

AssemblyLine

August 22, 2021

Volume XL, Number 34

Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / office@assemblymennonite.org

Join us for Worship Sundays at 9:30 AM (in person [or online via Zoom*](#))

WORSHIP

Aug 22	Aug 29
Worship Leader: Patricia Ebersole Zwier Homily: Ben Sywulka Greeters: <i>Small Group B</i> <i>Set Up & Tear Down: Small Group Ring of Fire</i>	Worship Leader: Marshall King Homily: Robert Brenneman Greeters: <i>Small Group B</i> <i>Set Up & Tear Down: Small Group 8th St+</i>
Scripture: James 1:27-2:8, 14-17	Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

CALENDAR

[Click here to subscribe](#) to Assembly's Calendar of Events on Google Calendar, or visit

<https://assemblymennonite.org/about/calendar/>. [Click here to subscribe](#) to the space reservation calendar to see availability.

Sun	Aug 22	9:30am Worship in the North Parking Lot MYF Breakout during Worship
Mon	Aug 23	6-8pm Interplay/Dance Group in Worship Space
Tues	Aug 24	6:30pm Leadership Group
Wed	Aug 25	12 Noon Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom 6:30-8pm Garden Party for K-5 at Shantz home
Sun	Aug 29	9:30am Worship & MYF Breakout
Tues	Aug 31	7:15pm Small Group Reps meeting on Zoom
Wed	Sept 1	1:00pm Lunch Bunch on Zoom
Fri	Sept 3	9:30am Greencroft Meetup
Sun	Sept 5	8:30pm Anti-racism accountability group on Zoom
Tues	Sept 7	7pm Leadership Group
Sat	Sept 11	2pm Voices Together workshop
Mon-Th	Sept 13-16	Meals provided for GIHN
Sun	Sept 19	12pm Mentor-Mentee Kickoff
Fri-Sat	Oct 8-10	Assembly Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald

*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

Phoenix Coonan-Johnson turned 3 on Aug 14! Phoenix loves playing with water and spending time with her family. This summer she really enjoyed playing in the sand at Lake Michigan and eating ground cherries straight from the garden. Her favorite food is mac & cheese with fruit salad. [A photo of Phoenix is here.](#)

Xavier Coonan-Johnson turned 1 on Aug 18! Xavier loves climbing, knocking down block towers, and looking at things upside down. He is quick to smile and enjoys exploring the wide world of new foods. [A photo of Xavier is here.](#)

(repeat) You can still sign up to bring a meal this week to Marlette, Ryan, and Cecylia as they celebrate the arrival of Mateo. <https://mealtrain.com/g2rr43>.

Join us this Sunday for worship in the north parking lot at 9:30, as we Seek Justice Together. God's justice is not only our work in the world, but God's work in us. As we are transformed and become aligned with the heart of God in Christ, we are better able to reflect God's justice and peace through our lives to the world. [Read the full introduction for this worship series here.](#) Please bring your own chair. Children will be dismissed to outdoor Sunday school halfway through the service. We are asking

everyone who is not vaccinated to mask outdoors unless you are sitting down with your family. You can also watch the service [via Zoom](#). Look for an email by 5 p.m. on Saturday for the order of worship and weather-related cancellations.

Do you bike to church on Sunday? Are you tired of bringing your chair back and forth to the meetinghouse each week? Feel free to leave it inside the meetinghouse, in Multipurpose Space North (sometimes known as the former baby cave) during the week. (You're welcome to do this even if you don't bike to church.)

Please wear a facemask and practice physical distancing when interacting with others indoors at the meetinghouse, even if you are vaccinated. The Elkhart County Health Department, along with the CDC, is recommending that everyone (including vaccinated people) mask indoors in public spaces because of HIGH community spread in Elkhart County.

My Coins Count! Start collecting your coins, both children and adults, and bring them to church each Sunday for My Coins Count (MyCC). Your contributions are going to Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC's) efforts to bring clean, fresh water to communities around the world. We will explore our relationship to water through activities (from MCC's [Water Activity Calendar](#)) and stories. [Read about MCC's work in Chad](#), partnering with Catholic Relief Services to upgrade wells and latrines, bringing safe water to a refugee camp. **If you are interested in matching the dollar amount of coins given on Sunday morning, contact Char Yutz** yutzchar@gmail.com. Our contribution will be added to the Michiana Relief Sale on Sept 23.

Your Assembly Library is awaking from its long COVID sleep! We have lots of new books in many different categories. If you are in the church building, you are welcome to browse and check out books, as usual. Very soon we will have all books available to search in a new online tool. In the meantime, please let Maria Wenger know if you have any questions or suggestions for the library.

Children K-5 are invited this Wed Aug 25 to Steve and Kate Shantz's place for a garden party (60728 CR 27). We will be pulling up onions and digging potatoes this year, followed by a bonfire and smores. Please be dressed in garden work clothes. 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

Coffee!!! Volunteers are needed to help make coffee on Sunday mornings, starting next Sunday Aug 29. This involves coming early (around 9am) to start making the coffee on Sundays. If you can help with this task, please let Scott Coulter know. Many thanks to the other volunteers who have graciously and generously stepped up to help on Sunday mornings! Set up & tear down, and Greeting, have been assigned to small groups. If your small group hasn't heard from me yet, expect to receive an email this week!

Update your contact information in the church directory. Please check your entries in the "phone" and "email" directories as posted [here on the church website](#). (Contact a pastor if you need the password). [Please email Scott](#) with any updates or corrections. You are also encouraged to send in a recent photo of yourself/your family! If you are not listed in the church directory but would like to be, please let Scott know.

Scott will be out of town attending a wedding in Indy from Fri Aug 27-Mon Aug 30. Please contact Anna, Lora, or Karl(!) if you need a pastor while he's gone.

(repeat) **MYF August Events.** The MYF (Mennonite Youth Fellowship) is church group for high-school-age youth. Please contact Sara Morris or Erich Miller with questions. ***MYF Fall Kickoff Party THIS SUNDAY 8/15 6:30pm:** We are kicking off the new year with an MYF party full of games, food, and fun at Erich Miller's house! We will enjoy a cook-out together (provided by sponsors), but please plan to bring a snack to share. More details to follow.

***MYF Breakout each Sunday morning during worship:** Join us during Assembly's worship service for an MYF breakout time. This Sunday 8/15 we will welcome both our new sponsors AND the new MYF!

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(repeat) **Did you miss our first segment of "These are the people in your neighborhood?"** Learn to know Assembly better by enjoying this new video series! Watch the 2 min video

here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lst-T8Rerk8>

(repeat) **Assembly warmly welcomes the staff and students of Goshen Christian Montessori School** to our meetinghouse! GCMS students will attend Tues-Thurs, using the playground and Classroom 1. GCMS includes members of Assembly as well as many from the wider Goshen community. (The playground is open to the whole community after 5pm on GCMS days, as well as Friday-Monday.)

(repeat) **The annual Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald is Oct 8-10!** [Please see this flyer](#). Retreat is for everyone at Assembly. The church has already paid for half the cost of retreat out of the budget; we are asking for special offerings to help cover the remaining half. Registration will open Aug 22! Stay tuned for more information soon!

(repeat) **Peggy and Harold Metzler have moved** into a lovely "couple's room" at Greencroft Healthcare. Their address is Greencroft Health Care South, Haven Room 628, 1225 Greencroft Drive, Goshen IN 46526

(repeat) **On Tues Aug 24 between 5-8pm, Bushelcraft Farm (directed by Jon Zirkle) is hosting an open house and fundraiser!** Come for a tour of the field, enjoy some on-farm snacks (heirloom tomatoes!), and participate in a collective art creation. Field entrance just east of the Farmers Market building (27751 CR 26, Elkhart IN 46517). The first 20 people get a free baby tree to take home. \$10 donation for adults, kids are free. Email Jon Zirkle for more info or visit www.bushelcraft.org. Spread the word!

(repeat) **A group of concerned parents** has started a petition for Goshen Community schools to take additional protective measures in school. We invite parents, guardians, teachers and staff of current Goshen Community Schools to consider adding their names to this petition:

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/328/175/862/mask->

[mandates-for-students-in-goshen-community-schools-1](#).

(repeat) **Outdoor Worship & Inclement Weather Plans.** As long as the number of daily new cases or positivity rate stays above 10.0(%), we will continue to worship outdoors. If heat or rain prevents that, we will livestream the worship service [on Zoom](#) with only worship leaders, readers, etc. physically present in the worship space. Look for an email by 5 p.m. each Saturday with updated information. [Please read this one-page document for complete details on last month's Leadership Group decision](#). Contact a pastor or elder with any questions.

(repeat) **Readers Theatre** – Worship Committee is looking forward to including readers' theatre during worship in August & September. Want to participate one or more Sundays? We are eager to hear your interest! All ages welcomed. Please email Jon Zirkle (jon.zirkle@gmail.com) to express interest. Details forthcoming about specific Sundays in August and September.

(repeat) **You are invited to participate in the Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) churchwide Journey Forward study through Springtide Research Institute.** The survey results will be used to help inform the direction of MC USA, as we Journey Forward together. It is important that the denomination hears from a variety of voices, so please take part in the survey today: www.mennoniteusa.org/MC-USA-Member-Survey

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 this week (8/22-8/28) to: Jason Kauffman, Julia Gautsche, and Jane Litwiller. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

Happy Birthday last week (8/15-8/21) to: Janine Ostergren, Becky Snider, Cheryl Mast, Jonathon Schramm, Winston Gerig, Vivian Schmucker, Debbie Bloom, Ben Bontrager, Al Shelly, and Terri Russ. May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

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community connections

You can provide relief in Haiti: The people of Haiti need our help. Families who have already suffered so much have been hit once again. The 7.2 magnitude earthquake killed at least 1,300 people and injured many more. Thousands are sleeping outside, with little food and no protection from the elements. With your help, we can reach the people most affected by this tragic event. Your gifts will provide emergency support. Donate today at mcc.org/haiti-earthquake.

“Celebration and Lament” - Debbie Bledsoe celebrates the positive experiences that she has had as a queer woman in Mennonite Church USA. She also laments the fact that not all queer folks have had such a positive experience with the church. Read her blog entry from June here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/celebration-lament>

Decentering Whiteness in Worship: MennoMedia, Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada recently partnered to create a two-part webinar that explored how to decenter whiteness, be more inclusive and promote anti-racism in worship, through the resources provided in Voices Together. Read more and find the links to the webinar in Katie Graber’s blog, “Webinar to explore Voices Together, worship and anti-racism.” <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/webinar-vt-antiracism>

“Practical Steps to Becoming a Welcoming Congregation” - Pastors Amy Yoder McGloughlin, of Frazer Mennonite Church, and Joanne Gallardo, of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, led this seminar at MennoCon21. Read more for tips on welcoming LGBTQ people into church fellowship, including how to continue to be welcoming after the discernment process is over: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/practical-welcoming-congregation>.

Ten Thousand Villages auction is Live and Sun Aug 22 is the last day to make bids! 10% of the funds raised from this auction will go to support the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. We have a showcase item by Justin Rothshank

that's getting lots of bids! The auction closes, Sunday at 9pm! Get your hard-to-find Villages items today! Visit www.bit.ly/ttv-f21 for more information!

Injustices experienced by the Palestinian people is a focus of [the current issue of Central District Conference's newsletter, Focus. Read more](#) and consider how you can take steps to support the Palestinian people.

Camp Getaway at Camp Friedenswald - Come on your own for a relaxing weekend or bring the family and friends to reconnect in the peaceful woods. Stay in a cabin, enjoy fresh and tasty meals served out of the Dining Hall (to-go containers provided for front porch dining), and a variety of camp activities. It's a great way to getaway! Dates: 9/24-26, 10/15-17, or 11/5-7. [Discover more](#) and [inquire today!](#)

Church Community Services is hosting “I had no idea!” tours, every 1st (English) and 3rd (Spanish) Thursday of the month at 10:30 am. Come learn about the important work CCS does for the community, and receive a bag of one of our famous Soup of Success soups to sample at home! The next tour is Thurs Sept 2! [Learn more here.](#)

Mennonite Disaster Service's August issue of On the Level is now available: A couple who served as RV volunteers reflect on their time with MDS, bridges are constructed in collaboration with Engineers in Action and MDS, and MDS actively monitors the wildfire situation in the western and central U.S. and British Columbia.

17-20 year-olds – do you want to serve in Alaska? There's still time to apply for the Alaska Service Adventure unit, a 10-month program for ages 17-20! If interested, contact LaurenEH@MennoniteMission.net.

Serve in Barcelona - Learn Spanish and live in community with others who are figuring out how to be disciples of Christ together in Barcelona. If you enjoy working with people, painting, organizing, and doing odd jobs to work toward finishing a community center, this is the position for you. Contact EricFM@MMNWorld.net for more information.

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(repeat) **Pathways Retreat** will hold its second annual online silent auction on August 21 - 28 with an open house on August 28, 1-4pm. Ruth Judy will be leading a workshop "Spirituality, Creativity, and Transformation in the Second Half of Life" beginning in the fall. Daily prayers resume in August and are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org. The monthly Pathways newsletter is [available here](#).

(repeat) **Regina Shands Stoltzfus** was one of the women responsible for putting Mennonite Church USA's "Laboring Toward Wholeness" anti-patriarchy curriculum together. In her blog, she describes what it was like to be part of this team and why she thinks the curriculum is important. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/working-on-ltw>.

(repeat) **Also from MCUSA:** Read about [the Bring The Peace Award](#) sponsored by the Church Peace Tax Fund, about "The Bible and Christian Nationalism" (from [Drew Strait](#)), and about "Transforming as becoming" (from [Iris de Leon-Hartshorn](#)).

(repeat) **A Religious Response to Global Warming.** We often live in a place of disconnect from our communities, history, land, food, spirit, and bodies. These disconnects are the root causes of the environmental and social crisis we face. Join Interfaith Power & Light Sept 12-14 for a 3-night immersive and interactive virtual journey into healing; practice ways we can heal these broken connections during the interactive sessions; there is even an eco-bedtime story for children! Learn more at <https://www.greenteamsummit.org/>, and [register for free here](#).

(repeat) **"Land: Loss, Connection and Imagination"** is the theme for the 5th "Rooted and Grounded" conference **Oct 14-16** at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. This will weave together worship, theology, biblical study and praxis. In addition to keynote presentations, papers and workshops, an afternoon of immersion experiences will give participants opportunities to explore conservation and restoration efforts in the region. The event will be offered in a hybrid format; some elements will be available only to in-person participants at AMBS, and some will be available

to participants joining via livestream. [Learn more and register here](#)

(repeat) **Mennonite Creation Care.** Contribute to a collection of poetry and reflections of environmental lament, pray for the climate, learn about Land Stewardship Consulting, and hear good news about building a reliable, carbon-free energy grid, and more: [read the Mennonite Creation Care newsletter here](#).

(repeat) **2021 MCC United Nations Online Global Student Seminar: Climate Change, Conflict, and Peacebuilding.** Students from across the world are invited to attend a two-day, online seminar on September 30 and October 1 to explore the intersection of climate change, conflict and peacebuilding. Participants will engage in a mix of plenary sessions, small groups and mini-seminars offering high interaction with experts and connecting with young adults from all over the world. More information and application at mcc.org/un-student-seminar.

(repeat) **Tales & Trails Aug 31 for 3-5 year-olds:** this 1.5 hour monthly program from Goshen College's Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center (Wolf Lake, Ind.) is free and registration is not required. Younger siblings are welcome to join. Visit goshen.edu/merrylea to learn more!

(repeat) **Goshen College Community School of the Arts fall registration is live for music lessons and ensembles!** The CSA offers Music Together classes for kids ages 0-5, children's choirs for grades 3-12, the Youth Honors Orchestra for grades 6-12, and private lessons for all ages in piano, strings, voice, and more. Visit gcmusiccenter.org/csa for registration and audition information.

(repeat) **"Exploring Peace and Justice in the Bible"** is a six-week online short course offered by AMBS Sept 15-Oct 26, with Susannah Larry and Drew Strait. How does God act for peace and justice — and how should we? Do we claim nonviolence, nonresistance, active resistance or something else? In this course, you'll have the opportunity to study pertinent biblical passages and to reflect individually and collectively on how these texts form practices of peace and justice today. No grades, no papers!

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(repeat) **The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale is coming up!** [Please read the announcements here to find out how you can be involved.](#)

(repeat) **Beyond: Faith in Action** from Mennonite Mission Network [can be read here.](#)

(repeat) **Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald - Sept 17-19** featuring Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube who will speak to the theme "Hope for Healing, Hope for the Earth." Registration is now open. This retreat is planned by representatives from Central District Conference and Camp Friedenswald staff; it promises to be a weekend of retreat and reconnection. See [this link](#) for a full schedule, COVID-19 precautions, and registration information.

(repeat) **The CDC Ministerial Committee is sponsoring a Pastor +1 Retreat** at Camp Friedenswald on October 22-24, 2021. The cost is \$100/person. This is an opportunity for pastors and their spouse, mentor, friend, sibling, parent, or other significant person to enjoy a mostly unstructured retreat in the Peaceful Woods. Details and registration information coming soon.

(repeat) **The MCC Podcast "Relief, development and podcast" recently explored how honoring treaties with Indigenous peoples is connected to peacebuilding.** Adrian Jacobs, who is Ganosono of the Turtle Clan, Cayuga Nation of the Six Nations Haudenosaunee Confederacy, joins to talk about how his people are asserting sovereignty and fighting for the land that is rightfully theirs, according to the original treaties. [Listen or read the transcript here.](#)

(repeat) **In her book *The Land is Not Empty***, Sarah Augustine, a Pueblo woman, reframes the colonization of North America as she investigates ways that the Doctrine of Discovery continues to devastate indigenous cultures, and even the planet itself, as it justifies exploitation of both natural resources and people. [Available from Herald Press.](#)

(repeat) **"Knowing Your Narrative: Unpacking Our Stories of Masculinity and Equity"** is a three-part series of events (online and in person) hosted by AMBS and Mennonite Men in which participants will share their own

personal narratives, identify the ways they've been shaped by masculine messaging, and reframe their own masculine identity so it's more inclusive and holistic. Learn more at ams.edu/narrative.

job opportunities

(repeat) **Come work at Goshen College!** GC has many employment opportunities for teaching faculty, administrative staff and more, including a campus pastor. Visit goshen.edu/employment to see all job openings and learn more.

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