

AssemblyLine

January 17, 2021

Volume XL, Number 3

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

January 17	January 24
Worship Leader: Small Group Polar Bear	Worship Leader: Small Group Beta
Preacher: Sean Smuts	Preacher: Alma Boyle
Scripture: John 1:43-51	Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

CALENDAR

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

Sun	Jan 17	10:00 am Worship on Zoom , followed by fellowship time 6:30 pm MYF Drop-in at AMC Worship Space
Mon	Jan 18	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Tues	Jan 19	7 pm Leadership Group meeting on Zoom
Wed	Jan 20	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Thurs	Jan 21	5:30 pm Hymn Recording in Worship Space
Fri	Jan 22	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Sun	Jan 24	1pm, 2pm, 3pm Sledding for PreK-5th (sign up)
Sun	Jan 24	7 pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom
Mon	Jan 25	6-8 pm Interplay Dance Group on Zoom
Tues	Jan 26	7:15 pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom
Wed	Feb 3	1pm Women's Lunch Bunch on Zoom
Fri	Feb 5	9:30am Greencroft meetup 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

Lena Osborne (3rd Parkside) turned 9 on Jan. 10th! Lena loves to read, play soccer and eat candy! She is good at spelling and trampoline flips. She is practicing her magic and has already done a show at school. She plays a very competitive game of Uno and likes to experiment with cooking. Her favorite food is tortellini with cheesy sauce. A picture of Lena is [here](#).

Rachel Hirschler (6th Bethany) turned 12 on Jan. 7th! Rachel doesn't mind doing school at home because it is nice to sleep in. She enjoys spending time online with her friends, reading and drawing. She also likes to play volleyball and violin. She is looking forward to having a sleepover when COVID restrictions lift! A picture of Rachel is [here](#).

THIS SUNDAY the Season of Epiphany (Jan 3 - Feb 7) continues, inviting us into up-close stories of Jesus' ministry from the Gospels of Mark and John, including his baptism, the call of the disciples, and healing the sick and rejected. In witnessing these Jesus stories, come ponder how we can experience newness and offer newness to those around us. Small groups will take turns leading worship during this series. The full series introduction can be found [here](#).

Zoom Worship Chat Etiquette: During this season, we are changing the chat settings on Zoom so that you will be able to chat privately with people instead of only chatting publicly. We especially hope that you share your words of affirmation or expressions of care with a private chat just to the person for whom the message is intended. Affirmation is good and important, but we don't want our worship to be a space where some get lots of public affirmation and

others don't. This leads to some people feeling undervalued and others feeling like worship participation is about getting "likes" rather than deepening our relationship with the One who proclaims that all of us are beloved by God. (See Epiphany intro above for the full rationale)

The 2nd Hour series on Progressive Christianity continues this week immediately after worship. We will focus on its specific tenets and what distinguishes it from the dominant understanding of Christianity in the U.S. Look for handouts posted on the Assembly 3rd Hour Facebook page or contact [Karl Shelly](#).

Small Group Polar Bear is leading worship this week. **Mary and Tristan Beechy-King** live and work in Goshen. Daughter Emery is 8 and attends 2nd grade at Parkside. Son Atticus is 3 and accepts bribes for using the potty. **Naomi Chapman** lives in a household of two, with her grandson, Jeremiah Chico. She is happily retired, and fills her days creating & mailing cards, knitting projects, and helping the billing for Covid claims at Center for Healing and Hope. She also loves taking Kaylee Martin from school each day to the Beechy-King home.

Philipp Gollner teaches U.S. history and religion at Goshen College. **Eleonora** is in 5th grade at Bethany, and **Magdalena** is in 1st grade at Parkside. They speak German at home and have a cat, Marla.

Karen and Adam Graber Roth have both changed jobs in the last year. Adam now works at Stair Supply as a Project Coordinator and Karen teaches Art at Chamberlain Elementary. Both changes have been good for our family. **Reuben** (3.5) continues to enjoy CCYC, building forts at home and reading. **Hezekiah** is now 11 months, and teeth are coming in fast and furious. He recently found his eyebrows make others laugh as he discovers all kinds of facial expressions!

Doug Schirch and **Craig & Kathy (Spencer & Landon) Glick Miller** are also part of Small Group Polar Bear.

The MYF will be meeting for a movie-watching drop-in this Sunday (Jan 17) from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Assembly worship space. We hope to see everyone's masked faces there!

Join us every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the worship space to record two hymns for Sunday worship. Each Thursday during the season of Epiphany we'll be seeking singers to sing and record an "old" hymn and a "new" hymn for worship. Please sign up using the [link here](#) and as always, please wear a mask and plan to sing six feet apart. It should take 20 minutes and we'll cap it at 20 people.

Sledding day! Children PK-5th grade are invited to Jim and Lois Kaufmann's house (18166 CR 48 New Paris) on Sunday January 24th for a sledding and hot chocolate day. Parents are invited to join and there will be a fire and restrooms available. To increase peer connection and reduce numbers we are suggesting children sign up according to their age group. Sign up [here](#). Feel free to contact [Lora Nafziger](#) with questions.

Lora sent an email out to parents at Assembly this week with some thoughts about the events of the past week, the pandemic and life. It included stories for children during crisis and a podcast for adults on beauty. If you would like to read this email you can find it [here](#).

Instant Church Directory Update: Please continue working on updating your personal information in the [new online directory](#). Here is a [document with more information](#), including step-by-step instructions on how to create an account as well as other general information about the service. Please let [Jane](#) know if you have any further questions or concerns about any of this.

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 (1/10-1/16) to: Becky Smuts, Susan Lanning, Karen Powell, Naomi Lapp Klassen, Bruce Glick, Sharon Kauffmann, Erich Miller, Tom Hassan, and Susan Mark Landis. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday this week (1/17-1/23) to: Emily Stuckey Weber, Duane Shank, Heather Bridger-Ulloa, Tom Kauffman, and Barb Hassan. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Please email announcements to assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org by 11 PM local time Thursday for inclusion in the following Sunday's *AssemblyLine*. To receive the *AssemblyLine* via email visit <http://eepurl.com/bsXsDr>.

Assembly Mennonite Church

Pastoral Team

Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732
 Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037
 Anna Yoder Schlabach annays@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-5319
 Scott Coulter scottc@assemblymennonite.org 419-535-2918
Pastoral Intern: Kristen Swartley, 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 574-534-4190

Assembly Mennonite Church seeks to be a dynamic Christian community by together meeting God who draws us beyond ourselves into nurturing, sharing, and living the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ. ~ Mission Statement, adopted June 1997

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

A “thank you” from MCC Material Resources and other updates are available [here](#).

(repeat) **Information from Goshen Health regarding the COVID-19 vaccines** is available [here](#). Goshen Health is hoping to partner with churches in the area in order to share timely and accurate information with the general public.

(repeat) **Excited about Carnival?** At Assembly, we prepare for the start of Lent with a Carnival worship service - this year on Sun Feb 14. Carnival is a time for holy laughter and play, for exaggerating our "shadow sides" and leading us into a space of confession and healing. Laughing at ourselves helps make space for the Holy Spirit to do her Lenten work in us. Volunteers are needed for a committee to plan Carnival. Please contact [Lora Nafziger](#) if you're interested in joining this committee.

(repeat) **Finance Update:** By year end, our offerings totaled \$451,181 which is just \$299 less than the budget. That's incredibly close! However our expenses were significantly below budget so we will have a large surplus this year. Final numbers will be released within a week. Thanks for your generous offerings. - John Nafziger, Treasurer

(repeat) **The two percent committee met on Jan 4** to distribute remaining 2020 2% funds. We recommend the following distribution. **Local Giving:** \$2000 to the Maple City Health Dental Clinic. \$1000 each to Center for Community Justice, Elkhart County Clubhouse, Goshen Interfaith Hosp. Network, Goshen Ministerial Association Jubilee Fund, Jail Ministry of Elkhart Co. and Ryan's Place. \$250 to Mosaic Health and Healing Arts. **World Giving:** \$1250 To Mennonite Central Committee for Honduras hurricane relief, \$1000 Each to National Immigrant Justice Center, Association for a More Just Society <https://www.ajs-us.org/>, Christian Peacemaker Teams, SEMILLA Guatemala, Mennonite Disaster Services and MCC Great Lakes. \$500 each to Dove's Nest and Jubilee Partners. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions of where to give to next time please email Chair Sarah Horst or anyone else on the committee: Glenn Gilbert, Kathleen Jones, Sandy Fribley, Joel Zwier or Barb Swartley.

(repeat) **A sincere thank you from Mennonite Central Committee** to our friends at Assembly for your recent generous donation of \$1,000. Your support assures that even in the midst of a global pandemic, your love, care and prayers are supporting the vulnerable people being served by MCC partners as they minister in their communities. Your donations continue the 100 year mission of MCC of offering dignity, solidarity and hope to communities in crisis. Thank you for caring and ministering through MCC in the name of Christ. – Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes – www.mcc.org

community connections

Join MCC for a free webinar: The Spiritual Cost of Doctrine of Discovery. Mark Charles, a Navajo activist, speaker, and author will be presenting on The Spiritual Cost of Doctrine of Discovery. Along with Soong-Chan Rah, Mark is the author of *Unsettling Truths: The ongoing, dehumanizing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery*, Intervarsity Press (2019). The free webinar will take place on Thursday, January 21, from 11-12:30 EST. Please register by January 20 at mcc.org/webinar-registration-dod to receive the webinar link.

Pathways Retreat invites you to join us for our Candlemas and Crepes Celebration via zoom on February 2 at 7 pm. Learn more about how the spiritual practice of retreats has been life-changing for one Pathways guest. After a holiday break, daily prayers are again happening via zoom. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org. The “Rhythms” newsletter is [here](#).

Bethany Christian Schools is seeking an Art teacher for the 2021-22 school year. [Learn more and apply at bethanycs.net/employment/](http://bethanycs.net/employment/).

Bethany Christian Schools is seeking a Director of Enrollment beginning July 2021. [Learn more and apply at bethanycs.net/employment/](http://bethanycs.net/employment/).

Central District Conference’s “Focus” newsletter is [here](#) and the “Reporter” is [here](#).

Camp Friedenswald’s “Friedensword” newsletter is [here](#).

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Announcements and event updates from AMBS are [here](#).

(repeat) **The Indiana State Department of Health is now offering COVID-19 vaccines to those 80 and older.** Eligible seniors can schedule a vaccine here: <https://Scheduling.Coronavirus.IN.gov/Vaccine>

(repeat) **The MCC Material Resources Center at the Depot in Goshen** is not accepting donations until after meat canning to limit the number of people in the building. Donations will be accepted again beginning on Tuesday, January 19. For questions contact Nadine Zook Miller at 574-534-4133. Thank you for sharing God's love and compassion in tangible ways through MCC.

(repeat) **Join MCC and Great Lakes BIC for a free webinar: Consuming Media Responsibly.** Framed with a time of biblical reflection, Bishop Lynn Thrush will facilitate a discussion with Pastor Tracie Hunter and Nekeisha Alexis, AMBS' intercultural competence and undoing racism coordinator, about how we should understand the ways the media influences us. The free webinar will take place on Thursday, January 21, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. EST. Participants will come away with a better understanding of the racial undertones of media consumption. Please register by January 20 at mcc.org/gl-webinar-media to receive the webinar link.

(repeat) **Seeking the Beloved Community: From Racism to Reconciliation** As part of God's reconciling work, we are called to dismantle racism and build relationships across racial divides. On Saturday, January 23, 2021 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. EST, Mennonite Men will be hosting a meeting, open to all genders, with members of Seeking the Beloved Community, a group of Black and White men in Elkhart, Indiana, who have been engaged in this work for seven years. A number of these are pastors and members of Mennonite congregations. To learn more about the event, [click here](#). To register for the event, [click here](#).

(repeat) **Bethany Christian Schools** is expanding and seeks a full-time teacher for a new third grade class beginning the 2021-22 school year. Learn more and apply at bethanycs.net/employment.

(repeat) **An update from Bethany Christian Schools** is [here](#).

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

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

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