

WORSHIP

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

<p>Feb 6 10 AM Worship on Zoom Sermon: Regina Shands Stoltzfus Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)</p>	<p>Feb 13 10 AM Worship on Zoom Sermon: Aaron Sawatsky-Kingsley Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10</p>
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CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS



Hezekiah Graham Graber Roth turns 2 on February 8! He likes singing, being tickled, jumping into pools and kicking balls. His favorite meal of the day is breakfast and he would eat cereal three times a day if he could. His favorite animal is the owl and he is looking forward to family bike rides when the weather warms up again.



Kiki Smuts (4th, Chamberlain) turns 10 on Feb. 8! Kiki is a Hufflepuff who enjoys playing violin, taking pictures and playing SuperMario Minecraft! Kiki spends a lot of time at the boys and girls club playing music and basketball. She likes to play with her sister (Horsey) and brothers (Paw Patrol and D&D). At school she enjoys sledding. Her favorite foods are Ramen and peanut butter waffles!

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6

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 Mary Gilbert, and “Harry Potter” led by Lora Nafziger.

8pm – Anti-Racism Accountability Group [on Zoom](#)

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).**

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 6 <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 			Feb 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		Feb 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	
Feb 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 	Feb 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Dance Group 		Feb 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		Feb 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	
Feb 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:55am Children in Worship 10am Worship on Zoom 11:15am Second Hour 7pm Congregational Meeting on Zoom 		Feb 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15pm Small Group Reps Meeting on Zoom 	Feb 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 		Feb 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	Feb 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30pm Lent Kick-off Event for Families
Feb 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Carnival Sunday Worship (In Person) 1pm JYF Gathering 	Feb 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Dance Group 	March 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Leadership Group 	March 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 1pm Women's Lunch Bunch on Zoom 		March 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Greencroft Meet up on Zoom 12pm Psalm & Prayers on Zoom 	

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

Administrative Assistant: Becky Overholt (Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm) office@assemblymennonite.org; 574-534-4190

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Final Call -- You are invited to participate in Assembly's Pastor-Congregation Review. 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). Please contact Lois Kaufmann (574-596-8956) if you prefer a paper copy.

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.

Leadership Group met on Tuesday, Feb 1. They discussed possible changes to the 2022 Spending Plan, coverage for Lora's sabbatical and Scott's paternity leave, and plans for returning to in-person worship at the end of February. Approved minutes are available [on the church website 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. On the agenda are four resolutions, two of which pertain to queer inclusion in the Church. Anna Yoder Schlabach is on a planning committee for this delegate assembly and [wrote this letter](#) to the congregation about her hopes for the upcoming assembly and how we might prepare for the potential outcomes.

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 since 2006.

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!**

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.**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

February is Black History Month. Celebrate and learn about Mennonite Church USA's African American Mennonite history through a timeline that highlights the people, events and the work of the church from 1886 to today. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/black-history-mennonite>

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/>.

Feb 7 at 7 pm – "For Justice in the U.S. Criminal Legal System," is a new study resolution that will be presented at Mennonite Church USA's Special Session of the Delegate Assembly, May 27-30. Eli Reimer, one of the original authors, and Pastor Isaac Villegas, a supporter of the resolution, will discuss it with other church leaders during a webinar on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. ET. Read the resolution and register for the webinar on the delegate resource page: [mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/special-delegate)

Calling all pastors and faith formation leaders! Register for Pastors & Leaders | Deep Faith 2022, a joint conference of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Mennonite Church USA Faith Formation. Join us Feb. 21–24, either virtually or in person on the AMBS campus in Elkhart, Indiana, to explore the theme, "Formed in the Wilderness, Leading in Hope." Speakers: Sibonokuhle Ncube, Eleanor Kreider, Tom Yoder Neufeld and Rolando Sosa Granados. See our workshop offerings online. **Sign up by Feb. 14.** [ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders](https://www.ambs.edu/pastorsandleaders)

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.

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](#).

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](https://www.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

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

WIDER CHURCH

Mennonite Central Committee wants to thank our friends and supporters at Assembly for the many ways you support the work of MCC and our partners - through your prayers, gathering kits, volunteering at events and thrift shops, My Coins Count collections and for your generous financial contributions of \$7,302 during 2021. Your support allowed our church partners to respond with compassion to save babies' lives in Burkina Faso through [improved maternal and child health programs](#). Together we've been able to offer hope through [education to Sudanese refugees](#) living in Egypt. Your support has allowed MCC partners to help farmers in India [improve rice production](#) and in Haiti to [plant trees](#) and grow agroforestry gardens. In the U.S., we're creating safe, warm, and dry homes in Appalachia through the [SWAP program](#) and offering education programs to better understand the [complexities around immigration](#). With your faithful support, MCC is working with 385 partners on 508 projects in 47 countries around the world. Thank you for offering love and compassion in the name of Christ to vulnerable people through MCC. - Les Gustafson-Zook, MCC Great Lakes – mcc.org

Wyse-Rhodes to join AMBS teaching faculty. The AMBS [Board of Directors](#) has appointed Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, PhD, of Bluffton, Ohio, as Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible, beginning in July 2022. She currently is Associate Professor of Religion at Bluffton University, where she has served since 2015, teaching courses on the Old and New Testaments, biblical interpretation, exegetical studies, and Greek and Hebrew, among other topics. She also served as Interim Campus Pastor (2020–21).

Mennonite Mission Network prayer request. Dave and Rebekka Stutzman, who are jointly serving with Mennonite Mission Network and Virginia Mennonite Missions, have requested that people join German Mennonite congregations in praying for church renewal, during the month of February. Pray with them, as they follow a devotional book compiled for this occasion.

Mennonite Education Agency daily prayer requests for February can be found [here](#).

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/>.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Mennonite Church USA's job postings are here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/employment/>

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

Other jobs in Mennonite Education are posted [here](#).

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.