

WORSHIP

Join us Sundays at 9:30am (in person or [online via Zoom](#))

<p>S Oct 3 Zoom Worship <i>World Communion Sunday</i> <i>2% Offering</i> (No Sunday School)</p> <p>Worship Leader: Michael Miller Homily: Lora Nafziger</p> <p>Scripture: Luke 14:16-24</p>	<p>Oct 10 Church Retreat Worship at Camp Friedenswald (No Sunday School)</p> <p>Scripture: Parables of Jesus</p>
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BIRTHDAYS



Finn Mast turned 1 year old on Sept 27! He enjoys playing with his big brother, pushing cars and throwing dirt. Finn loves to eat and has a high-pitched squeal that he often does as loud as he can, then looks around hoping for someone else to join in the chorus.

Congratulations to Jessica Schirch and Peter Martin on the birth of Isabel Xiomara Martin on Sept 30! Isabel came five weeks early (5 lbs, 17.5 in) but is very healthy and is not needing NICU. They are hoping to be home by Saturday. Sign up to bring a meal for them here: <https://takethemeal.com/meals.php?t=UEEF3280>



Happy Birthday this week (10/3-10/9) to: Cynthia Good Kaufmann, Darin Bontrager, Abby Nafziger, Susanna Cabezas, Breanna Daughterty, Lois Nafziger, Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley, and Dale Klassen.

Happy Birthday last week (9/26-10/2) to: Sophia Yordy, Ben Nelson, John Blosser, Leon Stutzman, and Ellen Kennel.

May God bless you. We are glad you are part of Assembly!

THIS SUNDAY



Join us for worship this Sunday Oct 3 [on Zoom](#) at 9:30am as we celebrate World Communion Sunday and kick off our Fall Bible Study series on the Parables of Jesus with the Parable of the Feast. *Have your own elements (bread, wine, juice, or whatever) ready to participate in virtual communion.* How might the parables of Jesus help us to see the world in a different way, to be challenged and perhaps even indicted? What might they reveal to us about the Reign of God? And how can we playfully hear these stories anew? [Read the introduction to the upcoming worship series here.](#)



Due to rain in the forecast we will NOT be gathering in the parking lot. Those with roles in the service should come to the worship space and wear a mask. We will livestream the service via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9995275153>. There is no Sunday school or MYF/JYF Breakouts this week. Look for an email by 5pm on Saturday with the order of worship.

Congratulations to Regina Shands Stoltzfus, winner of the Everence National Journey Award! The award recognizes Regina for her stewardship related to her lifelong commitment to serving others by advocating for peace, justice and equality. Created in 2001, the Journey Award highlights what people of faith are doing as stewards of their God-given gifts. Marlene Kroeker from Everence will be recognizing Regina for this award in our worship service this Sunday.

Sorry, there will be no breakfast for college students & young adults before worship this Sunday. This will resume on Oct 17.

Surprise Luncheons have been postponed to Oct 17. If you signed up you should already have received an email telling you how much food to bring / how many are gathering in your group. You will find out Oct 17 who you are eating with, and where.

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 3 • 9:30am Worship on Zoom only • 6:30pm MYF Drop-in • 8:30pm Antiracism Accountability Group on Zoom		Oct 5 • 7pm Leadership Group	Oct 6 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom • 1pm Lunch Bunch in Memorial Garden		Oct 8 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom Oct 8-10 Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald	Oct 8-10 Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald See retreat activities schedule here
Oct 10 • 10:30am Worship at Camp Friedenswald						Oct 16 • 6:30pm Lantern Festival at Greencroft
Oct 17 • 9:30am Worship • 11:45 Surprise Luncheons • 7pm Congregational Meeting						

MEAL TRAINS

(repeat) **Meal Train for Wilma & Barb.** This is one way to provide some relief and support now and through Barb's recovery from surgery this week, and as Wilma is also dealing with significant pain. As of Friday, one date (Oct 14) is still available; sign up here: <https://mealtrain.com/e1now2>

CHURCH RETREAT

Join us for Church Retreat at Camp Friedenswald next weekend, Oct 8-10. Unfortunately, it is too late to sign up for meals or lodging. But you can still come for worship or any of the other activities. [A retreat activities schedule is here.](#) Thank you to everyone who pledged a special offering to financially support retreat.

Parables Variety Show – if you'd like to participate by offering a song, skit, limerick, etc. as a creative interpretation or retelling of one of Jesus' parables during Sunday morning worship at church retreat Oct 10, contact Lora Nafziger today!

Retreat Talent Show! Have you always wanted to participate in the Assembly Retreat Talent Show, but hate the bright lights of night? Well good news! This year's Talent Show is in the middle of the day (on Saturday). And it's literally under the big top! The Talent Show will be hosted by Thomas Bona and Debbie Bloom, but really we want YOU. We will have a sound system set up, so (almost) anything goes - music! magic! poetry! skits! Sign up ahead of time by emailing tvbona@gmail.com.

In preparation for the Lantern Festival on Oct 16, children are invited to make a lantern at Camp Friedenswald during retreat. Adults and children who would like to make a lantern for the festival and will not be at retreat are also welcome to take a tin home to make one. Find instructions here <https://inhabitat.com/how-to-recycle-a-tin-can-into-a-gorgeous-outdoor-lantern-for-summer-parties/> LED and candle tea lights will be provided on the night of the festival. ([The retreat activities schedule is here](#)).

WORSHIP

Readers Theatre during the Parables Worship Series. If you have interest in joining the readers theatre or in joining a group in the spiritual practice of reading the parable aloud the week before it will be preached on, contact Jon Zirkle (jon.zirkle@gmail.com).

(repeat) **Worship Gifts Survey:** As we continue to need to be flexible in the ways we worship together, we are still committed to including many participants. Help us to know the ways you are willing to participate in worship in the coming year by filling out this form. <https://forms.gle/XEyHVeaajid4x5wjA8> Please complete by October 1.

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Lunch Bunch will meet in person Wed Oct 6 at 1pm at Assembly's Labyrinth; Meribeth Shenk will tell of us her journey to working with labyrinths and lead us on a labyrinth walk. In November we will be back on Zoom.

Small group reps met this week and discussed how the Small Group Shuffle works, and examined some pitfalls of small group life and how groups might avoid them. To learn more, ask your small group rep.

Check out the newest installment of "People in your Neighborhood." [This week Emma Coulter and Ana Yoder Coulter interview Glenn and Mary Gilbert on 15th St.](#) Interested in interviewing your Assembly neighbors? Contact [Anna](#) for instructions! Please. Adults too! Not just kids! Seriously. Anyone?

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.

Sharing Free Household Items. Jeannette Hughes is moving to a house in Goshen and has the following items available to whoever wants them (free): *Two bookshelf units (not real wood, but in good shape)--5 shelves per unit. *Two Sony DVD players. *A round kitchen table in OK (usable) shape. *A loveseat that could use some cleaning or perhaps reupholstering. *A wooden chest that contains a non-working record player and speakers. *Two Denon speakers (have not been used in ages, so not sure of condition). *An ancient Epson printer that is probably obsolete, but if anyone wants it... *A printer/computer table. If interested, please contact Jeannette Hughes at 574 312 3078 or jeannettechristinahughes@gmail.com.

MYF (Youth Events & Announcements)

MYF Events in October.

- 10/3 No MYF Breakout Session
- 10/3 MYF Drop-in Sun 6:30-8pm at Yabi and Kia's house! More details in the reminder email this weekend. Remember that masks are optional for vaccinated individuals at our outdoor gatherings.
- 10/8-10/10 AMC Fall Retreat at Camp Friedenswald. Info on MYF-specific activities at retreat to follow. No MYF breakout during the Sun worship service 10/10.
- 10/17, 10/24, 10/31 – MYF Breakout, Sun 11 am, Join us following the worship service. Please bring a chair. If worship is moved to Zoom due to inclement weather, we will still have our breakout indoors from 11-11:30am. Masks are optional for vaccinated individuals when we meet outdoors, and required for everyone when indoors.
- 10/31 MYF Halloween/Fall Party Sun 6:30-8pm. Come celebrate all things "Fall" with us at the MYF Halloween Party! More details to follow.

DOING JUSTICE

Assembly and reparations. In the spring, the congregation talked about how we as a congregation could initiate a practice of reparations or restitutorial giving as a response to the legacy of racism in the U.S. If you'd like to be on a task force to discuss what a specific proposal could look like, let [Karl Shelly](#) know.

Seeking peace with creation. Join first Tuesday discussions (Oct 5 and Nov 2) about climate change advocacy and environmental justice hosted by the Mennonite Creation Care Network. Also this month: join the conference on Land and Christian Discipleship at AMBS Oct 14-16, or join a virtual workshop with Ched Myers and Susan Taylor on living the biblical values of Jubilee, abundance, and rest. [Learn more here.](#)

MyCoins Count Report. On behalf of the children and families who will be gaining new access to clean water, Thank You to everyone at Assembly who shared your coins and dollars in the My Coins Count drive this year at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale. Assembly contributed \$1,775 toward a total of over \$113,000 for MyCC this year. Overall, the relief sale totals will exceed \$492,000! Water is life and the MyCC funds will be used for water projects that improve the health of families, decrease the impact of COVID, increase educational opportunities for children, expand employment opportunities and help families stay together. Thank you for your support of the relief sale, Mennonite Central Committee, and the work of relief, development, and peace in the name of Christ. – John Martens, MyCC Coordinator, MMRS.

Who owns the land? Theology of Housing Equality. Mennonite Church USA's Sept-Oct initiative, [Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty](#) offers stories, blogs, prayers and resources to encourage you to learn about the impact of poverty, to pray for economic justice and to join in mutual aid and advocacy work. [Read what Bert Newton says about God's ownership of the land, and what that should mean for housing equality from a theological perspective.](#)

The National COVID-19 Resiliency Network works to continue mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minority, rural, and disproportionately impacted populations. Use these videos to increase COVID-19 vaccinations. Home Stretch: [English](#); [Spanish](#); Myths vs. Facts: [English](#); [Spanish](#). [Find more resources here.](#)

(repeat) **Mennonite World Conference** encourages us to love our global neighbors by donating to UNICEF's campaign to share coronavirus vaccinations around the world. [Learn more here.](#)

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Free workshop on Resurrection Peacemaking Oct 6, 6:30pm, in Syracuse IN: Chautauqua-Wawasee is hosting an evening with author and peace-seeker Cliff Kindy, an Indiana organic farmer who served for 30 years with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). Cliff and other CPT volunteers have repeatedly put their lives on the line as they chose to accompany targeted and beleaguered indigenous people who were striving to end violent occupation and warfare in their own lands. This striving is not only for far-away peoples. It is for us. "Are we willing to nurture our imaginations and take the risks required to replace violence with nonviolence? If so, how would this change America, in terms of policing, politics, wars, family disputes, mass killings, and criminal justice?" To register go to www.CHQW.org or call Debbie at 574-377-7543 or go to [Facebook.com/ChautauquaWawasee](https://www.facebook.com/ChautauquaWawasee).

Mennonite Women USA | Coffee & Conversation | Oct. 7, 7 p.m. Liz Hand, of Pleasant Finance LLC, Canton, Ohio, will lead a Zoom conversation on finances and women. Come and have a discussion about the challenges to investing and practical knowledge about our personal portfolios. Our concerns about investing are not how to invest well, but-ethically-why are we doing it? And if we must invest, how can we be more proactive in healthy, sustainable investing? [Register here.](#)

Virtual Relationships Past and Present Tues Oct 12, 8pm. Listen to excerpts from historic letters collected in North American Mennonite archives. Hear Assembly's Jason Kauffman (director of the MCUSA archives) reflect on the role that letters played in building relationships. Talk with other participants about the role of virtual relationships in modern life. Space is limited! [Register here.](#)

MC USA and MennoMedia | CommonRead Conversation with Sara Wenger Shenk | Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. ET Many Christians easily talk about movies, sports, politics, jobs and emotions. So why are we tongue-tied when it comes to talking about our faith? Join us for a conversation with the author of "Tongue-Tied." [Register here.](#)

Spiritual Audacity: The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story is being presented in a FREE virtual screening Mon Oct 25 at 7pm. The screening will be followed by a virtual conversation with filmmaker Martin Doblmeier and Susannah Heschel, Rabbi Heschel's daughter and Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Register here: <https://jccindy.org/community/festival-books-arts/>

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was one of the most remarkable and inspiring figures of the 20th century. Born in Warsaw, Poland as part of a centuries-old rabbinic dynasty within the Hasidic tradition, he narrowly escaped the Holocaust and arrived in New York in 1940. During the next 30 years he emerged as one of the most influential voices in the world of religion. He was a mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders within the U.S. civil rights movement (including John Lewis and Andrew Young, who are interviewed in the film), a leading critic of the Vietnam War, a champion for Soviet Jews, an author of several books now considered religious classics and a pioneer in the work of interfaith dialogue.

Unpacking Our Stories of Masculinity and Equity. AMBS and Mennonite Men are co-sponsoring a three-part series, Oct 26, Nov 6, and Nov 16 in which participants will share their own personal narratives, identify the ways they've been shaped by masculine messaging, and reframe their own masculine identity so it's more inclusive and holistic. **All genders are welcome to join the Tues eve webinar Oct 26 from 7:30-8:30pm**, which will unpack some of the ways in which patriarchy and White supremacy have been interwoven, and help participants dissect their own narratives so that they can see when they're being influenced by either. Registration is \$100; a recording of the Oct 26 webinar will be made available at no cost. [Read more here.](#) [Register here.](#)

Attention High Schoolers: Goshen College's Study-Service Theology Term (SSTT) is currently inviting high school applicants for a two-week study experience in Guatemala in June 2022. Participants are selected through a competitive application process and will be drawn from students from any Christian denominational group in the United States who have completed their sophomore, junior or senior year by June 2022, with priority given to students from African-American or Latino communities. The deadline to apply is October 31, 2021. Learn more at goshen.edu/sstt.

WIDER CHURCH

The 17th Mennonite World Conference Assembly, Indonesia 2022, is less than a year away (5-10 July 2022). This will be a hybrid event. Make plans to come in person or virtually! [Learn more here.](#)

Let your voice be heard in Mennonite Church USA's denomination-wide survey if you haven't already: Take the survey here. MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey. En español: MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol.

Service Adventure is a Mennonite Mission Network volunteer program for 17-20 year-olds. (Anna and Brian Yoder Schlabach among others at Assembly have participated in the past). [Learn more here.](#)

Pray for those involved in Mennonite Education using [this October 2021 prayer calendar](#) from Mennonite Education Agency.

Pray this week for Alisha, Josh and Asher (5) Garber of Mennonite Mission Network who have moved into the newly renovated Barcelona Anabaptist Center, which now houses 16 residents. Pray that the center will encourage solidarity in their neighborhood and that the Garbers will model servant leadership in Catalonia (a region where allegiance to Spain vies with voices calling for independence).

(repeat) **"Tending Transformation" is the new theme for Central District Conference.** [In the current conference newsletter, the Reporter](#), conf minister Doug Luginbill reflects on what this means for the conference and our congregations, and lifelong peacemaker Doug Hostetter reflects on efforts to transform the response to 9/11 into something that was life-giving and healing.

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>.

Assembly Mennonite Church

Pastoral Team

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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: Scott is typically in the office T-W-Th 8:30am-1pm & Fri 8:30am-4pm.
Contact the church office at office@assemblymennonite.org or leave a message at 574-534-4190

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