <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Tues	Dec 22	7:15-8:30 pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom
Wed	Dec 23	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Thurs	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve Service <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Sun	Dec 27	10:00 am Lessons and Carols <a href="#">on Zoom</a> 11:30 am MYF Second Hour
Mon	Dec 28	6 pm Interplay Dance Group on Zoom
Wed	Jan 6	1:00 pm Women's Lunch Bunch <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Fri	Jan 8	9:30 am Greencroft meetup <a href="#">on Zoom</a>

**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

**Magdalena Gollner** (1st, Parkside) turned 7 on Dec. 10th! Magdalena likes recess best at school. She likes playing with her friends and running outside. Outside she also likes to jump on the trampoline with her sister & play hide and go seek with her dad. Winter is her favorite season because of the snow. She likes to drink tea, purple is her favorite color and she would like to learn to play cello and piano. A picture of Magdalena is [here](#).

**Thomas Baldanzi-Schlabach** (5th Bethany) turned 11 on Dec. 10! Thomas likes to read (mostly fantasy), listen to and make music and ride his bike. He plays saxophone and is learning to play bass. Thomas likes to be outside and

thinks spring is his favorite season, though winter is good because of his birthday and snow! His favorite foods are sushi and enchilada casserole. A picture of Thomas is [here](#).

**Jeremiah Beachy** (6th, Bethany) turned 12 on Dec. 11th! Jeremiah loves to listen to music and listens widely. Lately, he has been listening to a lot of rock including Nirvana. He has been learning how to bake at school and is getting pretty good at chocolate chip and snickerdoodle cookies! He has moved to a new house and school this year and thinks both are pretty great!

**TODAY is the fourth Sunday of Advent!** The Sunday of Love. 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 Wilma Harder. 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 be having the final drop-in of the year** at Isaac and Jesse Bontrager's house this Sunday, December 20th, from 6:30-8:30pm. We will be decorating gingerbread houses, so please bring a package of candy to use as decoration in addition to wearing a mask and dressing warmly! The Bontrager's address can be found in the church directory, or by contacting one of the sponsors.

**Participate in the virtual candle lighting Christmas Eve** by making a video of your household receiving the light (a candle) and passing the flame from candle to candle in your household and then off the screen to the invisible next person. **Friday, Dec. 18th is the last day** to submit your video to [Lora Nafziger](#). Check-in with Lora if you have questions.

**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](#)

**Jane will be out of the office Dec 23-Jan 5.** In place of the regular Assemblyline, a short listserv email will be sent out on Dec 25 & Jan 1 with reminders about upcoming church events.

**The pastors will be "out of the office" from Dec 25-Jan 1.** We will not be unreachable, but we will be working less. During this time, please expect us to be slower to respond to emails; however we will be available if we are needed.

**Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer** will happen via Zoom on Mon Dec 21 and Wed Dec 23 this week as usual. There will be no noon prayer from Dec 25-Jan 1. Noon prayer will resume on Mon Jan 4.

**Urgent need continues.** There may never be another time in your life when there is so much human need in our community. Over 15 Assembly folks are generously volunteering with *the Center for Healing and Hope* providing Covid tests, but more volunteers are needed. Despite the coming vaccine, the pandemic will likely be with us for months. Sickness and death can be minimized through safety practices (masks, distancing, etc) and widespread testing. Giving even 2 hours of volunteer time a week to help with the testing helps make our community safer. You can choose the task you're comfortable with (some have no contact with the public), and the time you'd like to volunteer. Go to the CHH website or contact Olivia Wenger, volunteer coordinator, with questions or willingness - [owenger@chhclinics.org](mailto:owenger@chhclinics.org). – Karl Shelly, pastor of community building and mission.

**Cookbook for sale:** When the pandemic started, Marshall King invited local restaurants to contribute recipes for a digital cookbook, with all proceeds going back to the restaurants involved. That “I’m Hungry, Let’s Cook”

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**Assembly Mennonite Church**

**Pastoral Team**

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**Elders:** Dennis Landis (chair), Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Jonathon Schramm, Anne Horst Hanby, Jamie Lake, Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Lydia Miller  
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**Administrator:** Jane Litwiller (M/T/TR/F 4:15-6:15) [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) 574-534-4190

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cookbook is now in print and copies are available at Fables Books, South Side Soda Shop, Goshen Brewing Co. and other spots. The cost is \$20. You can also reach out to Marshall at [hungrymarshall@gmail.com](mailto:hungrymarshall@gmail.com) and learn more at <https://www.hungrymarshall.com/cookbook>.

**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 (12/13-12/19) 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!

**Happy Birthday this week (12/20-12/26) to:** Adah Landis, Meiling Yordy, Robin Ebright-Zehr, Geri Hochstetler, Maria Schirch, Jon Shetler, and Brian Yoder Schlabach. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **Leadership Group met Dec 1** and discussed the history of LGBTQ+ inclusion at Assembly, oversight of the Safe Church policy, and an upcoming congregational-pastoral review. Approved minutes from past meetings can be [found on the church website](#).

(repeat) 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.

(repeat) **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](#).

(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!

### community connections

**College Mennonite Church presents "The Christmas Eve Radio Show" on December 24 at 7:00 p.m.**, to be aired on 91.1 FM The Globe and 104.3 FM Radio Horizonte. This fully bilingual (Spanish and English) service will have many of the same elements as a "lessons and carols" service - but radio show style. The service will conclude with the song "Silent Night," and listeners are invited to meet in the College Mennonite Church parking lot at 1900 South Main with candles to experience this song together.

**Attached you'll find the Interfaith Hospitality Network [November newsletter](#) and [Christmas letter](#).** Especially note the "needs" on the November letter.

**Mennonite Disaster Service's "On the Level" newsletter is [here](#).**

**Mennonite Men's "Engage" newsletter is [here](#).**

**Central District Conference's "Focus" Newsletter is [here](#).**

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(repeat) **Goshen College's 2019 broadcast of A Festival of Carols** will air on the local PBS station and be livestreamed at [wnit.org/live](http://wnit.org/live) in the week leading up to Christmas. See the full lineup [here](#).

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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](mailto:rod@aimmint.org)

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

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

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