

AssemblyLine

November 29, 2015

Volume XXXV, Number 48

Welcome to Assembly Mennonite Church

1201 S 11th St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

574-534-4190 / office@assemblymennonite.org

Worship at 9:30am, Sunday school at 10:45am

WORSHIP

November 29

Worship leader: *Becky Smuts*

Sermon: Regina Shands Stoltzfus

Welcoming & tear-down: *Egg Combo & Z*

1st Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday School: *The path to God's promise (Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25)*

December 6

Worship leader: *Barb Swartley*

Sermon: *Dawn Yoder Harms*

Welcoming & tear-down: *XX & Grape*

The Window & 2% Offerings
Messiah Sing during 2nd hour

Fellowship meal

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10;

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Sunday School: *The path to God's promise (Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25)*

CALENDAR

TODAY	Nov 29	1 st Sunday of Advent
Tues	Dec 1	7pm Leadership Group meeting
Tues-Sat	Dec 1-5	MYF Live-In at Ostergrens
Wed	Dec 2	Candle dipping at Steve Shantz's house 6pm: grades K-2; 7pm: grades 3-5
Sun	Dec 6	Messiah Sing and Potluck
Sat	Dec 12	Advent Spiral
Mon	Dec 21	7pm Longest Night service, worship space

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

Martha Hanby turned 2 on Nov. 26! She is a wonderfully cooperative younger sister and gets to play with her big sister Clara all the time. She also enjoys playing with Assembly friends Norah and Sadie Janzen during the week. Martha loves babies and baby dolls, reading books, Daniel Tiger, drawing, coloring, climbing, visiting Grandma and Grandpa's house, and being with her mom.

Advent begins today on Nov 29. Throughout this Advent journey our theme will be Freedom Bound. We will focus on the path away from fear toward the welcome of the Christ child. For more info about Advent at Assembly, be sure to see the document attached to this week's Assemblyline (paper copies are in your mailbox, on the lit table and can be found [here](#) on the website). Families, you will also find in your mailbox Advent candles and a family resource guide for this Advent season.

For many of us, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. Our Advent worship seeks to create an alternative space: space to slow down and rest; space to reflect on our longings; space to watch for their signs as we

wait Christ to be born in our lives and in our world. To that end, we invite you to arrive promptly to worship, to gather in silence, to enjoy the darkness as we welcome the light.

Lunch Bunch will meet on Wed Dec 2 at 11:30, at the Goshen College Music Center (room 153 just before the art gallery). All women of the congregation are invited to meet with Bev Lapp. Bev will share some of her favorite Christmas music and stories from her life. Please bring your own sack lunch. Cookies and drink will be provided.

Candle dipping is an annual tradition at Assembly that takes place in Steve Shantz's garage. This year it will be Wed Dec 2. Children are welcome to be dropped off or stay with their parents as they wish. Wear old and warm clothes. Children in grades K-2 are welcome at 6 pm and those grades 3-5 at 7 pm. If it is easier for your family to have children come outside of their age group that is ok!

Help Local immigrants as they prepare their applications for asylum and other forms of protection. Please join us for a conversation on Dec 7, 7:30 pm at the meeting house, about forming an Elkhart country support group for immigrants and refugees receiving legal services from the National Immigration Justice Center (NIJC). Client needs

include transportation, counseling, interpretation, monetary assistance, childcare, etc. Conversation will be with Lisa Koop, (NIJC Associate Director of Legal Services) and Mara Weaver (NIJC Goshen paralegal), Questions? Contact Susan Mark Landis, slandis@heartlandalliance.org

G's Bees (Gordon Prieb) has a good supply 2015 raw honey for sale. Catch Gordon at church if you're interested.

As a thank you to the congregation for providing funding in the church budget for MYF activities, Assembly youth provide service for the Assembly community. This can include babysitting, music lessons, moving, snow shoveling, cleaning, help with worship etc. See the new bulletin board in the coffee area highlighting our great Assembly high-schoolers and their service interests. Contact info is on the church [website](#). (login required) Please contact the youth directly.

Thanks! From Margarita Klassen de Melo & David

Melo: We greatly appreciate receiving AssemblyLine since we have left in Summer/Fall of 1996 to move to Germany. Hearing from you is like connecting with good, old friends. We have been part of Assembly for a long time (1988-1996). Both David and I graduated from Goshen College. And while there, Assembly was both our spiritual home and our family. David, originally from the Dominican Republic, and I, from Germany, enjoyed very much the international, welcoming flair of Assembly. Our oldest daughter, Jessica, was born in Goshen in 1994 and was married in Spring of this year. We have one more daughter, Sabrina (17) and one son, Sebastián (14). Click [here](#) for a picture of the family. (from left to right: Sabrina, Margarita, Jessica, Daniel, Sebastián, David) Lots of love and peace and best wishes for the season of Advent to all of you! Margarita's email: meloklassen@gmx.net

(repeat) **This year's Messiah sing** will be taking place Sun morning, Dec 6 during 2nd hour. It will be followed by a potluck meal. The rehearsal for the orchestra and soloists begin at 8am. All are welcome and encouraged to participate, as either singers or orchestra members. Copies of Messiah will be available, but please bring your own if you have one. Orchestra participants who would like a copy of the music in advance can get one from Bill Mateer (or it can be downloaded for free from the IMSLP website - pick the Mozart-Prout arrangement).

(repeat) **Family Advent spiral:** Advent spiral for families with children ages 3 and up will take place Sat, Dec 12 at 5:30 and 7pm. Please sign-up to attend by emailing Lora (loracn@assemblymennonite.org).

(repeat) **We extend heartfelt** sympathies to Rod Hanby and his family upon the death of his father, Richard Kent Hanby, Sr., 77, of San Angelo, Texas. He passed away at home on November 14, 2015, after a lengthy illness. You can send condolences to Rod and Anne at their new address: 19744 Peach Ln. Goshen, IN 46526.

(repeat) **Andrea Moya** is planning on leaving Goshen on Dec 10 to move back to Colombia. As a going away gift to the congregation she is sharing a music link (<https://soundcloud.com/andrea-moya-91166/sets/cafe-surtido-2015>) that includes 14 songs she and her friends recorded in early Oct. She says, "Thank you for being my church family over the past five years! Feel free to email me at andreamoya1191@gmail.com."

(repeat) **A huge thank you** to those who signed up for volunteer tasks for 2016!! We are only in need of 10 more volunteers for 1st hour child care. Email Naomi at office@assemblymennonite.org to sign up.

(repeat) **Six books are missing** from your AMC Library: Praying the Psalms; Learning to walk in the dark; The Great Emergence - how Christianity is changing and why; The Heart of Christianity; and The naked Anabaptist. Please return as soon as possible.

(repeat) **Anika Roth has a new job!** She will be working in the personnel department at the Elkhart Community Schools. She would love to pass on her current, job to an Assemblyite. 25hr/wk, Administrative Assistant, Goshen City Church of the Brethren. Duties include: office manager for pastors and staff. Create bulletins, newsletters, Power Points. Pay bills, payroll. Manage calendars, edit directories, etc. Proficient with Microsoft Office, financial software. Competitive wages and benefit package. Send resume by Nov 30 to: office@goshencitychurch.org.

(repeat) **Due to recent problems** with her e-mail provider, Byrdalene Horst is changing her e-mail address to byrdalene.horst@gmail.com.

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Pastoral Team

Dawn Yoder Harms dawnyh@assemblymennonite.org 574-214-5610
Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732
Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037

Elders: Jeannie Brunk, Eric Good Kaufmann, Gayle Gerber Koontz, Jeanne Liechty (chair), Justin Rothshank, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Joel Zwier
Apprentice Elder: Anika Roth
Youth Coordinators: Deanna Risser, Jon Zirkle

Administrative Assistant: Naomi Roots (weekday mornings) 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

(repeat) **Lynette Bauman** is going through a difficult time in her cancer treatment right now. She struggles with pain and low energy. Remember Leon and Lynette in prayer.

(repeat) **We extend heartfelt sympathies** to Keith Graber Miller and his family upon the death of his mother, Evelyn Louise Miller, on Wed, Nov 11, after a four-year journey with metastatic breast cancer.

(repeat) **Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network-Assembly** will be hosting a number of times during 2016. If you would like to host, please consider signing up in the foyer or speak to Kim Kurtz for more details. Phone:534-3564 email: kim.m.kurtz@gmail.com

(repeat) **Phoebe Graber** is now serving as Second Vice President of Central District Conference Mennonite Women. All Mennonite women are encouraged to join the Facebook Page “Central District Conference Mennonite Women” to share ideas and activities and stay informed about resources Mennonite Women USA creates to encourage and inspire this sisterhood network.

community connections

The Window Needs: Food Pantry: Plastic Grocery Bags, Soap, Shampoo, Tooth Paste, Body Wash, Deodorant, Diapers sizes 3,4 & 5, Canned & Bag Beans, Canned Tuna & Chicken, Pasta, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Corn & Green Beans, Soups, Canned Fruit, Cereal Katie’s Kitchen: Instant Mashed Potatoes, #10 cans or Frozen Fruit and Vegetables, Egg Noodles, Spaghetti, Stuffing Mix, Jiffy Cornbread Mix, Coffee, Coffee Creamer, Butter, Olive oil, Sugar, Instant Sugar-Free Pudding & Sugar-Free Jell-O, Paper Napkins. Clothes Closet: Sweatshirts, Sweatpants & Hoodies, Men’s Jeans, Men’s T-Shirts, Socks.

Bethany Christian Middle School will hold a Christmas Choral Concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1. Instrumental concerts will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 8, with beginning instrument groups performing at 6:30 p.m. and the middle school band and orchestra at 7:30. The concerts are in the school’s chapel and open to the public. There is no admission charge.

The Window Benefit Meal will be held during Dec First Friday, Dec 4 beginning at 4:30pm. A menu of African groundnut stew (gluten free), peas, bread, & pumpkin bars

will be served. All proceeds support The Window - suggested donation of \$8. Call 533-9680 for more info.

Searching for Christ in Israel/Palestine: An evening of reflection. Gwen Gustafson-Zook, College Mennonite Church Pastor, recently returned from a two-week “Come and See” Learning Tour to Israel/Palestine sponsored by Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Central Committee. Gwen will share out of this experience of meeting with numerous Palestinians and Israelis currently embroiled in a decades long conflict in the land that is called the “Holy Land” but far too often feels anything but “Holy.” The meeting will take place in the College Mennonite Church Koinonia Room at 7pm on Tues, Dec 8, and is open to the public.

A Christmas program for the community! Sun, Dec. 13, 3-4 p.m. at College Mennonite Church. You are warmly invited to a Christmas worship service that will include carol singing, Scripture readings, a handbell choir and a new children’s musical, *The Inn Crowd*. Written by pastors Lee and Susan Dengler, the musical tells the story of the over-crowded inn at Bethlehem and the folks who might have been staying there when Jesus was born. The cast includes children from seven congregations across the community. There is no cost to attend, and all are welcome! Refreshments will follow the service.

“Learning to Love Boko Haram: A Nigerian Peace Church Responds.” On Tue, Dec 15 at 7pm the Institute for the Study of Global Anabaptism and College Mennonite Church will host a public lecture by Peggy Faw Gish in the College Mennonite Church-Chapel on the campus of Goshen College (handicap parking available). Gish, born in northern Nigeria to American missionaries, has been active in peace and justice work all of her adult life. In the spring and summer of 2015, she worked closely with members of the Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN), the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, who have suffered great violence and upheaval at the hands of Boko Haram, a radicalized group in northeastern Nigeria. Gish will share stories and insights based on her work among the EYN and their search for nonviolent responses in a context of intense persecution. For more information contact John D. Roth (johndr@goshen.edu).

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(repeat) **Beginning Nov 23** (the Mon prior to the first Sun in Advent) and culminating on Christmas Day, Goshen College students, faculty and staff will provide weekday reflections based on the upcoming lectionary Scripture passages, available online at www.goshen.edu/devotions, by [daily email](#) or via an RSS feed. Many writers will reflect on the Advent theme: “Freedom Bound,” taken from *Leader* magazine.

(repeat) **Mennonite Mission Network** has an immediate opening for a full time budget and finance manager in the Elkhart, IN office. Responsibilities include overseeing budget development and monitoring budget performance as well as managing internal financial reporting. The complete job description can be seen at www.MennoniteMission.net. Interested applicants may send a cover letter and resume to StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net.

(repeat) **Do you have gifts in accounting** and book-keeping? 8th Street Mennonite Church is looking for a part-time administrative assistance for finance. Contact Brenda Sawatzky-Paetkau for a job description at bpaetkau@8thStmennonite.org

(repeat) **Come join Anabaptist Disabilities Network** to celebrate the publication of their newest book, *Circles of Love: Stories of congregations caring for people with disabilities and their families*. The dinner will be at 6pm Thurs, Dec 3, at Pleasant View Mennonite Church, 58529 County Road 23, Goshen, and will feature the story of the locally-renowned late artist, Chad Friesen, and ten of his God’s Eye Art paintings. Chad’s God’s Eye paintings will be available for purchase or auction. The dinner is free, donations will be requested. RSVP to reserve your table or seats. Call 343-1362 or email adnet@adnetonline.org.

(repeat) **Zenebe Abebe**, executing director for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great lakes in Goshen, Ind., has announced to the Board of Directors that he plans to retire effective July 31, 2016. This will mark five years for Abebe serving in this role. To read more about the work Abebe had done, go to <http://mcc.org/stories/mcc-great-lakes-director-announces-retirement>. A selection committee will be formalized in early 2016 to select a new executive director.

(repeat) **The EMU Presidential Search Committee** seeks nominations and/or applications for the 9th President of

Eastern Mennonite University. The new president is expected to assume office between July 1 and Dec 31, 2016. Details at emu.edu/presidential-search. Applications to: SearchCommittee@MennoniteEducation.org

(repeat) **Mennonite Mission Network is currently** seeking a highly organized and collaborative person to provide an in-office presence and administrative assistance for the International Ministries department. The ideal person will serve in the Elkhart office to anchor the staff team characterized by frequent global travel and a remotely located director. View the complete position description on our website at www.MennoniteMission.net. For consideration, send your resume to Linda Krueger at StaffRecruitment@MennoniteMission.net.

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