



WORSHIP

Join us for Worship in one of three ways this Advent season:

Saturdays at 5pm in person at [Witmer Woods](#)

Sundays at 10am [on Zoom](#) or in person at [727 New York St](#)

Sundays at 11am [on Zoom only](#)

<p>Dec 12 Third Sunday of Advent: Joy Scripture: Luke 3:7-18</p>	<p>Dec 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love Scripture: Luke 1:39-55</p>
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BIRTHDAYS



Thomas Baldanzi Schlabach (6th, BCS) turned 12 on Dec 9! Thomas enjoys performing in Shout for Joy and playing the saxophone in the school band. At school he enjoys language arts and science. Right now he is enjoying reading fantasy and mythology from around the world. He enjoys cooking. His favorite food is food.

THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Dec 11-12

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.

Candle Dipping: Saturday, December 11, 1 and 2 p.m.

Outside at Steve Shantz's home (60728 CR 27, Goshen). This Assembly tradition is intended for children and youth. Make your own beautiful hand-dipped candles!

Saturday evening Advent woods worship: Witmer Woods Pavilion 5 p.m. (4:30 for children's pre-worship activities).

This 45-minute outdoor service (rain or shine) 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. **Woods worship update:** Due to booking miscommunication with Goshen College, Dec 11 & Dec 18 please park at the Yoder Culp funeral home and meet at the Pavilion in the woods. We will not be using the cabin as another group is there.

Messiah Sing-along, Saturday December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Join with the Maple City Orchestra and Camerata Singers for a free concert at Goshen College's Sauder Concert hall. Bring your own Messiah score. (Donations accepted at the door).

(Continued with Sunday events on next page)

THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY, cont.

Sunday Dec 12

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. 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). Masks required. Childcare for unvaccinated children will be provided in Classroom 2. The 10 a.m. Taizé service will be streamed on Zoom Sundays during Advent.

Sunday morning Adult Ed: 11 a.m. only on Zoom Join with others on Zoom Dec 5, 12, & 19 for “Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum” from MCUSA, 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.

Christmas Cookie Exchange: Sunday, December 12, afternoon

For those who signed up, look for an email with instructions. Cookies are to be delivered at a time of your choosing on Sunday afternoon Dec 12. Questions? Contact [Anna](#).

MORE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Dec 19-26

“Less is More” SALT weekly at home resources

We invite you to use [these weekly resources](#) to read scripture, participate in simple “less is more” activities and devotions.

Advent Spiral Dec. 19, 5:30 and 7:00pm Please RSVP to Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org to sign up for which time you would like to attend. The Advent spiral is a contemplative walk with candles that will take place in our outdoor labyrinth. It is for children ages 3-11 (though those older and younger are also welcome to participate). It is beautiful and full of delight. If you have questions, ask Lora.

Take a meal to folks living at Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network, December 20-24

Sign up here <https://takethemameal.com/ZLDH6898>.

Longest Night Service: Tuesday, December 21, 7 p.m. Worship Space

In the midst of this season of expectation and joy, we pause on the Longest Night of the year to also acknowledge our sorrows and longings. The 45-minute service is geared for quiet reflection and will include singing, scripture, words of lament and assurance, and candle-lighting.

Christmas Eve evening Service, December 24, 6 p.m. (outdoors and indoors, dress appropriately) [Please RSVP Here](#) 5:15 p.m.: Candle Dance rehearsal; 6 p.m.: Bundle up and gather in the west parking lot to participate in the drama of the Biblical story. We'll end in the worship space with the candle dance and silence night and then share cookies in the parking lot.

Lessons and Carols Zoom service December 26

Gather on Zoom and watch a pre-recorded Lessons and Carols service. [Please sign up here to participate](#) in reading a lesson or singing a carol. We need lots of folks!

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 12 • 10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or on Zoom • 11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" on Zoom • Christmas Cookie Exchange	Dec 13 • 6:30pm Dance Group on Zoom		Dec 15 • 12pm Noon Psalm & Prayer on Zoom		Dec 17 • 12pm Noon Psalm & Prayer on Zoom	Dec 18 • 4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities • 5pm Advent Woods Worship
Dec 19 • 10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or on Zoom • 11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" on Zoom • 1pm JYF Gathering • 5:30pm & 7pm Advent Spiral at the Labyrinth • 7:30pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom	Dec 20 • Dec 20-24 Provide Meals for IHN • 6:30pm Dance Group in Worship Space	Dec 21 • 6pm Labyrinth Walk in MP Space • 7pm Longest Night Service in Worship Space	Dec 22 • 12pm Noon Psalm & Prayer on Zoom		Dec 24 • 6pm Christmas Eve Service	
Dec 26 • 10am Lessons and Carols on Zoom						

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

[Find COVID-19 Information Here](#)

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>.

<p>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</p> <p>Pastor Emeritae: Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder</p>	<p>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</p>
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Church Office Hours: Vary. The best time to reach Scott by email is typically Thurs or Fri. Contact the church office at office@assemblymennonite.org or leave a message at 574-534-4190

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Our prayers are with Beverly Lapp and her family on the death of her mother, Helen Longenecker Lapp on Nov 30. Helen and Sam lived in the Elkhart/Goshen area in 2009-2010 while volunteering at AMBS, and greatly enjoyed attending Assembly during that year and on frequent visits. The memorial service is Saturday, December 11, at 11 a.m. at Plains Mennonite Church in Hatfield, PA. It is available to view via live-stream at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nro955Y8rJs>. The obituary is found here: <http://www.huffandlakjer.com/obituary/helen-lapp>.

Sean and Becky Smuts shared about their family's current living situation last Sunday. Their mobile home is in bad condition, including mold, and the costs of remaining in a mobile home park continue to rise. [Here is the link to the letter](#) inviting the congregation to help them to find alternative housing. Please consider how you might be able to help.

AMC Financial Update. Offerings through Nov. 30 are significantly below other years. Our expenses are also down about \$25,000. Still, to meet our projected expenses through the end of the year we will need about \$88,000 in December offerings. Last year we received \$75,000 in December and then turned out to not need most of it because of the PPP loan being forgiven and our expenses being way down from budget. This year there's no PPP loan and I'm basing the amount needed on projected expenses not budget. – John Nafziger, Treasurer

Child Care for Unvaccinated Children is available at the meetinghouse Sunday morning for those attending the Taizé service. Parents should drop off children at Classroom 2 between 9:50-10:00am and pick them up between 10:45-10:55am. Volunteers will be fully vaccinated and will wear masks. Children ages 3 and up will be asked to wear masks; disposable kid-size masks are available. Older children are encouraged to bring a book to read quietly, or they may get a book from the church library or play quiet board games together. Younger children can play in the playroom area. Questions? Contact Scott Coulter. (Thank you to our volunteers!)

Contribute Lessons and Carols by Dec 19! Take a video of you, your family, and/or your small group creatively presenting the lesson or carol which you select [HERE](#). Videos of carols (instrumental and/or vocal--we want a variety!) should be no more than 3 minutes, and lessons (read dramatically, acted out, told with toys) should be about 90 seconds. [Send your videos to Anna by Sunday, December 19.](#) The Lessons & Carols service will be on Zoom Sunday, December 26. Join with others immediately after Taizé worship on the 19th to sing and record any hymns that haven't yet been selected.

If you plan to attend our Christmas Eve service at 6pm on Dec 24, [please RSVP here](#) to help us prepare for the appropriate number of people.

Sign Up to participate in the Christmas Eve play, or to make a big pot of lentil soup. We are seeking thespians of all ages and abilities. If you or your child would like to participate, please [fill out this form](#). We'll gather to rehearse the play on Sunday, Dec 19 at 4:30pm (before the Advent Spiral), and on Friday Dec 24 at 5:15pm.

The next congregational meeting will take place on Sun Dec 19 at 7:30pm via Zoom. In response to feedback at the last congregational meeting, Leadership Group has made changes to one section of the proposed Pastor Hiring Procedures, highlighted here. (<http://www.assemblymennonite.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Pastor-Hiring-Procedures-Revised-Draft-Dec-2021.pdf>). Please read this document in advance of the Dec 19 meeting, and contact Randy Roth, LG Chair, with any questions or concerns. We hope to test for consensus on both the Pastor Hiring Procedures and job descriptions for church administrative staff at this December congregational meeting.

Volunteer for Sunday Morning Tasks in 2022! We plan to need volunteers beginning January 2 to do the following Sunday morning tasks: Greeters, Attendance Takers, Cash Offering Counters, Lock Up, and Nursery Volunteers (for ages 0-4 years). [Please sign yourself up to help using this Google spreadsheet](#), or contact scottc@assemblymennonite.org. If each person puts their name in two cells on this spreadsheet, we should easily be able to cover all of these needs through the end of March.

Leadership Group met Dec 7 and discussed the draft of the 2022 spending plan, a proposal re: support for Afghan refugee resettlement, and other items. They also approved a committee recommendation to request Anna Yoder Schlabach's ordination from Central District Conference. You can see approved minutes from past Leadership Group and Congregational meetings on the church website here: <https://www.assemblymennonite.org/minutiae/meeting-minutes/>

For current information about COVID-19 precautions please visit this new page on our church website: <https://www.assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information/>.

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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

During the coldest, darkest months we'll move our labyrinth walk indoors. If you'd like to share walking meditation energy, join Meribeth Shank, certified labyrinth facilitator, on Tuesday, December 21 at 6pm in the multipurpose space where the canvas labyrinth will be available. We'll walk together after a brief introduction to the labyrinth as a meditation tool and conclude with a chance to reflect together after the walk. Contact Meribeth Shank (786-229-5065) with any questions.

Calling ALL women at AMC! You may have heard that in some parts of the world, Epiphany (January 6, which brings the Christmas season to a close) is also celebrated as Women's Christmas. Originating in Ireland, Women's Christmas began as a day when the women, who often carried the domestic responsibilities all year, took Epiphany as an occasion to celebrate together at the end of the holidays.

Whether your domestic duties are many or few, Women's Christmas is a good time to pause and take a break from whatever has kept you busy in the past weeks or months. As the Christmas season ends, this is an occasion both to celebrate with friends and also to spend time in reflection before diving into the responsibilities of this new year. In past years I have celebrated this event with others, using materials prepared by Jan Richardson and would love to share a similar experience with others who may be interested. Currently, the worship space & multipurpose space at the meetinghouse is reserved for **Saturday, January 8, from 9-3p**. (Since we would be using Jan Richardson's material, a donation of \$10 per person is suggested as an appreciation.) Please let me know if you can join me to plan such an event. Also, please let me know if you are interested in participating. Sharing your interest does NOT commit you to coming. But it does help in thinking about how to plan. Contact Meribeth Shank (786 229 5065 or meribethshank@gmail.com)

Contact Scott Coulter to reserve meetinghouse spaces. Demand for space is on the rise as it gets colder. [Please check the space reservation calendar](#) and [contact Scott to reserve a space](#). Masks are required inside the meetinghouse. The Multipurpose space (AKA old worship space & baby cave) still does not have air filtration or good air exchange (we are working on this).

MYF EVENTS (FOR 9th-12th GRADERS)

The MYF Holiday Party is Sunday, 12/19, from 7-8:30pm. This event is an MYF favorite, with the annual gingerbread house competition, white elephant gift exchange, and of course some festive games and holiday treats! See MYF emails for more details to follow.

DOING JUSTICE & SERVING THE COMMUNITY

CHH COVID testing site needs more volunteers

As the testing numbers and positivity rate increase at an alarming rate, CHH is in need of more volunteers! If you have friends, family, or acquaintances who would be interested in volunteering with us please have them email owenger@chhclinics.org. Shifts run about 2 hours and training is provided. Spanish is not necessary. Our most urgent need is for additional swabbers, but we could use help in any volunteer position. On Mondays and during the first half of Tuesdays/Wednesdays our testing line is overflowing onto 6th street, causing traffic issues at the corner of Plymouth and 6th street. If anyone is interested in directing cars during any of these times, please email owenger@chhclinics.org.

Update on Location of Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network (GIHN) from Mindy Morehead, Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network Executive Director: We are excited to announce to you that we have partnered with Goshen Community Schools and will have a new home out of Merit Learning Center, pending necessary zoning and code changes. We will keep everyone posted on future developments. We appreciate all of your love and support for GIHN staff and our guests! From SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com, your GIHN rep: This announcement doesn't change our meals later this month. **We still would appreciate more in-person help with cookie decorating at 1:45 at St. Mark's, Dec 20.**

Association for a More Just Society (ASJ), who Assembly has supported through the 2% Fund, recently sent an update sharing about "a miraculous week in Honduras". [Read it here.](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University offers online courses in February & March 2022 such as: Introduction to Restorative Justice, and Economics for Emancipation. (These are for professional development only (no academic credit available). [Learn more about the offerings of the peacebuilding institute here.](#)

Goshen College will offer Spanish classes for adults, from beginner to conversational, beginning in January 2022. The Spanish classes (non-credit) will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. Offered through the office of Adult and Graduate Programs, the classes will run from Jan. 11 to May 12. The cost is \$300 (including a book) for 16 weeks, or 32 class sessions. To register, visit goshen.edu/spanishclass.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(repeat) **Thrift at Woodland Crossing** is a new MCC Thrift shop opening in Elkhart in the spring of 2022. Located at the former Pierre Moran Mall, the shop is intentionally located in south central Elkhart to provide quality and affordable used items to local neighborhoods that are under-sourced while at the same time raising financial resources for MCC. There are a variety of ways you are invited to partner in this ministry. [Learn more here.](#)

(repeat) **Elkhart County Clubhouse is looking for a used minivan.** We use our vans to help our members get to and from the Clubhouse and to and from appointments. If you have one to donate, or for more info, contact Rich Meyer 574-202-3920. We can give a donation receipt and our thanks for helping us provide this service.

(repeat) **The Association for a More Just Society** recently sent a thank you note to Assembly. [You can read it here.](#)

(repeat) **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

(repeat) **Pray for Mennonite schools in December** with the [Daily Prayers for Mennonite Education calendar](#) from the Mennonite Education Agency.

WIDER CHURCH

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Mon Jan 17 with an event organized by the [Intercultural Competence and Undoing Racism \(ICUR\) Team](#) and the [Institute of Mennonite Studies](#). This live-streamed event will develop connections made at the 2020 celebration between King's legacy and Black history in Elkhart. For more information, contact [Nekeisha Alayna Alexis](#), MA, ICUR coordinator (icurcoordinator@ambs.edu).

Also at AMBS: Sign Up for Pastors & Leaders / Deep Faith 2022: Formed in the Wilderness, Leading in Hope: Feb. 21–24 | Available in person and online | Register by Jan. 15 to save \$50.

For more news from AMBS, [click here](#).

Christian Peacemaker Teams offers an online Advent calendar in English and Spanish. Each day, until Dec 25th, you have the opportunity to open a new door and meet a CPT Peacemaker of Christmas. From quotes, to reflections, to fun and interesting videos - each day will bring a different activity so don't miss out! [Click here for the English calendar](#); [CPT Calendario de Adviento en Español](#)

Pathways Retreat will be offering Advent Visio Divina on Wednesday mornings through December 15. Pathways Retreat will be closed December 20 - January 2 for the holidays. Daily prayers are offered both online and in-person. Find more information at pathwaysretreat.org.

Also, the December edition of Pathways' newsletter can be read [here](#).

From Mennonite Church USA: Hear exciting first-hand accounts of peacemakers from across the denomination in Mennonite Church USA's Storyteller Series videos that premiered at #MennoCon21. View the whole series here: mennoniteusa.org/storyteller-series.

Anger. Lament. Hope. Rick Yoder, professor emeritus at Eastern Mennonite University, grieves the events that have been unfolding in Afghanistan over the past few months in his blog, "Anger, lament and hope." Read his poetic reflection on the roles we all have to play, here: mennoniteusa.org/anger-lament-hope.

Rev. Amy S. Zimelman and members of Mountain States Mennonite Conference attended a peace demonstration in late October. Read about why she finds this work to be important in her and her family's lives in her blog, "Demonstrating peace for my children and me." mennoniteusa.org/demonstrating-peace

Cost of Poverty: Andre Gingerich Stoner writes about how Mennonites in St. Joseph County, Indiana, have begun to make a difference in the realm of public mental health services, in his blog, "A spirit of power, and of love and of hard work." Read it here: mennoniteusa.org/power-love-work.

Pray for the Orodara region, where many of Burkina Faso's Mennonites live. Foreign-sponsored guerilla fighters are making it difficult for people to go to work and for children to attend school. Pray for the Mennonites' peace witness, for the families of the more than 1,500 people who have died and for the more than 1.3 million displaced people in Burkina Faso.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Jobs in Mennonite Education are posted [here](#), including local opportunities at Goshen College and Bethany Christian Schools.

The Depot MCC Thrift Shop is seeking to fill two positions:

(1) Bookkeeper (parttime): Applicants must have excellent organizational and communication skills. Proficiency in working with QuickBooks is a must, and experience working in a retail setting is a plus. Hours are flexible.

(2) Warehouse Assistant (fulltime): Good people skills are required as this position involves interacting with the public on a daily basis. Ability to lift 50+ pounds on a regular basis is a must. Competitive wages.

All applicants must have a commitment to personal Christian faith and discipleship and maintain active church membership. Please contact Galen Kauffmann, general manager, The Depot MCC Thrift Shops, 1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN, 46528 or email depotmccthriftshops@gmail.com.

(repeat) **MCC seeking SWAP Location Coordinators in Hindman, Kentucky:** MCC Appalachia's SWAP (Sharing With Appalachian People) program coordinates week-long service opportunities for young people and adults, to provide housing repair for low-income individuals and families. The Hindman Location Coordinators will plan and direct all aspects of the SWAP ministry in Hindman, Kentucky. MCC is also looking to connect with other ministries related to economic development and/or food security and would welcome location coordinators with these interests and backgrounds. The Location Coordinators will report directly to the Appalachia Program Coordinator. Apply online for this opening at mcc.org/swap-hindman-location-coordinators. For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

(repeat) **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 December 13 at mcc.org/gl-church-intern. For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.

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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

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

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