

# AssemblyLine

February 7, 2021

Volume XL, Number 6

## 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

February 7 2% Offering	February 14 Carnival Sunday!
Worship Leader: MYF	Worship Leader: Lora Nafziger
Preacher: Karl Shelly	Storytellers: Lisa Rose Martin, Adam Graber Roth, James Stuckey Weber, and Jena Kennedy
Scripture: Mark 2:1-12	Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

### CALENDAR

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

Sun	Feb 7	10:00 am Worship <a href="#">on Zoom</a> , followed by Second Hour 8:30 pm Conversation with Philipp Gollner <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Mon	Feb 8	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a> 6-8 pm Interplay Dance Group on Zoom
Wed	Feb 10	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Fri	Feb 12	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer <a href="#">on Zoom</a>
Sat	Feb 13	10 am Hymn Recording in Worship Space
Wed	Feb 17	4-6 pm Lent Stations begin at AMC
Sun	Feb 21	1-3 pm JYF Event at AMC Worship Space
Tues	Feb 23	7:15-8:30pm Small Group Reps Meeting 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 SUNDAY will conclude our worship series for the Season of Epiphany (Jan 3 - Feb 7).** Epiphany invites 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. Our MYF (high school youth group) will lead worship this week. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour series on Progressive Christianity** continues this Sunday, starting 5 min. after worship. John Blosser will lead a conversation on Progressive Christians and the Arts.

**You're invited to an Assembly conversation with Philipp Gollner** about his research on how 'Mennonites became white' and what that might mean for us today. This conversation is being hosted by the Assembly anti-racism support group, and will be held in the [usual Assembly Zoom room](#) on Sunday, February 7 at 8:30 pm. Contact [Karl Shelly](#) for more information.

**Carnival is coming to Zoom!** This year, February 14 is the Sunday before Lent and the Sunday we will celebrate

Carnival. Our theme is “Deep in Love-Or Something Like That”. This year there will be care packages available for each house to help celebrate the morning. Look for details about the theme, the care packages and getting ready in the [introduction that you can find here](#).

**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 here](#).

**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.

**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.

**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.

**If you are NOT in a small group but you don't want to miss out on the Assembly Leader Selection process,** you are welcome to join a **one-time, ad hoc small group** meeting for Leader Selection. Participants at this meeting would, together by consensus, discern names to

recommend to the Leader Selection Committee for various volunteer roles in church life. If this interests you, contact [Scott Coulter](#) by Friday Feb 12 for more information. Individuals who are not in a small group are also welcome to volunteer themselves using [the Leader Selection worksheet on the church website](#).

**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 (1/31-2/6) to:** Brian Mast, Lisa Kauffman, Joel Zwier, and Lorna Mynsberge. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

**Happy Birthday this 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!

**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

**Thank You from National Immigrant Justice Center:** Dear Assembly, you will receive a formal “thank you” from NIJC’s leadership in Chicago for the recent 2% Fund donation, but I wanted to express my gratitude to you directly for your financial support as well. It is so meaningful to have our work affirmed by our community. During COVID, we have continued to offer legal consultations and provide representation (mostly) remotely. Through our Goshen office, we have secured immigration protection for survivors of domestic violence, filed many DACA applications and family petitions, and provided deportation defense to community members who experience ICE enforcement and face permanent family separation through deportation. Our Goshen team has taken on dozens of asylum matters in recent months, even as the Trump administration issued regulations and rules intended

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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

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to terminate asylum. The Goshen team also accepted cases involving families stuck at the border and we continue to represent parents separated from their children under the zero tolerance policy. Our work on those cases will continue for years to come. Your support has been critical, and we are grateful. So many of you practice radical hospitality in creative, justice-oriented ways, and we at NIJC learn from your example. Thank you for partnering with us! - Lisa Koop

**Mennonite Central Committee, along with over 500 partners in 51 countries, offers sincere thanks to our friends and supporters at Assembly Mennonite for your contribution of \$8,542.50 during our 2020 centennial year.** The [coronavirus](#) created challenges and opportunities for our partners, but your generosity allowed them to respond to the threat with creativity and life-saving resources. Thanks to your support, MCC has been able to assist those impacted by [twin hurricanes](#) destroying food and property in Central America. Your support has allowed MCC to respond to the devastation of the [port explosion](#) in Beirut, Lebanon, with food, relief supplies, rebuilding and trauma healing activities for people, many who had previously fled the trauma of the Syrian war. Your support has allowed our partners to walk with [uprooted people](#) around the world, including DR Congo, where food and gardening tools are helping feed displaced families. Finally, we offer [prayers for peace](#) – both for our own communities and for our neighbors around the world. Thank you for offering hope and solidarity to vulnerable people through MCC in the name of Christ. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes – [mcc.org](#)

**The Mennonite Disaster Service Annual Celebration** is Sat Feb 6, at 2pm ET. [Visit this webpage](#) for more information. **Also, MDS is looking for volunteers** (individuals and groups to serve for 4-5 weeks at a time) in Florida, California, North and South Carolina, and Jennings, Louisiana starting February 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a way for the church to still respond to natural disasters while mitigating Covid-19 risk for volunteers and homeowners. Contact [Darin Bontrager](#) or [Deanna Frey](#) to volunteer. (In Marianna, FL the high temperature for Fri Feb 12 will be

54 degrees, while here in Goshen it will only be a high of 10 degrees. Just saying.) ~Darin Bontrager

(repeat) **Small group reps met this week** and discussed Assembly's new [Library of Care](#), this year's edition of the [Leader Selection worksheet](#) (due Feb 28), and the new [Instant Church Directory](#). Direct any questions to your small group rep.

(repeat) **The new Voices Together Hymnals** have all been labeled and unpacked. If you would like to borrow one for 30 days come on into the church and sign one out. We've put 30 in the Gathering Space for borrowing. Either use the physical sign up sheet in the Gathering Space, or use the [Google spreadsheet](#). Please be careful with them, they are very precious.

(repeat) **Year-end receipts:** After considerable discussion, we decided this year to distribute year-end receipts on an as-needed basis. Those that itemize deductions for taxes will need these receipts for documentation. You can contact John at [treasurer@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:treasurer@assemblymennonite.org) or Jane at [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) for your receipt. You can get yours one of three ways: PDF emailed to you, printed and mailed, or printed and placed in your mailbox at church. This will likely save Jane and John a lot of time. Note that receipts for QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions) from IRAs will be sent regardless since those are necessary documentation for your tax accountant.

(repeat) **Safety Networks continues to support local immigrants** in a variety of ways including transportation for those without a driver's license and financial support. Many immigrants are referred to us through [National Immigrant Justice Center](#). During the last 4 years [Safety Networks](#) has paid for part or all of some clients' legal filing fees and even bought some gift cards for clients that lost their jobs when the pandemic hit. Many immigrants who lost their jobs were ineligible for unemployment benefits and did not receive stimulus checks. While NIJC has high hopes that new forms of relief may become available under the Biden Administration, it could take some time to see changes take place and the majority of the restrictive policies of the past administration remain in place. As financial support rolls in for all Americans, we

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ask that you consider giving a portion of what you receive from the government to Safety Networks to directly benefit some of your immigrant neighbors. Questions can be directed to Naomi Roots at [roots.naomi@gmail.com](mailto:roots.naomi@gmail.com).

(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

**“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](#).

**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](http://pathwaysretreat.org). The February “Rhythms” newsletter is [here](#).

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

(repeat) **Central District Conference’s Meetings: 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.

### Annual Meeting 2021

The Board of Directors has made the decision to hold the annual meeting online again this year due to continued uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be held sometime during the fourth weekend of June, our normal time frame. Dates are June 26-27. More information about when, the schedule and registration instructions will be available later this spring.

(repeat) **Use your skills or try something new!** Join the summer staff of MCC’s Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) program to support home repair projects in Kimball, West Virginia or Harlan, Kentucky. 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](http://mcc.org/swap-summer-staff) or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 633-4008 or [AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org](mailto:AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org).

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

(repeat) **Mennonite Education Agency’s “Prayers for Mennonite Education” Newsletter** is [here](#).

(repeat) **Mennonite Disaster Service’s quarterly “Behind the Hammer”** is [here](#).

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