

## WORSHIP

Join us for Worship this Sunday [on Zoom](#) at 9:30am  
 followed by Sunday school at 11am

<p><b>Nov 21</b></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Jep Hostetler</p> <p><b>Homily:</b> Stephen Lowe</p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Luke 13:18-19</p>	<p><b>Nov 28</b></p> <p><b>First Sunday of Advent: Hope</b></p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Luke 21:25-36</p>
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## BIRTHDAYS



**Roy Kauffman (CCYC) turned 4 on Nov 17!** Roy attends CCYC in the 3/4s class and enjoys doing plunger art at school. He also likes to play with Lego with his sister Alice and is very good at helping pick vegetables and flowers from the garden at his house. He requested an ocean-themed birthday cake this year, because he loves to play in the waves and sand at the ocean. He visited the Atlantic Ocean this summer! Two of his current favorite foods are popsicles and pizza.

## THIS SUNDAY



Join us for worship [on Zoom](#) this Sunday Nov 21 at 9:30 am as we conclude our Fall Bible Study series with the Parable of the Mustard Seed. How might the parables of Jesus help us to see the world in a different way, to be challenged and perhaps even indicted? What might they reveal to us about the Reign of God? And how can we playfully hear these stories anew? [Read the introduction to the fall bible study series here.](#)

**Due to inclement weather** we will not have outdoor worship this Sunday. Those with roles in the service should come to the worship space and wear a mask. We will livestream the service on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153>. Look for an email by 5pm on Saturday with the order of worship.

**Sunday school** for children & youth will take place at 11:00am inside at the meetinghouse and will last 30 minutes. All participants over age 2 are required to wear a mask. Please do not come if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have recent confirmed exposure to COVID-19. Locations will be posted in the Gathering Space.

**Adults** are invited to [join on Zoom](#) from 11-11:30am for “second hour” discussion, responding to the morning worship.

**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

## COMING UP

<https://assemblymennonite.org/about/calendar/>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 21 • 9:30am Worship • 1-3pm JYF Gathering • 7pm Congregational Meeting <a href="#">on Zoom</a>	Nov 22 • 6:30pm Dance Group		<i>No Noon Prayer This Week</i>		<i>No Noon Prayer This Week</i>	Nov 27 • 4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities, • 5pm Advent Woods Worship at <a href="#">Witmer Woods/College Cabin</a>
Nov 28 • 10am Taize Service in Worship Space			Dec 1 • 1:30pm Lunch Bunch		Dec 3 • 9:30am Greencroft meetup	Dec 4 • 4:30pm / 5pm Advent Woods Worship
Dec 5 • 10am Taize Service in Worship Space • 11am Defund the Police? <a href="#">on Zoom</a> • 8pm Anti-racism Accountability Group <a href="#">on Zoom</a>		Dec 7 • 7pm Leadership Group	Dec 8 • 9am PT meeting			Dec 11 • 1pm & 2pm Candle Dipping at Steve Shantz's home • 4:30pm / 5 pm Advent Woods Worship • 7:30pm Messiah Sing-Along at GC's Sauder Concert Hall

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

**Autumn Walk & Bonfire at Rothshanks, Sat Nov 20 at 3pm.** As the weather changes join an autumn walk in the Rothshank's woods on Saturday, Nov. 20th 3 pm. The walk will be followed by a bonfire. Together we will consider the what we learn about God from this season change. The time will include some stories along the way and warm drinks and marshmallows at the end. RSVP to [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) if you would like to join.

**Volunteers Needed for Moving Chairs in Worship Space.** Do you like moving chairs around? We are going to put the chairs in the worship space back in a circle for Advent. I'd love to gather a group immediately following worship this Sunday (Nov 21). So if you're willing to move chairs, you are welcome to come in person to the service as well. -Anna

**Congregational Meeting this Sun evening at 7pm [on Zoom](#)!** We hope you will attend. The agenda includes a first reading of new job descriptions for church administrative staff, a first reading of revised pastor hiring procedures, and a discussion about effective communication re: decision-making about COVID precautions. [Please be sure to read this FAQ about the Pastor Hiring Procedures in advance of the meeting!](#) You can find [an agenda with relevant attachments here.](#)

**Free Hymnals.** Do you feel nostalgic about the old brownish-red hymnals? Assembly is getting rid of all of ours. If you would like one, please come take one in the next few weeks. They are on a cart outside the kitchen.

**If you donated hoses** a couple of years ago to Assembly's tree watering effort, and would like them back, please email Naomi at [roots.naomi@gmail.com](mailto:roots.naomi@gmail.com) to coordinate their return to your home.

## ADVENT – “LESS IS MORE”



Advent begins Sun Dec 27. Advent provides an opportunity to slow down, pare back and wait in the darkness for the coming Christ child. This year's theme is "Less is More". We are trying to get back to the basics. Let's recapture the beauty of simplicity, darkness, music, and scripture.

**This year we are offering different options for worship. We expect that most people will choose one or two of these ways to enter this season, NOT all of them.**

### **Saturday Evening Advent Woods Worship: College Cabin 5 p.m. (4:30 for children's activities)**

This 45-minute outdoor service is planned with families in mind, but is intended for all ages.

Move through outdoor stations to hear scripture, sing advent hymns and pray together in God's glorious creation.

End the time with hot chocolate around a fire in the pavilion and walk around the woods on your own.

### **Sunday morning Taizé Advent worship: Worship space 10 a.m.**

This contemplative service of scripture, Taizé-style music, silence, and sharing time will last around 45 minutes.

There will not be offering, a sermon, or children's time. This service is planned with adults in mind, but it is intended for (fully vaccinated) contemplatives of all ages. Masks will be required for all. Please do not come if you have any Covid symptoms. As a way of protecting the most vulnerable among us, we are requesting that this service be limited to those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks after their second shot). This service (and most services for the foreseeable future) will be streamed on Zoom.

### **Sunday morning Adult Ed: 11 a.m. only on Zoom**

Join with others on Zoom December 5, 12, and 19 to work through a newish MCUSA curriculum

[Defund the Police?, an Abolition Curriculum](#) led by Karl Shelly

This curriculum is an initial guide for congregations who are desiring to begin or continue their reflection on what it means to engage the forces of state, their commitments to non-violence and how to act to end policing and police brutality.

**For At-Home Resources and a complete list of events through Dec 26, [click here](#).**

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY, cont.

**Volunteers for Sunday Morning Child Care.** We are exploring the option of offering childcare for children 4 & under for the 10-10:45am Taizé worship services. If you are willing to volunteer to watch children for one of the four Sundays of Advent, please email [scottc@assemblymenonite.org](mailto:scottc@assemblymenonite.org).

**The Pastor-Congregation Review Committee** is beginning its work. This committee is: Glenn Gilbert, Lois Kaufmann (chair), Deanna Risser, Aaron Yost, Joel Zwier. Leadership Group and the Review Committee would like to share this statement of purpose with you: "We ground our Pastor-Congregation Review in the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ and enter into it in a spirit of curiosity, mutual care and humility. Our purpose is to listen to God's call to us as a congregation and to support and nurture relationships of trust between pastors and congregation by reflecting on areas of strength for the pastors, the congregation, and individuals; and by pondering together how we might all be challenged to grow." There will be more communication of the goals and plans of the review at the [January 2022](#) Congregational Meeting.

**Landscaping at Assembly.** Thank you to all the small groups that completed their outdoor tasks! Assembly's landscaping is looking great! The Landscaping committee recently met to discuss plans for next year. If you have any questions or comments regarding the landscaping at Assembly or would be interested in joining the committee, please let Naomi know by emailing her at [roots.naomi@gmail.com](mailto:roots.naomi@gmail.com).

**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.

## MYF (Youth Events & Announcements)

- 11/21 MYF Breakout (following worship) - This will be our last MYF breakout session of the 2021 year before we switch things up for Advent (more information on Advent and 2022 breakouts to follow). Please bring a chair. If worship is moved to Zoom due to inclement weather, we will still have our breakout but it will be indoors from 11-11:30am. Masks are optional for vaccinated individuals when we meet outdoors, and required for everyone when indoors.

## DOING JUSTICE & SERVING THE COMMUNITY

**JYF MCC School Kits Sunday:** Our November JYF event is scheduled for this Sunday Nov 21. Johanna Sutter has bought supplies for 800 school kits, and it'll be our job to help pack them! We'll meet at the Depot from 1-3pm. We've got our work cut out for us, so it would be a good month for a big turnout! We could use a couple more adult volunteers as well. RSVP to [rksnider42@gmail.com](mailto:rksnider42@gmail.com).

**Rod Hollinger-Janzen from the Poor People's Campaign** will speak at the Middlebury Public Library this Saturday (11/20) at 10am. This is a movement that is working to advocate for systemic change on a number of fronts: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/committee/indiana/> Rod was born and grew up in rural Saskatchewan, Canada. He was baptized into his local Mennonite congregation at age 16. Rod holds degrees in history, theology and African Studies. He served as a mission worker in Burkina Faso and, following his marriage to Lynda, in Benin for almost two decades cumulatively. In 2005, based in Goshen, IN he began work as a mission executive for Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, retiring from that position in January 2021. His work has focused on building authentic international, intercultural relationships in our global context of vast inequalities and patterns of exploitation. Rod has been volunteering with the Poor People's Campaign since July 2020 and is currently one of the coordinators of the Goshen-Elkhart-South Bend PPC cluster. The cluster is focusing on issues such as police-community relations, immigration reform, and the Indiana redistricting process.

**Interfaith Hospitality Network:** Oh joy! All the evening meals for IHN have been committed. I'll enjoy my Thanksgiving travels so much more knowing our neighbors will eat well that week. We also have enough cookies. We can still use more people to help with decorating with the kids, and breakfast and lunch food. Many thanks! Sign-up: <https://takethemameal.com/ZLDH6898> Reach out to me (Susan) with questions: [susanmarklandis@gmail.com](mailto:susanmarklandis@gmail.com).

**Your neighbors still need you!** The Goshen Ministerial Association for many years has had an Emergency Fund, to which local churches contributed to financially assist local residents in significant need. This money has often helped prevent evictions or utilities turnoffs, or facilitated needed medical procedures. GMA is very grateful to Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network for its continued administering of this Emergency Fund on our behalf. We are also grateful to the eleven local congregations who contributed to the GMA Emergency Fund in 2020. As pandemic disruptions and hardships continue, the human needs they are seeing at GIHN are still very high. This kind of assistance can sometimes help keep people from having to enter a homeless shelter, and the primary source of this funding is from our local congregations. Please continue your generous support of the GMA Emergency Fund by sending contributions to: GMA Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 165, Goshen IN, 46527. With great gratitude, Pastor Neil Amstutz for the GMA

**Combating Environmental Injustice** – “On Friday morning, November 12, 2021, a group of leaders from various faith backgrounds gathered together at the Indiana Statehouse to deliver our Faith Climate Declaration with over 800 signatories to Governor Holcomb. Here is the [link to the full video](#) from Friday's action. We at Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light are extremely grateful to all who participated in our Faith Climate Declaration delivery and call to action. We will keep the message going and keep doing the powerful work together to protect our planet and the beautiful people who live on it.” ([Read more here](#)).

**For those age 70½ & older:** As Advent unfolds, please think of Love, Gratitude and Generosity. How might your RMD aid a non-profit, church or educational institution? Perhaps your family can identify agencies like Salvation Army, the Window or the Center for Healing and Hope, always in need of donations. Our money is an extension of us, the people of God. This season, please celebrate God's love by generously giving to those in need. --Barb Hassan, Everence Advocate

**Bushelcraft Farm invites you to a Fall Open House** this Sat Nov. 20th from 12-2pm! Folks of all ages welcome, including kids. Activities include a fire for roasting hotdogs and marshmallows, short tours, and an upcycling farm art activity (reusing irrigation drip tape)! Still welcoming possible musicians who want to add to the ambience with some acoustic music! Suggested donations of \$10 for adults. Funds raised will go towards the launch of a high school internship program. Address: farm entrance is JUST EAST of the farmers market building (27751 CR 26 Elkhart, IN 46517), though a separate entrance off of County Road 26, north side of the road (about 1/2 mile west of CR 7). RSVP to [bushelcraftfarm@gmail.com](mailto:bushelcraftfarm@gmail.com) or to Jon Zirkle ([jon.zirkle@gmail.com](mailto:jon.zirkle@gmail.com)).

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(repeat) **Tuna Cans and Bubble Wrap?** Please save your tuna cans (or other cans that size) and bubble wrap and give them to Lora Nafziger before Nov 27! Thank you!

(repeat) **Cookie Exchange Sign Up** – Back by popular demand! You're invited to back 3 dozen cookies; you will be assigned 3 households to deliver cookies to, and you will also receive cookies from others. (You can bring cookies you can't eat by yourself to the Christmas Eve service!). If you want to participate, please [complete this form by Dec 4.](#)

(repeat) **Cookie Decorating with IHN, Dec 20** - Several MYFers are decorating cookies with children at IHN. More helpers are welcome! We also need folks to bake approximately 15 dozen cookies, make colored icing and provide sprinkles. Contact [SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com](mailto:SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com) to volunteer. Thanks!

(repeat) **Members' Needs Fund.** As an Anabaptist community, we value sharing our resources. If you have any emergency financial needs (whether related to a health crisis, a loss of income, or other extraordinary circumstances), please consider sharing your needs with your small group rep, or directly with a pastor. This fund is available to assist all Assembly participants, not just covenanted members.

If you have been blessed with abundant resources, please consider making a donation to the Members' Needs Fund. (Write "Members Needs" on the memo line of your check). We anticipate some significant needs in the congregation in the near future.

## PATHWAYS RETREAT CENTER

(repeat) **Pathways Retreat** will be offering Advent Visio Divina on Wednesday mornings starting November 24. Pathways Retreat will be closed December 20 - January 10 for the holidays. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at [pathwaysretreat.org](http://pathwaysretreat.org). Also, read the [monthly Pathways newsletter here.](#)

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**MCC Great Lakes is seeking a Church Engagement Intern:** This intern will support a church engagement survey process to grow the partnerships between MCC and churches in our region. This includes connecting with congregations via phone and email, along with compiling and analyzing survey data to identify how we can be most helpful in sharing about the work of MCC. **This 10-week paid internship (starting in January)** is for students enrolled in or having recently completed a college, university or seminary program. Location is flexible, but office space is available in the MCC Great Lakes office in Goshen, Ind. **Apply online for this opening by November 24 at [mcc.org/gl-church-intern](http://mcc.org/gl-church-intern).** For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or [AmberFalcon@mcc.org](mailto:AmberFalcon@mcc.org).

**Goshen College's Study-Service Theology Term (SSTT)** invites high school applicants for a two-week study experience in Guatemala in June 2022. Participants are selected from any Christian denominational group in the U.S. who have completed their sophomore, junior or senior year by June 2022. The cost is just \$100 and the deadline to apply has been extended to Nov. 21, 2021. Learn more at [goshen.edu/sstt](http://goshen.edu/sstt).

## WIDER CHURCH

**Camp Friedenswald is in need of a volunteer** to give some love and care to their cross-country skis, hopefully repairing some bindings and aiding in general ski health discernment. If you have time and skills for this work, please contact Amy at [amy@friedenswald.org](mailto:amy@friedenswald.org) or 269-476-9744.

**“Dare to Imagine” - Advent at Home 2021:** this free devotional written by Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor of Christian Formation at College Mennonite Church is appropriate for all ages. You can download your copy here: [mennoniteusa.org/adventathome](http://mennoniteusa.org/adventathome). Also: Join Talashia for a one-hour webinar Sun Nov 14 at 5pm for creative ideas on how to slow down and connect with God each day during this season of anticipation.

Please email announcements to [assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-0732  
Karl Shelly [karlss@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:karlss@assemblymennonite.org) 574-621-1037  
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Scott Coulter [scottc@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:scottc@assemblymennonite.org) 419-535-2918

**Pastor Emeritae:** Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

**Elders:** Randy Roth (chair), Anne Horst Hanby, Jamie Lake, Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Leon Bauman, Elena Fischer  
**Youth Coordinators:** Sara Morris, Erich Miller, Ashley Fehlberg, Darin Bontrager, Amy Bontrager

**Church Office Hours:** Scott is typically in the office T-W-Th 8:30am-1pm & Fri 8:30am-4pm.  
Contact the church office at [office@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) or leave a message at 574-534-4190