



WORSHIP

Join us at 9:30AM on Sundays in Person, or [on Zoom](#)

<p>September 18 9:30 AM Worship & Sunday School 2nd hour Congregational meeting</p> <p>Worship Leader: Barb Swartley Sermon: Anna Yoder Schlabach Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:1-3:15</p>	<p>September 25 9:30 AM Worship & Sunday School 2nd hour CDC sacred listening</p> <p>Worship Leader: Leon Bauman Sermon: Renee Kanagy Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3; 8:14-9:12</p>
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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18

9:30am Worship Our fall worship series focuses on the book of Ecclesiastes. This week’s theme is “Work and Pleasure.” This short little book contains questions and ideas that still feel relevant today: What is the point? What gives life meaning? How do we live in a time of unjust economic systems and wealth inequality? There is indeed nothing new under the sun. [Read the full intro here.](#) This is the last Sunday for My Coins Count.

Sunday School Teachers will be dismissed at the beginning of the closing hymn. Children are dismissed after the closing hymn.

Second Hour Congregational meeting All Assembly participants (members and non-members) are encouraged to attend the congregational meeting in the worship space during second hour. The agenda item is initial discussion of a proposal that Assembly formally become the sponsoring church for Goshen Christian Montessori School, the registered child care ministry that has been operating here in our building since August 2021. More information can be read [here](#).

12pm Mentor/Mentee event - Following church, there will be a mentor, mentee kick off potluck at Fidler pond. We will meet at the Chiddister Pavilion for a meal, fun, games & canoeing.

Masks are required during worship services for everyone ages 2 and older.

We are thankful that we can worship (and sing!) together in person, while taking reasonable precautions that protect the most vulnerable among us.

For Sunday school/2nd hour: Masks are required for children ages 2-5 and their teachers. *Parents should contact Sunday school teachers directly if they are sending kids to Sunday school during days 6 through 10 after a positive COVID test. During this time children are asked to wear a mask during Sunday school and sit apart from the group during snack.*

Our Covid Advisory Committee encourages everyone be aware of the risks of attending large gatherings, particularly for those who are immunocompromised or unvaccinated. Please read their suggestions [here](#).

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>.

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Sept 18 • 9:30am Worship & Sunday school • 11am Congregational Meeting • 12pm Mentor-Mentee Kick-off at Fidler Pond		Sept 20 • 6:30pm Labyrinth Walk			Sept 23 • 9am Play group	
Sept 25 • 9:30am Worship & Sunday school • 11am CDC Sacred Listening • 12:30pm Students in homes for lunch	Sept 26 • 6:30pm Dance group	Sept 27 • 7:15pm Small group reps meeting on Zoom		Sept 29 • 7pm Book Discussion: "Disarmed" with Marshall King	Sept 30 • 9am Play group	
Oct 2 • 9:30am Worship & Sunday school • 12pm Fellowship meal		Oct 4 • 7pm Leadership group	Oct 5 • 1pm Women's lunch bunch		Oct 7 • 9am Play group • 9:30am Greencroft meet up	
Oct 9 • 10am Worship at Camp Friedenswald	Oct 10 • 6:30pm Dance group on Zoom (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the link)	Oct 11 • 6:30pm Labyrinth walk			Oct 14 • 9am Play group	Oct 15 • 1-3pm Joy Buschert visitation • 4pm Joy Buschert memorial service

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Sit closer to the front! The back few rows of chairs in the Worship space have been roped off to encourage you to sit closer to the front. This way, latecomers have an easier time finding a seat.

Correction: Clara Horst Hanby is in 5th grade at Bethany Christian school, not 3rd grade as previously published.

Our condolences to the family on the death of Joy Buschert on September 14. On October 15, a visitation will be held at Assembly from 1-3 pm, with a memorial service at 4 pm with a meal to follow. A shortened obituary can be read [here](#)

Our condolences to Anne Birky on the death of her father, Luke Birky, on Sept 3. A memorial service is planned for Luke Birky at College Mennonite Church on Saturday, October 15 at 11 am. The family would be happy to meet you before the service at visitation at 10 am (his body is already cremated). There will be a light catered lunch after the memorial service. The memorial will be live-streamed from the church and can be accessed on the church website. Read the obituary [here](#).

Consider Baptism? Have you found yourself drawn into the life of the church in a way you didn't anticipate earlier in your life? Are the questions of meaning and life ones that you are grappling with in a faith context? Are you wondering how to claim being a progressive Christian? Talk with Lora or send her an [email](#) if you are intrigued and interested in an exploring baptism class for young and older adults.

Labyrinth walk: Join Meribeth Shank, certified labyrinth facilitator, on Tuesday at 6:30pm on the labyrinth in the memorial garden. 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 with any questions.

Weekly Friday morning 9am play group. Lora Nafziger & Becky Smuts invite parents to bring their children to the Meetinghouse room 2A to spend an hour together. Parents are invited to bring projects like knitting, crochet, etc. while you visit with other adults. A snack will be provided.

Welcome Goshen College and AMBS Students! We would like to offer you our hospitality, welcome you (back) to the community, and get to know you better. If you would like to be hosted in a home for lunch on Sunday Sept 25, please [contact the church office](#) or [sign up using this Google Form](#) before Sept 18th. There is also a sign-up sheet outside the Worship space.

Retreat registration is live! We cordially invite you to Assembly's 2022 Retreat at Camp Friedenswald, October 7-9. This year our theme is "[Re]connecting". After several years of uncertainty, we hope you will come and find peace, respite, and renewal. We extended a special invitation for those of you who started coming to Assembly just before, or during the pandemic. Retreat offers opportunities for enjoying nature, getting to know each other, eating great food, worshipping, and enjoying (or participating in!) a talent show. This year we are also offering an optional series of seminars that discuss how Christianity can address patriarchy. [Registration](#) is required. Please check your email or 3rd Hour (on Facebook) for more details.

Come Play With Us: You are invited to an **Introduction to InterPlay**. On October 29, InterPlayers from Michigan, Indiana and perhaps Chicago will gather at our Meetinghouse for a day of play. Maryellen May from Bloomington, Indiana and yours truly, Linda Schlabach Miller are designing the morning (9:30 - 11:30am) for those from our congregation (and the Goshen/Elkhart community) who are just a little curious about what our Assembly Dance Group does on Monday evenings. For more information contact me, Linda at 574-538-8324 or lschlabachm@gmail.com

Upcoming Mask Policy Changes. Beginning October 16, masks will be optional for Sunday school classes of all ages. Leadership Group is considering adopting a policy that masks will be optional for first hour worship also, beginning October 16, and that if [Elkhart County's Community Risk Level](#) changes to "High", then masks will again be required indoors for everyone over age 2. **We welcome your feedback on this change** – please contact [Randy Roth](#), Leadership Group chair, with your comments and questions before Sept 30.

If you are interested in receiving spiritual direction, Jon Zirkle is looking for 1-2 individuals who would like to try spiritual direction as part of his seminary course requirements at AMBS. Spiritual direction would involve meeting about once a month for up to 8 months at no cost (Jon is receiving credit for this training and is receiving supervision from his instructor Dan Schrock). Sessions could take place at the meetinghouse, somewhere outdoors (could include walking or sitting), or by Zoom. Contact Jon directly (jon.zirkle@gmail.com or 574-612-5063) if you're interested in a non-judgmental experience of listening together for God's presence in your life.

Sign up for a (FREE) Personal Retreat at Pathways There is still money left from Lora's sabbatical grant to take a retreat day at Pathways Retreat at no cost. [Contact Pathways Retreat](#) to make arrangements, and let them know you are from Assembly.

Scott Coulter will be out of the office for the second part of his family leave from September 12-30. Please contact Karl Shelly, Anna Yoder Schlabach or Lora Nafziger for pastoral needs. For facility needs, contact Naomi Roots. To reserve space in the building, contact the church office.

Prayer Requests. Please share prayer requests by contacting one of the pastors via email or phone. Prayer requests are sent out to the congregation via the Assembly listserv on Wednesdays.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Voices Together Exhibit - Good Library Gallery. Don't miss this new display of the original works of art that appear in the MC USA hymnal, Voices Together (2020), by twelve different artists in a traveling exhibit from Bethel College, KS and the Marpeck Fund along with a display of historic Mennonite hymn books and tributes to Mary Oyer, Walter E. Yoder and other earlier editors. **Public Reception: Sunday, September 18, 2-4 pm.** At 2:30pm, comments by Bradley Kauffman, Randy Horst and Joe Springer. On Oct 1 at 2:30pm, Adam Tice will speak on hymn texts.

BIRTHDAYS



Glenn Miller (Juniper Place, Greencroft) turns 90 on September 18! Glen has traveled to 144 counties and lived 3 months or more in seven countries. He practiced medicine for 30 years and then served overseas in various locations. A highlight of the last several years was a trip to Tuscany with his children for his 60th wedding anniversary with Marilyn. He has nine grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He has published two books, "Empowering the Patient," and "Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well."

DOING JUSTICE

Community 5K for Immigrant Justice – Saturday, Oct 29. We at the [National Immigrant Justice Center](#) in Goshen are so grateful for the enduring support we receive from our community. The Mennonite churches of Elkhart County sustain and inspire us. We invite your congregations to join us for our fourth annual [Community 5K for Immigrant Justice](#). Our attendees will have the choice of participating in the 5K in person on the Millrace Trail in Goshen or virtually. This event is a chance for the community to come together and raise funds to ensure access to justice for immigrants in Indiana. There is an option at registration this year to create teams, so churches could engage in some friendly competition to see which congregation can turn out the most racers, turn in the fastest average time, show up in the best costumes (since it will be Halloween, after all), etc. We hope you will join us! **Sign up by September 23rd to get a t-shirt with your registration!** Registration is here: <https://runsignup.com/nijc5kforimmigrantjustice>. Click here to read the [flyer](#).

SUPPORT FOR MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Volunteers needed! The MCC Relief Sale (Sept. 23-24) again needs some help coordinating the waste stream from this event, so that our wholehearted enjoyment of rich foods and fine fellowship doesn't result in excessive landfill waste. The job is simple: stand near the waste bins with a smile and encouragement to attendees to get their waste sorted into the proper bins (compost, recycling, and landfill). We're hoping to do this with others from Assembly on Friday evening from 7-9p, but if earlier in the evening or Saturday morning works best for you, that's great, too. Please contact Jonathon Schramm (jschramm@goshen.edu) with your interest by Sunday the 18th. And let's make sure that we don't have Faith Mennonite out-volunteering us on this one!

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale – Sept 23 & 24, Elkhart County fairgrounds. Announcements about the upcoming relief sale can be read [here](#).

The Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale Choir will be performing at Sauder Hall at Goshen College Sunday, Sept. 25 at 7 pm. Fairfield HS choir will also be performing several songs. There is no admission charge but an offering will be taken to benefit Mennonite Central Committee.

MCC dignity kits. Last year, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) shipped the first 1,000 dignity kits to our partner in South Sudan, Africa. The responses we've heard back have been very positive! MCC has requests from partners for over 21,000 more dignity kits over the next year. We know it will be a tall order to fulfill all these requests. Will you help to send as many dignity kits as possible by donating kits, making financial contributions, or sewing parts of the reusable sanitary pad system? Please contact NadineZookMiller@mcc.org if you are interested in helping. More information at: mcc.org/dignity-kits. For a visual of what a dignity kit contains, click [here](#).

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Women of Faith Training & Resourcing Network – Sept 29-Oct 2 in Elkhart. You are invited to a women's leadership conference led by African American women, sponsored by Mennonite Women USA (MW) and Mennonite Mission Network. Click [here](#) for more information & registration.

AMBS Short Course- Exploring Anabaptist History and Theology with Jamie Pitts- Oct. 26 – Dec. 13. Learn about the

birth and development of the Anabaptist movement in the 16th century, as well as various interpretations of "Anabaptism" and its meaning today. **Register by Oct. 5 to save \$50! Register Now.**

Church Community Service's Soup of Success program is now interviewing for their next class! Soup of Success is a 20-week empowerment program for women in Elkhart County that includes career counseling, education, support and hands-on business training. Monday – Friday, 8:45a-1:15p. We pay \$11/hour to help participants gain confidence, overcome obstacles and get their lives back on track! If this sounds like you, we would encourage you to apply at <https://soupofsuccess.com/apply/> or you can call 574.523.1551 x105 or email soupofsuccess@gmail.com for more information.

Free financial classes – Lacasa, Inc is again offering free financial classes this fall. Find more information [here](#).

Palestine Delegation-Nov 3-14, 2022. Community Peacemaker Teams sends short-term (7-14 day) peacemaker delegations into crisis settings around the world. These delegations link communities experiencing violence with individuals and groups. Delegations offer participants a first-hand experience of CPT's on-the-ground experiment in non-violence. Learn more & apply [here](#).

WIDER CHURCH

Sacred Listening. The Central District Conference Board of Directors and staff invite your congregation to participate in a Sacred Listening conversation during the year 2022. The CDC leadership has recognized that our conference is different than it was just six years ago and continues to change. Nine congregations have joined CDC in the last six years. Several emerging communities of faith are exploring affiliation with CDC. Many of our congregations have become more fully welcoming and affirming of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+. We have experienced a pandemic. Our nation continues to wrestle with issues of justice, privilege, culture, power, environment, race, and more. We are curious about how our congregations are tending to the ongoing transformation that God calls us to. We want to hear your stories. **Assembly will host the sacred listening process during second hour on Sept 25.**

Learn, Pray, Join: Mass Incarceration. Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) invites you to engage an initiative that examines the injustices in our criminal legal system that cause pain and suffering, especially for poor people and people of color. During September and October, MC USA will offer resources, prayers and ways to live into our Anabaptist faith values, resisting injustice in all forms and in all places. mennoniteusa.org/lpj-mass-incarceration

The most recent Reporter from Central District Conference can be read [here](#).

The September issue of Mennonite Creation Care Network can be read [here](#).

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer Mennonite Mission Network recently appointed Andi Santoso as regional administrator for Asia and the Middle East. Pray for Andi as he immerses himself in building relationships in this region.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Friedenswald is seeking a kitchen assistant to join their team! Possibility of on-site housing and additional camp duties to make it a full-time job. There isn't a more beautiful place to work! [Apply online](#) and help us spread the word.

Bethany Christian School job openings can be found [here](#). **Goshen College** job openings can be found [here](#). **AMBS** job openings can be found [here](#). **Other jobs in Mennonite education** can be found [here](#). **Mennonite Church USA's** job postings are [here](#).

Assembly Mennonite Church

Pastoral Team

Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037

Anna Yoder Schlabach annays@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-5319

Scott Coulter (on Family leave)

Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732

Pastoral Intern: Stephen Lowe sclowe@ambs.edu

Pastor Emeritae: Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

Elders: Randy Roth (chair), Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Leon Bauman, Sara Morris, Cheryl Shreiner, Ben Good-Elliott

Youth Coordinators: Erich Miller, Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Ryan Gomez Wengerd, Gretchen Krause

Administrative Assistant: Becky Overholt (Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm) office@assemblymennonite.org; 574-534-4190

Church Administrator: Naomi Roots (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm) naomikr@assemblymennonite.org