



## 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](#)

**Dec 5**

**Second Sunday of Advent: Peace**

**Scripture:** Malachi 3:1-4

**Dec 12**

**Second Sunday of Advent: Joy**

**Scripture:** Luke 3:7-18



## BIRTHDAYS

**Maia Sywulka turned 3 on Nov 23!** Maia is enjoying her time at home with Mom and Dad before starting in school. She loves jumping, swinging, drawing, dancing, singing, taking bubble baths, playing hide and seek and laughing endlessly with her older sisters.

**Bryn Rothshank (College K) turns 6 on Dec 5!** Bryn is good at drawing and making up stories. She is learning how to climb trees. She enjoys playing games that her brother Linden makes up and playing monopoly with her whole family. Bryn likes pink, purple, chocolate and noodles. She is brave enough to jump off the diving board!



## THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

**Dec 4-5**

*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 pre-worship activities).** This 45-minute outdoor service (rain or shine) is planned with families in mind, but is intended for all ages, every Saturday during Advent.

**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.

[Click here](#) for a complete schedule of events through Dec 26.

# COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Dec 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>8pm Anti-Racism Accountability Group <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> </ul>	<p>Dec 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm Been in the Struggle Discussion in Worship Space</li> <li>8pm Reparations Task Force meeting</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 pm Leadership Group</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Pastoral Team</li> </ul>			<p>Dec 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 &amp; 2 pm Candle Dipping</li> <li>4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities</li> <li>5pm Advent Woods Worship</li> <li>7:30pm Messiah Sing-along</li> </ul>
<p>Dec 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>Christmas Cookie Exchange</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Dance Group on Zoom</li> </ul>					<p>Dec 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities</li> <li>5pm Advent Woods Worship</li> </ul>
<p>Dec 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" <a href="#">on Zoom</a></li> <li>1pm JYF Gathering</li> <li>5:30pm &amp; 7pm Advent Spiral at the Labyrinth</li> <li>7:30pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dec 20-24 Provide Meals for IHN</li> <li>6:30pm Dance Group in Worship Space</li> </ul>	<p>Dec 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Labyrinth Walk in MP Space</li> <li>7pm Longest Night Service in Worship Space</li> </ul>			<p>Dec 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Christmas Eve Service</li> </ul>	

**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

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

**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.

**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!)

**Cookie Exchange Sign Up by Dec 4** – 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](#).

**Antiracist Spirituality – Dec 6** Come celebrate and discuss Regina Shands Stoltzfus' new book, "Been in the Struggle, Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality." Mon, Dec 6 at 7 pm in the worship space. Drew Hart calls the book, "A much needed prophetic and pastoral word from elders in the antiracism struggle."

**Contribute Lessons and Carols!** 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.

**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](mailto: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).

**Faith Mennonite Church** is resuming meeting in the meetinghouse on Sunday afternoons as of Nov 21. You can find the space reservation calendar for the meetinghouse on the church website here:

<https://www.assemblymennonite.org/facility-use-reservations-calendar/>

**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.

## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

**AMBS Celebration of Creches and Carols.** On Friday, Dec. 10 (4:30–8:30 p.m.), and Saturday, Dec. 11 (12–4:30 p.m.), more than 200 international nativity sets from four collections will be displayed in the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount for you to view at your own pace. Musicians will perform Christmas carols, and there will be outdoor carol sings on Friday at 5 and 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 2 and 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; donations of food items for Church Community Services or contributions for AMBS international student scholarships are invited. Masks are required. AMBS, 3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana.

[ambs.edu/creches](https://ambs.edu/creches)

**Messiah Sing-Along Sat Dec 11 7:30pm.** Please join the Maple City Community Orchestra, together with the Camerata Singers, as we perform selections from Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 11th at 7:30 pm at Goshen College Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall. The concert is free and presented with help from the Indiana Arts Commission. (Donations are accepted at the door. Bring your own Messiah score to sing along). We are looking forward to seeing you there - to listen or to sing along!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:owenger@chhclinics.org).

**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.](#)

**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.

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

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(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

## WIDER CHURCH

The November issue of the Central District Conference *Reporter* contains several important messages from James Rissler, Central District Conference president, and the Board of Directors. [Please read it here.](#)

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

**Pray for Ecuadorian Churches.** Delicia Bravo Aguilar and Peter Wigginton, of Mennonite Mission Network, request prayer for the churches in Ecuador that have suffered the loss of many leaders and members, due to COVID-19. While they continue to lament their losses, pray for their strength and resilience, as new leaders come forward to continue the reconciling mission of Christ.

**Talashia Keim Yoder**, author of this year's Mennonite Church USA's Advent at Home guide, reflects on her and her family's Advent traditions and how she has learned from her church family in her blog, "Dare to imagine the transformative power of Advent." Find it here: [mennoniteusa.org/power-of-advent](http://mennoniteusa.org/power-of-advent).

Read about the efforts of the organization, **Mennonite Men, to plant trees**, about the Church Land Theology Project, and more [in this email newsletter](#).

**Seeking Peace with Creation** is the newsletter of the Mennonite Creation Care Network. [You can read it here.](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**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](http://mcc.org/swap-hindman-location-coordinators). For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or [AmberFalcon@mcc.org](mailto:AmberFalcon@mcc.org).

**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](http://mcc.org/gl-church-intern). For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or [AmberFalcon@mcc.org](mailto:AmberFalcon@mcc.org).

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 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

**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](mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org) or leave a message at 574-534-4190

