

AssemblyLine

February 21, 2021

Volume XL, Number 8

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 21	February 28
Worship Leader: Lydia Miller	Worship Leader: Scott Coulter
Preacher: Michael Miller	Preacher: Mary Lehman Yoder
Scripture: Gen 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15	Scripture: Mark 8:31-38, Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-15

CALENDAR

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

Sat	Feb 20	10 am Hymn Recording in Worship Space 5-6:30 pm MYF Drop-in at 215 Gra Roy Drive.
Sun	Feb 21	10:00 am Worship on Zoom , followed by Second Hour 1-3 pm JYF Event at AMC Worship Space 7-8:30 pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom
Mon	Feb 22	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom 6-8 pm Interplay Dance Group on Zoom
Tues	Feb 23	7:15-8:30pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom
Wed	Feb 24	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom 4-6 pm Lent Stations at the meetinghouse
Fri	Feb 26	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom
Sat	Feb 27	10 am Hymn Recording in Worship Space
Tues	Mar 2	7 pm Leadership Group Meeting on Zoom
Wed	Mar 3	9 am Leader Selection Committee on Zoom 1-2:30 Women's Lunch Bunch
Fri	Mar 5	9:30 am Greencroft Meetup on Zoom
Sun	Mar 7	8:30 pm Anti-racism Support Group 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

This is the first Sunday of Lent. Our theme this week is Deep in the Sea, Called to Deep Relationship. 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 deeper relationship with God and others. [Read the full intro to Lent here.](#)

Zoom Chatting: During Lent, we have left the chat settings so that you can privately chat with each other during the service, but we encourage you to limit public

chatting until Sharing our Joys and Concerns, as some find the chat feature distracting during worship.

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. It will be kid-friendly, all-ages, and very intergenerational. Kids (and adults who want to) will be given the chance to draw their own pictures in response, so paper, crayons, markers, pencils, etc. would be helpful to have. "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.

“Podcast and Conversation” Second Hour option:

Following worship this Sunday, Feb. 21, we will discuss Jonathan Haidt's [TED talk: The moral roots of liberals and conservatives](#) (18 min.) and an article from *The Atlantic* [Jonathan Haidt Is Trying to Heal America's Divisions](#). Haidt is a social psychologist and author of *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion*. He uses his research to help people understand and respect the moral motives of their enemies. Next Sunday, Feb. 28, we will discuss Brené Brown's Jan. 2021 podcast: [Brené on Words, Actions, Dehumanization and Accountability](#). Please listen ahead of time and come prepared to discuss.

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. If you can't come to the meetinghouse, [a virtual lent retreat is also on the church website](#).

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.

The MYF will be meeting for a drop-in Saturday, Feb. 20th, instead of on Sunday! We will be outdoors, ice-skating or ice-sliding, so please dress accordingly and bring skates or boots with good traction. Due to the cold temperatures, we will be meeting from **5-6:30pm.** We will meet at 215 Gra Roy Drive. Warm drinks will be provided, but feel free to bring other snacks. See you there!

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.

Voices Together Exploration: Becky Snider will be leading an exploration of our new hymnal, Voices Together, in the coming weeks on Zoom. Designed for anyone who is curious to learn more about this new worship resource, the five sessions will each consider the hymnal from a different perspective, so while it would be most meaningful to attend all five, you're welcome to join as often as is possible for you. To participate fully, you'll want to have a copy of Voices Together at home; they're available to check out at the Meetinghouse, outside the worship space. We'll meet in the Assembly Zoom room on Thursday evenings at 8 pm, March 4 through April 1. Hope to see many of you!

Volunteers needed: The kitchen in the meetinghouse is currently under renovation. Dana is asking for volunteers to paint walls. He'd also like volunteers to put a coat of finish on the kitchen cabinets. If you think you have the skills and time to assist with one of these projects, please SEND AN EMAIL to Jane in the church office (office@assemblymennonite.org).

Meetinghouse use: Friends, while we are happy for you to use the meetinghouse, please remember that due to the pandemic we need you to [contact the church office](#) to reserve a space before just showing up. This will help us avoid unintended scheduling conflicts, as well as to ensure that spaces that are being used are being properly ventilated. [You can read our policy here.](#) **Questions? Contact [Scott Coulter](#).**

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

Small Group Reps: Leader Selection Forms are due by Sunday Feb 28. If your small group has not yet completed the form, please be sure to do that this week. Thanks to those of you who have already done this important work!

Scott will be out of town and away from his phone and email from February 19-22. He and Ana are getting away for some kids-free time at an AirBnB.

Anna will be on vacation from February 18-28. She may still be responding to text and email, but likely slower than usual.

Central District Conference's "focus" newsletter is [here](#) and it highlights Assembly's anti-racism support group.

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 (2/14-2/20) to: Bob Mynsberge, Penny Yarman, and Chad Kennedy. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday this week (2/21-2/27) to: Ben Beyeler, Kathy Beachy, and Mary Amstutz Gilbert. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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](#).

(repeat) **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 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.

community connections

Join MCC for a 30-minute information session about MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) program on Thursday, February 25 at 10 a.m. EST. SWAP is a service and learning program that uses volunteers to address sub-standard housing in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. This webinar will include a short presentation about SWAP and how you can get involved, as well as time for Q&A. Hope you can join us! Register for the Zoom link at mcc.org/mcc-webinar-series. Also, SWAP summer staff positions for Job Site Coordinators and Meals Coordinators are now open. Applicants should be at least 19 years old, but the roles are not limited to young adults. For more information and to apply, visit mcc.org/swap-summer-staff or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 633-4008 or AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org.

Join Christian Peacemaker Teams for a live webinar: Memories of Social Justice: "20 years of Accompaniment in Colombia" on February 25 @ 7:00 pm. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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Save the Date for Lacasa's Annual Luncheon: Please mark your calendar to join us at 12 Noon on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. In a year that is anything but typical, our Annual Luncheon traditionally held in March is moving to June! More details and sponsorship opportunities will follow in the coming months.

Eighth Street Preschool is accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 school year. More information is [here](#).

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

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

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **Announcements from Goshen College:**

~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.

(repeat) **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 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>

(repeat) **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](#).

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

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