

WORSHIP

Join us this Sunday at 10:30am at Camp Friedenswald!

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

<p>Oct 10 Church Retreat Worship at Camp Friedenswald 10:30 AM (No Sunday School)</p> <p>Scripture: Parables of Jesus</p>	<p>Oct 17</p> <p>Worship Leader: Barb Hassan</p> <p>Homily: Karl Shelly</p> <p>Scripture: Luke 18:1–8</p>
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THIS SUNDAY



Join us for worship this Sunday Oct 10 at Camp Friedenswald at 10:30am as we reflect on the Parables of Jesus. Skits, limericks, poetry, and even original parables will be presented. (See if you can tell which parables are not from the canonical Gospels.) 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 worship series here.](#)

Parables reading group – after lunch, you are invited to gather in the tent to read the parable for next Sunday’s reading & homily and to share reflections on the parable with the group.

(repeat) **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).

CHURCH RETREAT (OCT 8-10) [\(The retreat activities schedule is here\).](#)



For everyone’s safety and peace of mind, please wear masks when congregating in the dining tent for meals, talent show, worship, etc.

Join us Saturday Morning



acrylic paint, paint pens,

at 11 AM for K-5 Activities in the big tent. We will be rock painting. This involves and possibly sharpies. Please be prepared to send your child in clothes that can permanently get paint on them, or bring a paint smock.

Also, children are invited to make a lantern in preparation for the Lantern Festival (which is Oct 16). 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.

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.

Thank you for pledging to make retreat accessible for everyone! We will not collect physical money at Retreat. Please send your pledged donations to the church office, or you may [donate online via the church website](#).

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 10 • 10:30am Worship at Camp Friedenswald • 12:30pm Lunch • 1:30pm Parables Reading Group • 1-5pm Swimming & Boating • 2-4pm Pontoon Boat Rides See retreat activities schedule here	Oct 11 • 6:30pm Dance Group on Zoom		Oct 13 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom		Oct 15 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom	Oct 16 • 6:30pm Lantern Festival at Greencroft
Oct 17 • 9:30am Worship • 11:45 Surprise Luncheons • 7pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom			Oct 20 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom		Oct 22 • 12pm Psalm Reading & Prayer on Zoom	
Oct 24 • 9:30am Worship • 1-3pm JYF	Oct 25 • 6:30pm Dance Group	Oct 26 • 7:15pm Small Group reps on Zoom				
Oct 31 • Pledges Due • 6:30pm MYF Fall Party						

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday this week (10/10-10/16) to: Gretchen Krause, Kate Shantz, Jordana Farran, Adam Graber-Roth, Katie Schramm, Deb Johns, Jesse Bontrager.

Happy Birthday last 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.

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

MEAL TRAINS

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. You can still sign up to bring them a meal: <https://takethemameal.com/meals.php?t=UEEF3280>

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY



Fall Work Days are upon us! Your small group rep should have received an assignment for your group this week to be completed any time between October 11- November 6. Please let Naomi know (roots.naomi@gmail.com) if your small group did not receive an assignment, or if you are not part of a small group but would like to help. Many hands make light work!

All are invited to join the Assembly lantern festival at 6:30pm. Oct 16. This is an inter-generational song and light festival that will take place at the Greencroft Pavilion so we can sing to our long-living members. Please RSVP to loracn@assemblymennonite.org if your family or small group is interested in attending.

Congregational Meeting – Plan to join us on Zoom for this month’s congregational meeting, next Sunday Oct 17 at 7pm. At last month’s congregational meeting, we heard an update on church staffing, a report on Karl’s sabbatical, information about church retreat, and a reminder of our COVID policies. We also discussed what is essential to our church life, and what should be strengthened. Follow up from this conversation will take place at the October meeting. Minutes from the September congregational and Leadership Group meetings can be read on the website here: <https://assemblymennonite.org/minutiae/meeting-minutes/>. Contact a pastor if you need the website password.

Conversations about Hospitality. How can we nurture a culture in which visitors on Sunday morning feel welcomed? In a congregation of over 200 people, how do we help everyone feel known and seen, and not like they are overlooked/slipping through the cracks? How can we help Assembly participants who feel newer or on the margins to more easily navigate their way into belonging? How do we make Assembly's community less like a maze (with confusing turns and many dead-ends) and more like a labyrinth (where anyone can find their way to the center)? If these are questions you are passionate about, you are invited to participate in a series of conversations about hospitality. Some of these conversations will be on Zoom, others will be in person. The schedule is to be determined. Please contact [Scott Coulter](mailto:scott.coulter@assemblymennonite.org) to indicate your interest.

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.

MYF (Youth Events & Announcements)

MYF Events in October (Updated).

- 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, Join us immediately 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

The Cost of Poverty: Learn, Pray, Join. 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. [Learn](#) from [Leonard Dow's blog about "What intentional efforts can we do now to eradicate the poverty created by the systems that intentionally kept diverse communities in poverty?"](#) [Join](#): For example, you can give to [the MCUSA Justice Fund](#), or join [the Poor People's Campaign](#).

(repeat) **Assembly and reparations.** In the spring, the congregation talked about how we as a congregation could initiate a practice of reparations or restititional 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.

(repeat) **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.](#)

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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.](#)

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The Bethany Senior Fish Fry is this month, Oct 29 from 4-8pm and is in the form of a drive-thru carry out only. Tickets are \$11, available online by searching "Bethany Christian Fish Fry" or by using the link below. We are working hard this year to make everything go well and would love it if you came by! This year we also are bringing back pie! More information and tickets are available online in the link below:

https://www.bethanycs.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1716530&type=d&pREC_ID=1881990

EVERENCE

Are you 65 or older, and receiving Medicare? If so, Open Enrollment began on Oct 15. This is your chance to review your current plan and explore changes. Dec 7 is the end date for any changes. Why not contact an Everence Medicare Specialist to review your options? Call Everence at: 574-533-9511

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(repeat) **Small group reps met recently** 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.

(repeat) **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?

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

(repeat) **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.](#)

(repeat) **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.](#)

(repeat) **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.

(repeat) **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.](#)

(repeat) **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

This Indigenous Peoples Day (Oct 10), pray that the descendants of White settlers and the descendants of the inhabitants of Turtle Island (North America) will listen to each other and work together for justice. Pray also for the mission workers who join with Indigenous peoples who are reclaiming their lands and their cultures.

Please pray for the Constituency Leaders Council (CLC) of Mennonite Church USA, which is gathering this week. The CLC meets twice a year to listen, discern and advise the denomination on issues facing the church

(repeat) **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](#).

(repeat) **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](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/member-survey). En español: [MennoniteUSA.org/member-survey-espanol](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/member-survey-espanol).

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

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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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: 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