

AssemblyLine

December 11, 2016

Volume XXXVI, Number 50

Lectionary Texts: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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 11

Worship leader: *Lora Nafziger*

Sermon: *Lois Kaufmann*

Welcoming & take-down: *Net & B*

Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10

Sunday School: *Jesus is Born! (Luke 2:1-7)*

December 18

Worship leader: *Anna Yoder Schlabach*

Sermon: *Kyle Schlabach*

Welcoming & take-down: *Well Seasoned & Here & There*

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday School: *Shepherds show the way (Luke 2:8-20)*

CALENDAR

Sat	Dec 10	10am-12pm Advent retreat, worship space 6pm & 7:30pm Family Advent spiral, worship space
Wed	Dec 21	7pm Longest Night service, worship space
Sat	Dec 24	6pm Christmas Eve soup and bread supper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

assembly life and people

Jeremiah Beachy (2nd Meadowview) turns 8 today, Dec 11! Jeremiah likes to play soccer, basketball and volleyball. He enjoys playing board games with his family and likes to have his birthday close to Christmastime. Egg casserole and potatoes are his favorite foods. He likes to write stories about all kinds of made up things!

Thomas Baldanzi Schlabach (1st Waterford) turned 7 on Dec 10! Thomas really likes living in his new house and he is proud that he can now ride a bike without training wheels! He enjoys playing video games and board games. He is excited to go to New Jersey for Christmas.

Rachel Schrock (5th Chandler) turned 11 on Dec 5! Rachel enjoys playing volleyball, softball and viola. She likes reading and making crafts. Right now she is working on Christmas ornaments and recently made a Christmas house from paper and cardboard. With her family she enjoys game nights and skiing trips. She had cheese and chocolate fondue for her birthday!

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 10, 10am-12pm at the meetinghouse. The retreat time will be self led with an opportunity to walk the Advent Spiral.

Advent and Christmas books have been shelved on a low shelf in the AMC library for easy access for children and parents. Children might like to use them during the service or to take them home.

Two opportunities to learn our Christmas Eve candle Dance, (and then participate on Christmas Eve): We will go over the movements at 9:15am December 18 (before worship) and at 5:30 December 24 (before the Soup supper/service of Christmas Eve). Join us to learn it or refresh your memory of the movements

Please keep in mind as you plan your year-end giving that we will only have two more offerings in Dec. There will be no offering received Sun 12/25. The IRS requires that any donations you want recorded for 2016 be received in the office by 12/31/16 or if you mail them they must be postmarked in 2016. -John Nafziger treasurer

Nonviolent intervention in situations of harassment. Thur, Jan 5, 7pm. Preregistration required. Sign-up sheet on the round table. Two hours of training and ideas with Carolyn Schrock-Shenk, Mary Yoder Holsopple and Susan Mark Landis. See the signup sheet on the round table.

Theda Good, pastor at First Mennonite Denver and first LGBTQ pastor to be licensed in MC USA, is being ordained today. We are sending her a congratulatory gift from Assembly (a turtle pendant made by Wilma Harder)

and a card. If you would like to sign the card, you can find it in the gathering space.

(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) **Children (Pre-school thru 5th grade)** interested in participating in the Christmas Eve play, "Room for a Little One" are encouraged to stay after church for a brief run-through on December 18th. We're looking for animals of all shapes and sizes. Walk-ons Christmas Eve will be welcome too, but we'd like to give the kids a chance to practice once before. Questions? Contact Anna Yoder Schlabach at yoderanna@gmail.com.

(repeat) **Offerings YTD** are 81.7% of budget. Last year at the end of November offerings were 84.7% of budget. December offerings last year totaled about 46,000. If offerings are the same this year we will end up at 94.6% of budget. However as I project December expenses, it looks like our total 2016 expense could come in at less than 90% of budget. So if we are as generous in December as we typically are and if December projections are correct we will end the year in the black.

(repeat) **Advent began on Nov 27** with the theme Open and Expanding Hearts. During this season we are invited to open and expand our hearts to make space for what God is doing. For more info about Advent at Assembly, be sure to see the document attached to this week's Assemblyline (paper copies are on the lit table and can be found [here](#) on the website). Families, you will also find in your mailbox Advent candles and resource guide for this Advent season.

(repeat) **For many of us**, this season before Christmas is a season of ramped-up activity. Our Advent worship seeks to 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) **Thank you to those that have signed up** for volunteer tasks in 2017! We only have a few more spots to fill for: Set up for Worship Space and Child Care during 1st Hour. Never done one of these tasks before? Never fear! Detailed instructions are sent out prior to the Sundays you are assigned. To sign up or for more info: office@assemblymennonite.org

(repeat) **Christmas letter from Margarita Klassen de Melo** can be seen attached at the top of the Aline (in tiny lettering). She can be contacted at: meloklassen@gmx.net

community connections

Goshen College's Art Sale! Mon, Dec 12, 10am-2pm in the Union Building of Goshen College. Experience live music and art produced by the college students. This is an opportunity to support local artists and purchase gifts for friends a family. See you there! Goshen College Art Club

Soccer Night Out: Femi Hollinger-Janzen, a collegiate national champion and professional soccer player from Goshen, will speak at a 6pm dinner on Thur, Dec 29, at Waterford Mennonite Church. Following the meal, Femi will share stories from his soccer career and his amazing story of faith and perseverance in overcoming a crippling leg deformity as a child in Benin to playing soccer professionally, and answer questions. The main course of this family-style meal will be Groundnut (Peanut) Stew, a Hollinger-Janzen family favorite from their days in Benin. Hot dogs and other foods will also be available. The event is sponsored by Waterford Mennonite Church. Advance reservations for the dinner are \$20 for grade 7 and older and \$10 for elementary school students—preschool free. Reserve your spot by Dec 27 by filling out this [google form](#) also available at www.waterfordchurch.org —or call the church at 533-5642. You may pay at the door with advance registration or show up the day of the meal for \$25. The dinner will be held at Waterford Mennonite Church.

The Depot MCC Thrift Shops in Goshen, Indiana, is seeking a full-time general manager. Applicants must have commitment to personal Christian faith and discipleship, active church membership, excellent organization skills, supervisory skills, communications skills, ability to work with volunteers, and computer skills. Responsibilities include organization and general oversight of the Thrift Shops (clothing, furniture, and variety), incoming

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Pastoral Team

Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732
Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037

Elders: Jeanne Liechty (chair), Justin Rothshank, Anna Yoder Schlabach, Joel Zwier, Rose Stutzman, James Stuckey Weber
Youth Coordinators: Wendel Landes and Rebecca Yoder

Administrative Assistant: Janine Ostergren (maternity coverage - weekday mornings) office@assemblymennonite.org 574-534-4190

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donations and processing, warehouse area, outgoing merchandise, recycling, and volunteers. Experience in retailing helpful; working knowledge of Excel and Quickbooks is also helpful. Applications will be accepted until January 2, 2017. Send resume and cover letter to: Search Committee, email brshirk69@gmail.com; or C/O Ben Shirk 63341 CR 33, Goshen, IN 46528.

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes is seeking a Program Director. The person who fills this role will be responsible for the direction and oversight of MCC Great Lakes programs. The Program Director is expected to connect with constituent churches and groups, as well as partner organizations, to work together and advance the mission of MCC. This position also explores ways to further develop relationships between program staff and partnerships within the Great Lakes region to reflect the commitment to diverse constituent churches. To see a full job description and apply, visit mcc.org/gl-program-director or contact Amber Falcón at [574-534-4133](tel:574-534-4133).

A 2016 year-end letter from the IN-MI Mennonite Conference pastor is attached at the top of this email.

Pathways Retreat newsletter, Rhythms Dec edition can be accessed at the top of this email in tiny writing.

(repeat) **Bethany Christian High School** will hold its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Fri, Dec 9, 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. A free-will offering will be taken.

(repeat) **Do You Hear What I Hear?** Sounds of Advent and Christmas Concert: Sunday, Dec 11, 3pm, Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Accomplished organist Shirley King of Goshen, will perform on the seminary's tracker pipe organ. A freewill offering for the AMBS Fund will be received at the event. For details, call [574.295.3726](tel:574.295.3726).

(repeat) **Looking for local Christmas gifts?** On Monday, Dec 12, Goshen College art students will host a student art sale starting at 10am in the Union hallway. On Dec 12-13, Merry Lea will also hold their annual holiday sale bookstore in the Union hallway from 10am -4pm.

(repeat) **Cherish the Ladies**, an all-female Irish-American band, will perform a Celtic Christmas concert in Goshen College Music Center's Sauder Concert Hall on Dec. 13 as part of the 2016-17 Performing Arts Series. Tickets are \$40, \$35 or \$25 and can be purchased through the Goshen College Welcome Center ([574-535-7566](tel:574-535-7566)) or online at www.goshen.edu/tickets.

(repeat) **Are you a graduating senior** considering Goshen College next year? 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.

(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 17. Girls game begins at 6 and boys at 7:30. Note, alumni night does not include the morning games of the Holiday Tourney.

(repeat) **Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Goshen College:** All are invited to a concert on Sunday, Jan 15 at 7pm in the Umble Center. Then, join us on Monday, Jan 16 for a community breakfast (tickets required), workshops, lectures and other activities, and guest speaker Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams. This year's theme, "It Is Time," reminds the Goshen community that it is time to tell your truth, time to speak, time to tend to trauma, time for restoration, and time for compassion. For more information and the full schedule, visit goshen.edu/mlk.

(repeat) **MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering:** As alumni or interested friends of Mennonite Central Committee, you are warmly invited to join us for an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6:00 pm on Fri, Jan 20, at Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, 2509 Berkey Avenue in Goshen. Special guest speaker will be Amela Puljek Shank, current MCC Area Director for Europe and Middle East. Please RSVP at [574-534-4133](tel:574-534-4133) or to lmg@mcc.org.

(repeat) **MDC Goldenrod is hiring!** Join our team and work in a well-respected, high-impact organization! There are multiple exciting career opportunities available:

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Director of Finance and Administration, Program Coordinator, Program Admissions and Operations Coordinator, and Residential Services Program Assistant. For more info, detailed job descriptions and applications, visit www.mdcgoldenrod.org or call [574-533-9720](tel:574-533-9720).

(repeat) **Do you know how to respond** if someone is having a mental health crisis? Do you call 911? What do you say? Join us on Dec 13 at Oaklawn's Goshen Campus for Adult Mental Health First Aid. [Learn more and register](#)

(repeat) **The Michiana Relief Sale** is looking for old pictures, videos, stories and memorabilia from previous sales to display at the 50th sale in Sept 2017. We will make copies and preserve anything provided. We also welcome any memorabilia to be donated for auction. Contact Jeanne Heyerly at jcheyerly@hotmail.com or at [260-350-3134](tel:260-350-3134).

(repeat) **Chain Reaction Bicycle Project** is looking for bike donations and volunteers to assist in the bike shop. Chain Reaction is a non-profit promoting bicycling in the Goshen community through its community bicycle repair shop and increased access to bicycles/repairs for people with low income. For more information, contact [574-903-3056](tel:574-903-3056) or email info@crbp.org. Thank you!

(repeat) **Volunteer coordinator sought**, beginning Aug 2017 AMBS is seeking a qualified individual or couple to coordinate the work of our short-term and local volunteers, connecting them with assignments from faculty and staff. If you like to work with people, have excellent communication and computer skills, and are well organized, please consider this volunteer assignment for a one-year, renewable term. The position opens Aug 1; the start date is negotiable. For more info, contact Jewel Gingerich Longenecker, dean of Lifelong Learning, at jglongenecker@ambs.edu.

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