

AssemblyLine

February 14, 2021

Volume XL, Number 7

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

February 14 Carnival Sunday!	February 21
Worship Leader: Lora Nafziger	Worship Leader: Lydia Miller
Storytellers: Lisa Rose Martin, Adam Graber Roth, James Stuckey Weber, and Jena Kennedy	Preacher: Michael Miller
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13	Scripture: Gen 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15

CALENDAR

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

Sat	Feb 13	10 am Hymn Recording in Worship Space
Sun	Feb 14	10:00 am Worship on Zoom , followed by Second Hour
Mon	Feb 15	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Wed	Feb 17	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom 4-6 pm Lent Stations begin at AMC
Fri	Feb 19	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Sun	Feb 21	1-3 pm JYF Event at AMC Worship Space 7-8:30 pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom
Mon	Feb 22	6-8 pm Interplay Dance Group on Zoom
Tues	Feb 23	7:15-8:30pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom
Wed	Feb 24	4-6 pm Lent Stations at AMC

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

Auggie Nafziger Rhodes turns 5 on February 13. He will be celebrating with candy sushi and a trip to Friedenswald. Auggie loves superheroes, (especially Batman), playing with Playmobil, and listening to the soundtrack from Star Wars, (especially the Imperial March). He is excited to begin piano lessons! A photo of Auggie is [here](#).

Kiki Smuts (3rd Chandler) turned 9 on Feb. 8th! Kiki loves that she is learning to play violin. She also likes ice cream cake, anything peanut butter and playing Prodigy. She likes to read and build things on Minecraft. She enjoys drawing and coloring and taking pictures. She would like to be a photographer someday. She is patient with her little siblings and lets them ride on her back when playing backpack and horse! A photo of Kiki is [here](#).

THIS SUNDAY Carnival is coming to Zoom! Carnival is an Assembly tradition that is a mix of circus, party, and

regular worship service. We hold Carnival to create space for God's Spirit to do its Lenten work in us by exaggerating what we usually try to hide about ourselves, in safe company. This year our theme is "Deep in Love-Or Something Like That". Read more about how to get ready for Carnival in the [introduction](#). (Worship this Sunday will be followed by fellowship time in breakout rooms).

Carnival Care Packages! If you are not in a small group or did not get a small package delivered by your small group and you would like to get one before Sunday, please contact [Lora Nafziger](#) by text or email (all the pastors' phone numbers and emails are found at the bottom of this Assemblyline, or using the new directory app so they are easy to find!)

Lent Begins on February 17. We won't be having an Ash Wednesday service, but you are invited to come to the church from 4-6 p.m. for Lenten stations (see

announcement below) and receive ashes from a pastor at one of the stations. This season's theme, "Deep calls to deep" is not only about deep pain, it is also about deep belovedness. Enter into this season hearing the voice that urges you to see yourself as God sees you. Allow yourself to be led into a deeper relationship with God and others. [Read the full intro to Lent here.](#)

Lenten Second Hour Options: Each week there will be two options for the second hour: "Visio Divina," led by Kyle Schlabach is a class that will be exploring the images from Voices Together in a contemplative way and "Podcast and Conversation" led by a rotating group of people will be discussion based. Each week a podcast on a current issue broadly related to social justice and racial justice will be in the Assemblyline, please listen ahead of time and come prepared to discuss. The Sunday, February 21 Second Hour "Podcast and Conversation" class will discuss material from Jonathan Haidt. [TED talk: The moral roots of liberals and conservatives](#), 2008 (18 min.) and Article from *The Atlantic* [Jonathan Haidt Is Trying to Heal America's Divisions](#), May 24, 2020. Ideas for podcasts? Contact [Anne Horst Hanby](#).

Lenten self guided "mini-retreat" stations: Each week of Lent from **4-6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings** we are offering in-person faith formation stations. Walk through the worship space, gathering space, and labyrinth, visiting different stations that family groups or individuals can move through at their own pace. Each week the materials will change according to the lectionary and the theme. There will be a pastor there during that time to offer a ritual blessing (ashes, oil, water, etc). These rituals are for all. Please wear a mask and distance yourself from others.

Are you a photographer or artist? The themes and scriptures for Lent introduce images from nature: deep in the sea, the woods, the sky, the wilderness, the earth and the current. **Each week, you are invited to send in your own images or artwork on the theme for a slideshow we'll use in worship.** Please send to annay@assemblymennonite.org by Friday each week.

Miss singing with others? Recording "Familiar and Unfamiliar" Hymns for worship is moving from Thursday

evenings to **Saturday mornings (starting Feb. 13) at 10am.** Sign up to join [here](#). As always, we'll be distanced and masked, and singing out of the new Voices Together hymnals.

Anabaptist World Group Subscriptions: It's that time of year where we renew our church's group subscription to "Anabaptist World" (formerly "The Mennonite" subscription). If you are an existing subscriber through our current group subscription plan, [please use this form](#). If you are a new subscriber to our church's group subscription plan, [please use this form](#). Please have the appropriate form and payment submitted to Jane in the office no later than **March 16**. Let [Jane](#) know if you have any questions or if you need a printed copy of the form. Additionally, copies of the form are available for pickup outside of Jane's office.

Year-end donation receipts update: We earlier indicated that we were only going to send out donation receipts if requested this year. An alert member pointed out that the IRS allowed a special deduction this year of up to \$300 even for those that don't itemize. So we are making an attempt to email everyone their receipts directly from the treasurer email account (Thanks to Jim Kaufmann). If you made donations in 2020 and didn't get a receipt, check your spam folder first. If you didn't receive a receipt and want one or need a paper copy, let John (treasurer@assemblymennonite.org) or Jane (office@assemblymennonite.org) know.

Join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sun Feb 21 at 7pm [on Zoom](#). The agenda will include second readings on the 2021 Spending Plan and discussion of the surplus from 2020.

Leadership Group met on Feb 2 and discussed proposed changes to the Treasurer role, the Jan 31 congregational meeting, and the upcoming Feb 21 congregational meeting. You can read approved minutes from Leadership Group & congregational meetings [on the church website](#).

We are very thankful for the ongoing support to Assembly from the Everence Sharing Fund. Due to their generosity, we were able to provide \$6,000 to support

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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
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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

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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

special needs in our church and community last year. Barb Hassan continues to serve as our Everence representative. Please contact any of the pastors or Barb for more information.

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 (2/7-2/13) to: Paul Meyer-Reimer, Susan Nelson, Sandy Fribley, Linford Martin, Zakai Dengler Kaufman, and Cheryl Shreiner. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday this week (2/14-2/21) to: Bob Mynsberge, Penny Yarman, and Chad Kennedy. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

(repeat) **Mark your calendars for this month's JYF activity!** We are going to meet in the worship space at church from 1-3 pm on Sunday Feb 21st to do some letter-writing and maybe play a game or two.

(repeat) **Paul Meyer Reimer is turning 60 on Sunday** and we want to host a bonfire open house (well, I guess I should say open yard!). Come say a brief hello or stand by the fire and talk awhile. We were planning to host it this Sunday until we realized it might well be in the single digits! So, we will plan to have it Saturday, February 13. Join us anytime between 2 and 3:30 in the backyard.
~Kathy

(repeat) **The Leader Selection process** is the way the Assembly congregation discerns who will serve in various volunteer leadership roles in the coming year. We do this discernment in small groups. If you are not in a small group but you want to volunteer yourself for a committee, you are invited to complete the [online Leader Selection Worksheet](#). If you have any questions about the process, please talk with your small group rep, or you may talk to one of the pastors. Worksheets are **due by Sunday Feb 28!**

community connections

Mennonite Church USA invites you to join us in celebrating Black History Month. Visit this [African](#)

[American Mennonite History Timeline](#) and discover the people and events that help shape our denomination. Special thanks to the MC USA Archives and other contributors who created this timeline.

Mennonite Creation Care Network Dialog on creation care and militarism Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m. ET Ethicist Luke Beck Kreider will help us make the connections between violence/militarism and the environment in theological context. This is part of the Mennonites Against Militarism initiative. [Register here.](#)

Announcements from Goshen College:

~Watch five Goshen College students speak about issues of peace and justice during GC's annual C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest Tues Feb 16 at 7pm on [goshen.edu/livestream](#). Speakers include Olivia Krall on "The Rope That Ties Peace and Pain Together;" Mackenzie Miller on "Making Peace with Death: Transforming a Language of Violence and Inequality in America;" Lisa Nalliah on "Change Is Purple."

~All are invited for [a virtual GC Talk on Wed Feb 17, 7:30pm](#), featuring 2019 GC alumni award-winner Rob Vander Giessen-Reitsma on "Radical Imagination: Dreaming the Future Rooted in Place."

~Read & subscribe to [online Lenten reflections](#) from GC students & staff three days a week, based on the theme "Deep Calls to Deep."

~Catch Goshen College's Winter One Acts Feb. 19-21, featuring two student-directed plays: "Smiling in Place" directed by Gloria Bontrager-Thomas; and "I've Hit an Iceberg" directed by Abigail Greaser. Reserve your spot for free at [goshen.edu/tickets](#).

~Miss the Performing Arts Series? Join us for a virtual concert with Carrie Newcomer: "Remembering Radiance, Acknowledging Grief, Claiming Love" on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10-\$50 and parts of the proceeds will benefit the Goshen College Music Center. Visit [gcmusiccenter.org](#) for more information.

From Church Community Services: *Souper Trivia:* Join us for this fun virtual fundraiser to support the Soup of Success program at Church Community Services. Soup of Success programming empowers women in Elkhart County

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who are seeking a more secure future. March 5, 7 pm. \$25/person, up to 8 players per team. 4 rounds - 8 questions per round. \$200 cash prize for the winning team! Register by February 22 and receive \$5 off your order at www.soupofsuccess.com. For more information and to register go to: <http://bit.ly/triviasos2>

Teen Growers: Calling Elkhart Teens! Teen Growers is a paid internship for youth ages 15-18. Teens work in Seed to Feed gardens to provide produce for local food pantries, while learning about things like nutrition, food justice and careers in agriculture. The spring internship runs from March 20th to May 17th. Interns meet at Church Community Services, 907 Oakland Avenue, Elkhart from 3:30-5:30 M-T-Th-F and every other Saturday afternoon. To learn more and apply go to: <http://bit.ly/teengrowers>

Central District Conference Mid-Year Gatherings

The Board of Directors will host two gatherings via Zoom instead of the annual Regional Gatherings. These meetings will be held March 6 and March 27, 9:30a - 11:45a Eastern time. You are invited to attend your preferred date.

[Register here for the March 6 meeting.](#)

[Register here for the March 27 meeting.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. A schedule for the March 6 event is [available here.](#)

Bethany Christian Schools is hiring: Art Instructor, Director of Enrollment, and Evening Custodian positions are all currently open for application. Find more information [here.](#)

(repeat) **“Speaking the Truth in Love” Free Webinar:** In honor of Black History Month and in response to the Mennonite Church USA denominational mandate to support, build and cultivate peace across our denomination, Mennonite Mission Network is excited to host the Speak the Truth in Love webinar on February 18 at 7:00 pm. Ann Jacobs will host pastors Kevin Himes and Vikki Pruitte-Sorrels for this conversation. For more information and to register, click [here.](#)

(repeat) **Pathways Retreat** invites you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service via zoom on February 17 at 12 noon. Consider taking an individual retreat at Pathways;

we have updated prayer resources and a new resource for first-time retreatants on the website. Daily prayers continue via zoom Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org. The February “Rhythms” newsletter is [here.](#)

(repeat) **Mennonite Central Committee’s “In Touch” Newsletter** is [here.](#)

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