



Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

<https://assemblymennonite.org/>

office@assemblymennonite.org

[Find COVID-19 Information Here](#)

AssemblyLine

January 30, 2022

Volume XLI, Number 5

WORSHIP

Join us Sundays [on Zoom at 10 AM:](#)

Jan 30 10 AM Worship on Zoom Sermon: Marshall King Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10	Feb 6 10 AM Worship on Zoom Sermon: Regina Shands Stoltzfus Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
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SUNDAY JANUARY 30

8:55am – Children in Worship (Sunday school for Kindergarten & 1st grade students) at the Assembly meetinghouse.

10am - Join us [on Zoom](#) for **Worship at 10am**. There will be a dedicated breakout room for children hosted by the Christian Formation committee; children are also welcome to join another worship cluster with their parents.

For more information and for a short video orienting you to Zoom cluster worship, [click here](#).

Zoom Cluster Worship is a more intimate, participatory form of online worship at Assembly. Each Sunday from Jan 16-Feb 20 we will worship at 10 AM in groups of 16-20 households. This will allow everyone to be seen on one screen, and will move away from “watching a performance” of worship done somewhere else. The sermon, children’s time, and music will be pre-recorded and shared by the tech host; you can volunteer to read or pray, and you can respond to the sermon and share prayer requests. Join [via the same Zoom link](#) as always, and then join a cluster group (breakout room). Breakout rooms are assigned by small group, or last name (for those not in small groups). There will also be a breakout room for children, hosted by a member of the Christian Education committee, and using content related to that week’s theme. (Children may also choose to join a cluster group with their parents).

11:15am – Join us [on Zoom](#) for “second hour” electives, including: “Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum” led by Karl Shelly, “Sermon Response” facilitated by Scott Coulter, and “Harry Potter” led by Lora Nafziger.

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. **(This will be especially important to use in the coming weeks if you want to share beyond those present in your cluster on Sunday morning).**

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>.

Assembly Mennonite Church

Pastoral Team

Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732
Karl Shelly karlss@assemblymennonite.org 574-621-1037
Anna Yoder Schlabach annays@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-5319
Scott Coulter scottc@assemblymennonite.org 419-535-2918

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: Vary. Contact the church office at office@assemblymennonite.org or leave a message at 574-534-4190

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Jan 30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 		<p>Feb 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Leadership Group 	<p>Feb 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 3pm Lunch Bunch on Zoom 		<p>Feb 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Greencroft Meetup on Zoom 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	
<p>Feb 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 8pm Anti-racism accountability group on Zoom 			<p>Feb 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		<p>Feb 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	
<p>Feb 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 	<p>Feb 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Dance Group 		<p>Feb 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		<p>Feb 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	<p>Feb 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3pm Celtic Family Celebration
<p>Feb 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 7pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom 		<p>Feb 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom 	<p>Feb 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		<p>Feb 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

February Lunch Bunch Zoom is moving to **3pm on Wednesday February 2** to accommodate the time change for our speaker Rose Stutzman from Saipan.

You are invited to participate in Assembly's Pastor-Congregation Review, something we do every 3 years. You will find the link to the survey questions [here](#). Please complete the survey by February 10. Your input will be held in confidence by the Pastor-Congregation Review Committee (Glenn Gilbert, Lois Kaufmann-chair, Deanna Risser, Aaron Yost and Joel Zwier). If you prefer to participate in a Zoom Focus Group (February 1 or 3), please contact Lois Kaufmann (574-596-8956) by Monday, January 31. Paper copies can also be requested. Questions may be directed to anyone on the committee.

2021 Giving Receipts. A PDF of the receipts for your contributions to the church were sent by email 1/26/22. They came from the treasurer email. If you didn't receive them, check your spam folder. This year receipts from any IRA distributions were sent at the same time. We also sent notices to those contributing from their Donor Advised Funds. A big thanks to Jim Kaufmann for engineering this process.

At the Congregational Meeting on January 23, we reviewed a draft of the 2022 Spending Plan, were introduced to revised Safe Church policies, heard an update from the Congregational Pastoral Review Committee, and affirmed Anna Yoder Schlabach in her upcoming ordination. Handouts and approved meeting minutes are available [on the church website here](#).

New Administrative Assistant We are pleased that Becky Overholt has joined the church staff as the new Administrative Assistant! Becky has been part of Assembly for a number of years.

Pastor Scott Coulter will be out of the office from Feb 4-7.

Thank you from Ruth Ann Gardner. Thank you, *Thank you* to the entire Assembly community (with a special shout-out to the Pastoral staff and Small Group B) for all the expressions of sympathy and support to me and our family on Merritt's sudden death. I appreciate all the cards, phone calls, visits, meals, flowers – *and everything*. Assembly has been dear to our hearts since its very beginning, and Merritt was totally committed to it being an expression of God's grace to as many people as possible.

The 2% committee proposes the following distributions for the end of 2021.

Local

\$500 each to ADEC, Center for Community Justice, Church Community Services Seed to feed program, Elkhart County Clubhouse, Goshen Farmers Market's Share the Bounty Program, Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network, Jail Ministry of Elkhart County, LaCasa general fund, Mosaic Health and Healing Arts, Ryan's Place, The Window, and Walnut Hill Daycare.

\$750 to the Goshen Ministerial Association

\$1,000 each to the Center for Healing and Hope and to help support the opening of an MCC Great Lakes thrift store in Elkhart.

\$5,000 for Safety Networks to help resettle a family locally in Goshen.

World/National

\$500 each to Dove's Nest and SEMILLA Seminary.

\$1,000 each to the Association for a More Just Society, Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT), Jubilee Partners.

\$1,500 for MCC Great Lakes Relief Kits

\$2,000 to the National Immigrant Justice Center, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, and International Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (<https://iam-afghanistan.org/>)

Please speak to a member of the committee with any feedback.

-Sarah Horst chair, Sandy Fribley, Kathleen Jones, Joel Zwier, Glenn Gilbert, and Barb Swartley.

The Leader Selection process is the way the Assembly congregation discerns who will serve in various volunteer leadership roles in the coming year. We do this discernment in small groups. If you are not in a small group but you want to volunteer yourself for a committee, you are invited to complete the [online Leader Selection Worksheet](#). If you have any questions about the process, please talk with your small group rep, or you may talk to one of the pastors. Worksheets are **due by Sunday Feb 20!**

If you are NOT in a small group but you don't want to miss out on the Assembly Leader Selection process, you are welcome to join a **one-time, ad hoc small group** meeting for Leader Selection. Participants at this meeting would, together by consensus, discern names to recommend to the Leader Selection Committee for various volunteer roles in church life. If this interests you, contact [Scott Coulter](#) by Friday Feb 4 for more information.

Building Tithe Proposal: Assembly decided in 2015 that our fundraising for the building project (which included the completion of the new worship space in 2019) would "include a tithe benefiting those in the body of Christ who cannot afford a renovation project like ours." In December 2017 the congregation decided to give the first half of this tithe to Join Hands (<https://www.mennonitemen.org/JoinHands/>). The second half of the tithe was to be given away after the building project was completed. The ad hoc building tithe committee is Leon Bauman, Scott Coulter, & Eric Yordy. We propose giving the second half of this tithe also to Join Hands. The mission of that organization fits closely with the goal of our building tithe. Join Hands has given away \$2.5 million to churches all over the country and world. **We welcome your feedback on this proposal, including any alternative suggestions for tithe recipients you would like us to consider. Please [contact Scott Coulter](#) with your feedback no later than February 13.**

Free COVID-19 At Home Rapid Test Kits can be ordered here: <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. Each household is eligible to receive one set of 4 tests. Order your test kits now, and tell your friends and neighbors!

MEAL TRAIN

Some of you have been praying for Sandra McMasters, a Rieth Park Neighborhood Association officer and AMC participant. (You may remember that Sandra preached in March 2020, in our last pre-pandemic worship service). She has come through a second brain surgery to relieve fluid and has experienced a rare form of meningitis. After more than two weeks in the hospital in Elkhart, she is expected home by this Friday. Her husband has tested positive for covid (mild case; the family is vaccinated) and has been quarantined, after having used up his vacation and sick days. So meals for them and their teenage daughter would be welcome for the next two weeks. You can still sign up to bring them a meal for this Wednesday at <https://takethemameal.com/IUMS2327>. Call Mary Gilbert (574-534-1852) with questions.

DOING JUSTICE & SERVING THE COMMUNITY

In response to a request from NIJC, Safety Networks has agreed to sponsor a Honduran woman and her 2 daughters who are seeking asylum in the US. After having been separated for 8 months, we anticipate them being reunited and arriving in Goshen in the next 1-2 weeks. Small Group Crisalida has graciously agreed to provide hands-on support and coordination, in collaboration with Safety Networks. But we're hoping the larger Assembly family will also help us welcome them to our community. We are furnishing an apartment and planning for their physical needs - if you have items to donate, be in contact with Gabriela Ochoa (americachoa09@gmail.com) or Char Yutzy (yutzychar@gmail.com). If you have time and talents to offer, contact Naomi Roots (roots.naomi@gmail.com). If you're able to make a financial contribution to help cover rent and living expenses, please make your donation to Assembly and direct it to Safety Networks.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Ride Documentary Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. ET. Enjoy video highlights of the 2021 Climate Ride, followed by a talkback session with a panel of Climate Riders. Watch on [Facebook Live](#).

Lacasa, Inc. offers free classes via Zoom in February. “Master your credit,” “Master your money,” “Master your debt,” “Master homeownership”. Learn more here: <https://lacasainc.net/classes/>.

Tues Feb 22 at 7pm – Been in the Struggle Conversation. Join a CommonRead conversation with Assembly’s own Regina Shands Stoltzfus, and her friend and coauthor Tobin Miller Shearer. [Click here to register](#). Their new book *Been in the Struggle* nurtures, challenges, and fosters the work and witness of dismantling racism for the long haul. Filled with wisdom and insight from nearly three decades of partnering across racial lines in this work, authors Regina Shands Stoltzfus and Tobin Miller Shearer offer a powerful mix of practical direction and poignant reflection to empower and sustain those working to dismantle racism, regardless of their stage on the journey.

History of Indigenous People of this area - Sat Feb 26 at 10am You are invited to the Middlebury Public Library to hear Luke Gascho speak about the history of indigenous people of this area. This event is Saturday, February 26th at 10:00am, and is sponsored by the Peace and Justice Action Group of Middlebury Church of the Brethren. For more information call 574 825-2955.

Transforming Congregational Conflict and Communication: April 20 – May 31. Join Betty Pries, PhD, CMed, to explore the possibilities and pitfalls of courageously engaging differences within congregational life in this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course. No grades, no papers! CEUs available. Register by March 16 and save \$50! ambs.edu/shortcourses

!Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth: Participants in !Explore 2022 will attend Mennonite World Conference in Indonesia with Indonesian youth, explore theological questions and lived faith together, and visit parts of beautiful Java Island. The AMBS program — which is open to students in grades 10–12 — also includes a congregational internship. Generous financial support is available for the MWC expenses, and participants receive a \$1,000 stipend. Tap a shoulder! ambs.edu/explore

MCC U.S. is hosting a Young Adult Peacebuilders Training in Colorado from March 6-11, 2022! Young adults ages 18-30 are invited to participate. [Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp](#) will serve as a home base for participants, offering a beautiful and relaxing space to rest, study and have fun together as a group. This Peacebuilders Training will touch on themes of racial equity, immigration, mass incarceration, gun violence and conflict transformation. It will include trips to visit [RAWtools](#), an organization working out of Colorado Springs to move communities away from violence, as well as [Casa de Paz](#), an organization working out of Aurora to reunite separated families. The participant fee is \$200. All other costs (including travel, lodging and meals) will be covered by MCC. Register [here](#).

The 2022 [Summer Peacebuilding Institute](#) is returning to in-person courses. All [SPI courses](#) are available for training or academic credit

WIDER CHURCH

January 31, 7pm ET Join MC USA’s Iris de Leon Hartshorn (facilitator) and panelists Jamie Pitts of AMBS, Pastor Isaac Villegas of Chapel Hill (North Carolina) Mennonite Fellowship and Shana Peachey Boshart of Mennonite Education Agency for an engaging discussion on biblical discernment. Register [here](#).

MCUSA Special Delegate Session. Visit the [resource page](#) for news, events and resources related to the upcoming Special Session of the Delegate Assembly, May 27-30, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri. New additions to the page include: Recording for "[The Role of Resolutions](#)" [webinar](#).

Please join MCC in praying for peace and safety for everyone in Burkina Faso and Ukraine. MCC staff and partners are safe in both countries and are following security protocols.

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Mennonite Bible School (formerly Bethany Bible School) in Mthatha, South Africa. Praise God for the visionary leadership of Reuben Mgodeli, and pray for the 41 church leaders who graduated this year.

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board will meet Feb. 3-5 in Elkhart, Indiana. Please pray for the members of the Executive Board, as they gather to discuss how to best guide the denomination.

Abolition Resource. Mennonite Church USA developed a new online resource to help connect churches doing abolition work. An accompaniment to the “Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum,” the web page promotes mutual support and resource sharing between churches. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/abolition-networking-resource/>.

Mennonite Creation Care Newsletter for January is [here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Mennonite Disaster Service is hiring. [See openings here](#).

Lancaster (PA) Mennonite School has a full-time opening for a Middle School Principal starting July 2022. [Learn more here](#).

Other jobs in Mennonite Education are posted here: <https://mailchi.mp/d035e7ef2ec6/prayers-for-mennonite-education-5102285?e=93c8c56609>

Come work at Goshen College! GC has many employment opportunities for teaching faculty, administrative staff and more. Visit goshen.edu/employment to see all job openings and learn more.