

# AssemblyLine

December 6, 2020

Volume XXXIX, Number 49

## 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 6	December 13
Worship Leader: Wendel Landes	Worship Leader: Karen Graber Roth
Preacher: Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley	Preacher: Jonathon Schramm
Scripture: Isaiah 40:3-5; Mark 1:1-8	Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46b-55

### CALENDAR

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

Sat	Dec 5	4:15 pm Children's Advent in the Woods 4:50 pm Advent Worship-Witmer Woods/GC College Cabin 6 pm MYF Christmas Party
Sun	Dec 6	10:00 am Worship <a href="#">on Zoom</a> , followed by fellowship time 8:30 pm Anti-Racism Support Group <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Mon	Dec 7	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Wed	Dec 9	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Fri	Dec 11	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
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 <a href="#">on Zoom</a> , followed by fellowship time 11:30 am MYF Second Hour 12-3 pm JYF Gathering
Mon	Dec 14	6-8 pm Interplay/Dance Group 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 <a href="#">on Zoom</a> , followed by fellowship time 4:30-7:30 pm Children's Advent Spiral at AMC outdoors

**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

**Bryn Rothshank** (Homeschool, PK) turned 5 on Dec. 5th! Bryn is good at jumping, climbing and skipping. She is working on her tree climbing skills. She loves to play with her pets and her brother Linden. Her favorite colors are pink and purple; chocolate is her favorite food and dinosaurs her favorite animal. When outside she likes to be by the fire!

**Today is the second Sunday of Advent!** The Sunday of Peace. 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 Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley. 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 2 "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 a Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 5th from 6-8pm at the College Cabin following the Advent service. Come dressed in your most festive (and warm) holiday attire for sugar cookie decorating, hot cocoa and a white elephant gift exchange - and remember to wear your mask! Feel free to contact the sponsors with any questions.

**Christmas cookie exchange:** If you are one of the 38 households that signed up to participate, plan to deliver your cookies next Sunday Dec. 13. Watch your email for instructions that will include who to deliver your cookies to and any dietary restrictions. If you would like to receive cookies and did not sign up to participate please 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](mailto:kerichmiller@gmail.com)), and your completed videos to Becky Snider ([rksnider42@gmail.com](mailto: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](#).

**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.

**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) **Assemblyline submission guidelines and deadline change:** Please send your carefully crafted and finished announcements to [assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org) by **Thursday**

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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  
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**Pastoral Intern:** Kristen Swartley, [kswartley@ambs.edu](mailto:kswartley@ambs.edu)  
**Pastor Emeritae:** Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

**Elders:** Dennis Landis (chair), Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Jonathon Schramm, Anne Horst Hanby, Jamie Lake, Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Lydia Miller  
**Youth Coordinators:** Sarah Sutter Kaufmann, Aaron Kaufmann, Sara Morris, Hannah Friesen

**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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evenings no later than 11pm for inclusion in that week's Assemblyline. Late announcements won't be prioritized.

**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 (11/29-12/5) to:** Eric A. Kurtz, Joni Yost, Jon Zirkle, Aydian Smuts, Betsy Lehman, Glenn Gilbert, Harold Metzler, Rachel Schrock, and Karl Shelly. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

**Happy Birthday this week (12/6-12/12) to:** Leon Bauman, Anne Horst Hanby, Char Yutzy, 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!

**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

(repeat) **Small group reps met last week** and heard about upcoming Assembly Advent events and opportunity for creative and fun involvement in the Christmas Lessons & Carols. Also offered were small group discussion questions geared to invite deeper conversations. Ask your rep for more information.

## community connections

**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](http://pathwaysretreat.org). Pathways Retreat Newsletter is [here](#).

**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](#).

**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](#).

**Goshen College Announcements** can be found [here](#).

(repeat) **LIVE ONLINE CONCERT: The Steel Wheels & Girl Named Tom:** Join the Pennsylvania Relief Sale on Sunday, December 6 at 8 p.m. EST (7 p.m. CST | 6 p.m. MST | 5 p.m. PST) for a free online concert to support Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)'s work, featuring an opening performance by [Girl Named Tom](#) followed by an hour-long concert from musical group [The Steel Wheels](#). Songs and stories will highlight MCC's work around the world. You can access the concert on December 6 at [charityauction.bid/Concert2020](http://charityauction.bid/Concert2020). The program will include

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an intermission with opportunities to financially support the programs and mission of MCC.

(repeat) **The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale board** wants to thank all the food and auction volunteers, donors, bidders, runners and My Coins Count collectors for the creativity, enthusiasm and support for the relief sale under the unusual circumstances this year. We are pleased to report that this year so far, we raised \$336,298, and My Coins Count contributions are still coming in. MCC is overwhelmed with the generosity of all of you who donated, purchased items, or otherwise had a part in raising funds through various Relief Sale efforts this year to assist in their work. Please check our Facebook and website in a few months as we keep you informed about plans for 2021!

(repeat) **Mennonite Creation Care Network Newsletter** is [here](#).

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