



WORSHIP

Join us for Worship in one of three ways this Advent season:

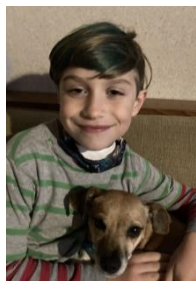
Saturdays at 5pm in person at [Witmer Woods](#)

Sundays at 10am [on Zoom](#) or in person at [727 New York St](#)

Sundays at 11am [on Zoom only](#) (starts 12/5/21)

<p>Nov 28 First Sunday of Advent: Hope Scripture: Luke 21:25-36</p>	<p>Dec 5 Second Sunday of Advent: Peace Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4</p>
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BIRTHDAYS



Isai Horst (3rd Parkside) turned 9 on Nov 20! Isai enjoys building with Lego and reading Harry Potter books in addition to graphic novels. He is an ambassador at school and enjoys being a leader in his classroom. Hi favorite food is pizza and he enjoys playing games (especially Mastermind) with his family.



Martha Hanby (2nd/3rd BCS) turned 8 on Nov 26! Martha enjoys reading, writing and listening to stories! She enjoys playing all kinds of imaginative games with her sister Clara and likes to draw pictures to give as gifts. She has enjoyed cooking at school this year. She would like to be a teacher and a gymnast when she grows up.

THIS SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Nov 27-28

Advent provides an opportunity to slow down, pare back and wait in the darkness for the coming Christ child. This year's theme is "Less is More". We are trying to get back to the basics. Let's recapture the beauty of simplicity, darkness, music, and scripture. This year we are offering different options for worship. We expect that most people will choose one or two of these ways to enter this season, NOT all of them.

The First Sunday of Advent begins with **Saturday evening Advent Woods worship** at the College Cabin (309 Reservoir Pl, Goshen). **Worship begins at 5pm (gather at 4:30pm to make your own Advent wreath).** This 45-min outdoor service is planned with families in mind, but is intended for all ages. Move through outdoor stations to hear scripture, sing Advent hymns, and pray together in God's glorious creation. End the time with hot chocolate around a fire in the pavilion and walk around the woods on your own. (This service will happen each Saturday regardless of weather. Please dress appropriately).

Sunday at 10am, join us [on Zoom](#) or in person at the meetinghouse for a 45-min contemplative service of scripture, [Taizé-style music](#), silence, and sharing time. This service is planned with adults in mind, but is intended for (fully vaccinated) contemplatives of all ages. **As a way of protecting the most vulnerable among us, we are requesting that only those who are fully vaccinated (two weeks after their second shot) attend in person. Masks will be required for all.** Please do not come if you have any symptoms of COVID-19. All are welcome to [join via Zoom](#).

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or on Zoom 			Dec 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pm Lunch Bunch 		Dec 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Greencroft meetup 	Dec 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities 5pm Advent Woods Worship
Dec 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or on Zoom 11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" on Zoom 	Dec 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm Been in the Struggle Discussion in Worship Space 	Dec 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm Leadership Group 	Dec 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Pastoral Team 			Dec 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 & 2 pm Candle Dipping 4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities 5pm Advent Woods Worship 7:30pm Messiah Sing-along
Dec 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Taizé Service in Worship Space or on Zoom 11 am "Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum" on Zoom Christmas Cookie Exchange 	Dec 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Dance Group on Zoom 					Dec 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Pre-Worship Activities 5pm Advent Woods Worship

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Morning Child Care. We still need an additional volunteer to provide childcare for children 4 & under on Sun Dec 5 during the 10-10:45am Taizé service. If you are willing to volunteer, please email scottc@assemblymennonite.org. Volunteers must be fully vaccinated, and must complete this form: <https://www.assemblymennonite.org/assembly-101/get-involved/memo-of-understanding-page/>.

For Advent At-Home Resources and a complete list of church events through Dec 26, [click here](#).

Starting Sun Dec 5 – Defund the Police? An Abolition Curriculum. Sunday morning adult Education at 11am [on Zoom](#) only. Led by Karl Shelly. This curriculum is an initial guide for congregations who are desiring to begin or continue their reflection on what it means to engage the forces of state, their commitments to non-violence and how to act to end policing and police brutality.

December Lunch Bunch will be held at Assembly Mennonite Church on Wed Dec 1 at 1 pm. There will be music (performance and group singing) and a reader's theater in the worship space followed by a fellowship time with coffee/tea and snacks in the entry gathering space. Glenn Gilbert has graciously agreed to offer Zoom for the program part of Lunch Bunch for anyone who wants to join us from afar. [It will be on the church zoom link.](#) **Please RSVP to zbamygk@gmail.com** so we may know how much coffee or hot water to prepare. Please bring a snack to share. Please don't stay home because you are unable to bring a snack. Please wear a mask for the program and zoom from home if you feel unwell.

Cookie Exchange Sign Up By Dec 4 – Back by popular demand! You're invited to back 3 dozen cookies; you will be assigned 3 households to deliver cookies to, and you will also receive cookies from others. (You can bring cookies you can't eat by yourself to the Christmas Eve service!). If you want to participate, please [complete this form by Dec 4.](#)

Antiracist Spirituality – Dec 6. Come celebrate and discuss Regina Shands Stotlzfus' new book, "Been in the Struggle, Pursuing an Antiracist Spirituality." Mon, Dec 6 at 7 pm in the worship space. Drew Hart calls the book, "A much needed prophetic and pastoral word from elders in the antiracism struggle."

Faith Mennonite Church is resuming meeting in the meetinghouse on Sunday afternoons as of Nov 21. You can find the space reservation calendar for the meetinghouse on the church website here:

<https://www.assemblymennonite.org/facility-use-reservations-calendar/>

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.

DOING JUSTICE & SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Church Community Services invites participation in two specific ways you can help those in need this Christmas. First, you can donate to the [Pigs for the Pantry initiative](#), which allows purchases local pork sausage to be shared with pantry guests. Second, you can also support local women working to create a better future for themselves and their families through the purchase of [Soup of Success](#) items.

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Your neighbors still need you! The Goshen Ministerial Association for many years has had an Emergency Fund, to which local churches contributed to financially assist local residents in significant need. This money has often helped prevent evictions or utilities turnoffs, or facilitated needed medical procedures. GMA is very grateful to Goshen Interfaith Hospitality Network for its continued administering of this Emergency Fund on our behalf. We are also grateful to the eleven local congregations who contributed to the GMA Emergency Fund in 2020. As pandemic disruptions and hardships continue, the human needs they are seeing at GIHN are still very high. This kind of assistance can sometimes help keep people from having to enter a homeless shelter, and the primary source of this funding is from our local congregations. Please continue your generous support of the GMA Emergency Fund by sending contributions to: GMA Emergency Fund, P.O. Box 165, Goshen IN, 46527. With great gratitude, Pastor Neil Amstutz for the GMA

For those age 70½ & older: As Advent unfolds, please think of Love, Gratitude and Generosity. How might your RMD aid a non-profit, church or educational institution? Perhaps your family can identify agencies like Salvation Army, the Window or the Center for Healing and Hope, always in need of donations. Our money is an extension of us, the people of God. This season, please celebrate God's love by generously giving to those in need. --Barb Hassan, Everence Advocate

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

(repeat) **Free Hymnals.** Do you feel nostalgic about the old brownish-red hymnals? Assembly is getting rid of all of ours. If you would like one, please come take one in the next few weeks. They are on a cart outside the kitchen.

(repeat) **Landscaping at Assembly.** Thank you to all the small groups that completed their outdoor tasks! Assembly's landscaping is looking great! The Landscaping committee recently met to discuss plans for next year. If you have any questions or comments regarding the landscaping at Assembly or would be interested in joining the committee, please let Naomi know by emailing her at roots.naomi@gmail.com.

(repeat) **If you donated hoses** a couple of years ago to Assembly's tree watering effort, and would like them back, please email Naomi at roots.naomi@gmail.com to coordinate their return to your home.

(repeat) **The Pastor-Congregation Review Committee** is beginning its work. This committee is: Glenn Gilbert, Lois Kaufmann (chair), Deanna Risser, Aaron Yost, Joel Zwier. Leadership Group and the Review Committee would like to share this statement of purpose with you: "We ground our Pastor-Congregation Review in the good news of God's love as known in Jesus Christ and enter into it in a spirit of curiosity, mutual care and humility. Our purpose is to listen to God's call to us as a congregation and to support and nurture relationships of trust between pastors and congregation by reflecting on areas of strength for the pastors, the congregation, and individuals; and by pondering together how we might all be challenged to grow." There will be more communication of the goals and plans of the review at the January 2022 Congregational Meeting.

(repeat) **Cookie Decorating with IHN, Dec 20** - Several MYFers are decorating cookies with children at IHN. More helpers are welcome! We also need folks to bake approximately 15 dozen cookies, make colored icing and provide sprinkles. Contact SusanMarkLandis@gmail.com to volunteer. Thanks!

(repeat) **Members' Needs Fund.** As an Anabaptist community, we value sharing our resources. If you have any emergency financial needs (whether related to a health crisis, a loss of income, or other extraordinary circumstances), please consider sharing your needs with your small group rep, or directly with a pastor. This fund is available to assist all Assembly participants, not just covenanted members.

If you have been blessed with abundant resources, please consider making a donation to the Members' Needs Fund. (Write "Members Needs" on the memo line of your check). We anticipate some significant needs in the congregation in the near future.

WIDER CHURCH

"Dare to Imagine" - Advent at Home 2021: this free devotional written by Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor of Christian Formation at College Mennonite Church is appropriate for all ages. You can download your copy here: mennoniteusa.org/adventathome. Also: Join Talashia for a one-hour webinar Sun Nov 14 at 5pm for creative ideas on how to slow down and connect with God each day during this season of anticipation.

See "NO FEELING IS FINAL" from Ted & Co. TheaterWorks online this Nov. 30 - A Film About Mental Health, Resilience and Hope: Actor/writer Ted Swartz performs in the new film "No Feeling Is Final" -- an intimate, funny, and vulnerable look at how telling our authentic stories, both painful and hopeful, can connect and carry us through hard times together. "No Feeling Is Final," will premiere virtually on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. EST as part of a #GivingTuesday fundraiser for the Center for Art, Humor, and Soul (CAHS). CAHS, established in 2019 by Swartz and several fellow artist-colleagues, is advancing the arts and spirituality in a culture that desperately needs new stories to shape a just and grace-filled society. Tickets at: forms.gle/9YJBhFHPbqo5pe1z7 for the virtual screening and consider an additional gift to CAHS on #GivingTuesday. More information about the event at <https://fb.me/e/1RnwDsEku>. Contact Michelle Milne at mmilne@gmail.com or John Leonard at office@tedandcompany.com with any additional questions.

The November issue of the Central District Conference Reporter contains several important messages from James Rissler, Central District Conference president, and the Board of Directors. [Please read it here.](#)

Pray for Alfonsina and José Oyanguren who have walked alongside Toba-Qom churches in the Argentine Chaco since 2004, serving through a partnership that includes the Argentina Mennonite Church, Mennonite Mission Network and congregations in Ohio. Pray for them and their children as they build relationships and promote Indigenous languages and cultures.

Give gifts of comfort and joy with MCC! Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more. Give at mcc.org/delight or call 888.563.4676.

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: 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