

AssemblyLine

December 13, 2015

Volume XXXV, Number 50

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

December 13	December 20
Worship leader: <i>Jodi Beyeler</i>	Worship leader: <i>Barb Swartley</i>
Sermon: <i>Lora Nafziger</i>	Sermon: <i>Anna Yoder Schlabach</i>
Welcoming & tear-down: <i>Hug & One & Food Group</i>	Welcoming & tear-down: <i>Cheers and Espanol</i>
Scripture: <i>Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18</i>	Scripture: <i>Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56</i>
Sunday School: <i>Mary says yes (Luke 1:26-56)</i>	Sunday School: <i>Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20)</i>

CALENDAR

Sat	Dec 12	9-11am Advent retreat, worship space 5:30 & 7pm Family Advent spiral, worship space
Mon	Dec 21	8pm Longest Night service, worship space
Thurs	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve bread & soup supper
Sun	Dec 27	9:30am Finger food breakfast, followed by worship at 10:30, no Sunday school

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

Thomas Baldanzi Schlabach turned 6 on Dec 10! Thomas loves eating ice cream and mac and cheese. He likes reading with his mom and cooking pancakes with his dad! When he is not wrestling with his brother, Leo, he loves to run around and jump on the sofa. He is good at writing stories and drawing too!

Welcome Bryn Evlyn Rothshank! Bryn was born by emergency C-Section at Goshen Hospital on Sat Dec 5 at 12:41am. Bryn weighed 4 lbs 7 oz and was born severely anemic. Following an emergency blood transfusion she was transferred to the NICU at South Bend Memorial Hospital. Brooke moved to South Bend on Sunday evening. Sign up to take them meals [here](#).

We extend love and sympathy to Linda Schlabach Miller and her family as they mourn the death of Linda's father, Alva "Curly" Schlabach. He died suddenly on Wed, Dec 9 in Sarasota, FL at age 94. Linda and her brother Jay Schlabach (former Assemblyite) also lost their mother, Doris, this past July.

Giving at the end of Nov totaled 84.7% of budget. Usually our giving at this time is at 85.5% of budget. After a large offering last Sunday, our total giving is at 290,622 compared to budget of 325,188. There are three offerings left in Dec; to meet budget we need approx 11,500/week. Fortunately, our expenses will likely be less than budgeted.

The 2% Committee proposes the following Fall distribution plans: Local 1.LaCasa of Goshen \$1000 2.Center for Community Justice \$1000 3.Center for Healing and Hope \$1000 4.ADEC \$1000 5.Goshen Day Care Board \$1000 6.Goshen Ministerial Association \$1000 7.The Window \$1000 8.Ryan's Place \$500 9.MDC Goldenrod \$500 10.Clubhouse of Goshen \$1000 World 1.Tanzania Education Aid \$2000 2.Saba International – for the Nest \$500 3.Resource Center - \$500 4.MCC a.Syria/Iraq \$2000 b.Gaza/Isreal/Palestine \$2000 c.South Sudan \$2000. Please bring any concerns regarding these distributions to one of the committee members by 12/20. Also, please let any committee member know of future recommendations and suggestions for 2% funding. You can reach Steve Schrock at sdschrock@hotmail.com

More volunteers are needed in 2016! 1st hour childcare: most of March, June, Sept, Dec. Set-up worship space: part of July. Kitchen clean-up: part of June, all of July. Let Naomi know if you are willing to sign up at office@assemblymennonite.org.

Are you ever confused when you find one shoe, or one glove, or a sippy cup in the meetinghouse with no person attached to them? All of these items can be found in the lost and found, which will be on a table in the multi-purpose space on Sun, Dec 13 and 20. Make sure you stop and check for your items; they will be taken to the Depot after Dec 21.

Patricia and Pete Oakley are nearing their move to New Mexico. We will host a come and go farewell open house on Thurs, Dec 17 from 7:30-9 at Kathy and Paul Meyer Reimer's house (618 S 6th St). Anyone who would like to join in wishing them well on their journey is welcome to come. See Kathy or Paul with questions.

All are welcome at the Longest Night service Mon, Dec 21, 8pm. During this season, we experience the shortest day and the longest night of the year. The name also applies to the feeling that a number of us have about this season. It is the "long dark night of the soul," in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. The service will have singing appropriate to the season, recognizing that this is not necessarily a season of joy. We will invite you to reflect on your own experiences of pain and anguish by meditating on scripture and poetry readings, and we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. In acknowledging our grief and longing we will light candles of hope to illuminate the darkness.

Small group Cheers is delighted to recommend Kimberly Glick for covenanting with Assembly. We are planning for this time on Jan 3. Please speak your words of encouragement and counsel to Kimberly.

Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network- For those interested in helping to host GIHN guests during 2016, please see the signup sheets in the foyer or speak to Kim Kurtz for more details. Hosting dates for 2016 are Jan 24-31, April 10-17, June 26-July 3, Sept 11-18, and Nov 27-Dec 4.

Advent began 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. More info about Advent at Assembly can be found on the lit table and can be found [here](#) on the website

Mennonite Central Committee has shared [this Advent message](#) from MCC U.S. Executive Director J Ron Byler.

John Lederach and Glenn Miller, along with several others, organized the Lifelong Learning Course on "Mennonite – Catholic Connections" back in Sept. There were excellent presentations by John D Roth, Margie Pfeil, John Lederach, Judith Davis and others. These talks were

videotaped and you can view and hear the presentations at [MennCathConn](#). Please access and enjoy.

(repeat) **Christmas Eve:** Please sign up in the gathering space to come to the annual Christmas Eve supper at 6pm, including a short service. We are asking for a sign up to be sure we have enough tables and chairs ready. All should bring a bowl, cup and spoon. Those who are able can sign up to bring a pot of soup, basket of bread, or butter.

(repeat) **Helpers needed** to take down tables and clean up after the *Christmas Eve soup and bread meal*. You can indicate your willingness to help when you sign up to attend the service/meal.

(repeat) **2016 Volunteer Schedules** are in your mailbox! Scheds can also be found on the website by clicking [here](#).

(repeat) **As we enter this season of active Advent waiting**, consider making space for reflection, prayer, and silence by participating in the Advent Prayer Retreat on Sat, Dec 12, 9-11am at the meetinghouse. The retreat time will begin with a time of centering and dwelling with scripture together, followed by time for individual reflection at prayer stations and an opportunity to walk the Advent Spiral.

(repeat) **Would you like to bring JOY** to Syrian refugees? MCC is in great need of Relief Kits which consist of the following: 4 medium weight bath towels, 13-24oz shampoo, 4 adult toothbrushes, 4 bars of 4oz soap, 4 bars of laundry bar soap, 40 band aids, 2 wide tooth combs, 1 nail clipper, 1 pack of 20 thin maxi sanitary pads. You can buy the items yourself or if you prefer, Johanna Sutter will be glad to be your shopper. About \$25 will fill a Relief Kit; you can write a check to Assembly Mennonite Church and put it in the offering (mark "Relief Kit" in the memo line). Any amount of money is appreciated.

(repeat) **All Advent and Christmas Books** have been placed on the lowest shelves in your church library with red labels on their spines, and are available for check out.

(repeat) **Three books are missing** from your AMC Library: The Great Emergence - how Christianity is changing and why; and The naked Anabaptist. Please return as soon as possible.

(repeat) **For many of us**, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. Our Advent worship seeks to

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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

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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.

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

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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. Margarita's email: meloklassen@gmx.net

(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).

community connections

CPT travel dates for 2016 have been annouced: 7-14 day trips available to Colombia, Palestine, Iraq, US/Mexico borderlands among others. For more information and specific dates, visit www.cpt.org/applyonline

Goshen College Achievement Scholarships Did you know that Goshen College achievement scholarships can save you tens of thousands of dollars on a top-ranked education? Apply by the Dec 15 priority application deadline to be eligible for our top scholarships! Visit goshen.edu/dec15 for more information and to apply.

Council on Aging of Elkhart County has a position open with the In Home Care Dept which offers three services to their elderly clients: homemaking, care attendant and respite care. Shifts vary and can range from 2-16 hours/day. If interested, contact Cindy Grove, In Home Care director, at 295-1820, ext 260.

Oaklawn is currently hiring for a variety of positions at The Children's Campus in Mishawaka. They are looking for dedicated individuals to work with children and adolescents on their road to recovery. Hiring range is \$10.24-\$12.29. The programs are designed to help youth develop positive emotional and behavioral responses to everyday life. Apply online at www.oaklawn.org/jobs.

(repeat) **Bethany Christian High School** will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30pm Fri, Dec 11, in Goshen College's Sauder Concert Hall. Come hear choral and instrumental groups as they celebrate the birth of Christ in music and join them on stage for their concluding song "The Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's Messiah.

(repeat) **New Perspectives on Faith** meets Dec 13 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall of College Mennonite Church, Goshen. This month's guest speaker will be Roger N. Beachy, Ph.D. speaking on the topic, "Striving for Nutrition Security For All: The Role of Science, Technologies and the Private Sector." Dr. Beachy is Professor of Biology at Washington Univ. in St. Louis, MO. He was appointed by President Obama to the National Science Board in June, 2014. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion following the presentation. Learn more: www.newperspectivesgoshen.org

(repeat) **Goshen College Afternoon Sabbatical** Dec 15 1pm Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall. *The Norell Piano Duo Presents Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite* - Dr Luke Norell, Community School of the Arts, piano program director, and Dr. Mary Rose Norell, Community School of the Arts, activities director and piano faculty. Ring in the Christmas season with a performance of Tchaikovsky's

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festive Nutcracker Suite, played on two pianos by the Norell Piano Duo! This celebratory program will also feature seasonal works by Bach and Liszt. This event is free and open to the public. For information or questions call [574-535-7565](tel:574-535-7565) or email aftsabb@goshen.edu.

(repeat) **Bethany Christian Schools Alumni Night.** Bethany alumni will receive free admission and be eligible for prizes at the boys and girls evening Holiday tourney games on Sat, Dec 19. Girl's game begins at 6pm and boys at 7:30. Note alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

(repeat) **Administrative Assistant Position** Available College Mennonite Church is accepting applications for an administrative assistant to join our administrative team. This is a 0.8 – 1.0 FTE position to assist in carrying out the vision and mission of CMC by providing administrative support services in a variety of areas. Duties include answering the phone, greeting visitors, arranging meetings, assisting Christian Formation pastors with a wide variety of projects, etc. The job description is available online at www.collegemennonite.org. Resumes and a letter of interest can be sent to Marty Lehman, administrative pastor at Marty@collegemennonite.org. Interviews will begin December 14 and continue until the position is filled.

(repeat) **The Window, Inc.** has a receiver position available in the afternoons, Mon-Fri, 20hrs/week, 4hrs/day. This position consists of picking up, weighing and stocking donations. The ideal candidate will possess some maintenance knowledge as well as the ability to lift 40-60lbs. If you or someone you know would like more information about this position, please contact Ed Swartley at [574.533.9680 ext. 209](tel:574.533.9680).

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **“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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