



## WORSHIP

Join us at 9:30AM on Sundays in Person, or [on Zoom](#)

Dec 4	Dec 11
<p><b>9:30 AM Worship &amp; Sunday school</b>  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>            2% Offering  <i>2<sup>nd</sup> hour Messiah sing &amp; potluck</i></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Bethany Swope  <b>Sermon:</b> Karl Shelly  <b>Scripture:</b> Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19,            Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12</p>	<p><b>9:30 AM Worship &amp; Sunday school</b>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>            2<sup>nd</sup> hour Hymn singing</p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Jon Zirkle  <b>Sermon:</b> Brian Roots  <b>Scripture:</b> Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10,            Matthew 11:2-11</p>

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

**8am Messiah orchestra rehearsal** Instrumentalists of all abilities are welcome, especially our youth. Please bring a music stand if you have one and plan to play with the orchestra. You can download a copy of instrumental music for free [here](#).

**8:45am Young adult breakfast** Those who are post-high school through age 30 are invited to a breakfast in the multipurpose space.

**9:30am Worship** This is the second Sunday of Advent! Our theme is *Restoration is Near*. This theme reminds us that God's restorative work is ongoing. Restoration is near! Jesus has come and brought about restoration! And...we live in a world deeply in need of restoration. Restoration has seasons of intense work and of maintenance mode. It's active. It requires something of us. It's transformative. And it is inspired and guided by God's creative and persistent love. [Read more about our theme](#). [The order of worship can be found online here](#).

**Sunday school** Children through 3rd grade will have Sunday school as usual and then join in the end of the Messiah singing. 4th grade and above will be with parents/mentors and participating in the Messiah singing.

**2<sup>nd</sup> hour Messiah sing** Join us for second hour for this annual tradition; bring your own Messiah score if you have it. 4th grade and above will be with parents/mentors and participating in the Messiah singing. If your child/young person wants to play with the Orchestra the rehearsal is Sunday morning at 8 am. Prepare by listening together as a family. If singing is not for you, you are invited to the MP space to write letters of support for detained immigrants in Arizona. **There will be no hot beverages available until the fellowship meal.**

**Noon Fellowship meal.** Following the Messiah sing we will have a fellowship meal. Please bring a dish (or two) to share, and plates and utensils for your household. The Hospitality Committee requests that households with names beginning with A through L bring a salad or side dish, and M through Z bring a main dish. Everyone should feel free to bring a dessert in addition. If you prefer to bring something different than requested that's fine; what's important is to have plenty of all types of food, especially as we anticipate hosting additional visitors because of the Messiah sing. **Please deliver your food to the kitchen before worship.**

**7:30pm Holden evening prayer** Every Sunday during Advent we will join with Faith at 7:30pm for Holden evening prayer. An example of this simple 20-minute vespers service of spoken and sung prayers from Holden Village can be viewed [here](#).

## COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	TH	FRI	SAT
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2% offering</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am Young adult breakfast</li> <li>9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>11am Messiah sing</li> <li>12pm Fellowship meal</li> <li>7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Yoga</li> <li>6pm 2% committee</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Leadership group</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm Women's lunch bunch (also <a href="#">on Zoom</a>)</li> <li>6:30 &amp; 7:30pm K-5 candle dipping at Steve Shantz's (60728 CR 27, Goshen)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:15pm Reparations committee</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Play group</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 11</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am Young adult breakfast</li> <li>9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>Christmas cookie exchange (sign up required)</li> <li>7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Yoga</li> <li>6:30pm Dance group on Zoom (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the link)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Labyrinth walk</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm JYF candle dipping at Steve Shantz's (60728 CR 27, Goshen)</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Play group</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:30 &amp; 7pm Advent spiral (RSVP to Lora Nafziger)</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>11am Congregational meeting</li> <li>7:30pm Holden evening prayer</li> </ul>			<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Longest night service</li> </ul>			<p style="text-align: center;">Dec 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Christmas Eve service</li> </ul>

Masks are optional during worship & Sunday school, unless Elkhart County's Community Risk Level becomes "High" (according to [covidactnow.org](https://covidactnow.org)) – in which case masks will be required indoors for everyone over age 2. We encourage everyone to stay up to date on vaccinations and boosters, and encourage anyone who is not feeling well to join us on Zoom.

While many in our faith family are thankful masks are no longer required, a fair number of us feel the need to be even more careful when at church, and some are deciding to return to joining worship by Zoom.

**Parents should contact Sunday school teachers directly if they are sending kids to Sunday school during days 6 through 10 after a positive COVID test. During this time children are asked to wear a mask during Sunday school and sit apart from the group during snack.**

Please follow current CDC guidelines for Elkhart County. For more information visit

<https://www.assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information/>.

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Here are some opportunities to enter into the season this week:

- **Holden Evening Prayer** (Assembly & Faith): 20-minute service each Sunday of Advent, 7:30 pm at the Meetinghouse
- **K-grade 5 candle dipping at Steve Shantz's**: Wed Dec 7, 6:30 & 7:30pm. 60728 CR 27, Goshen
- **Christmas cookie exchange**: [Sign up here](#) by Dec 4 to deliver cookies to three households and receive cookie plates from three households on Sunday, Dec 11.

## CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS



**Bryn Rothshank (1st, Bethany) turns 7 on Dec. 5th!** Some of Bryn's favorite things are the color pink, macaroni and lollipops! She really likes writing stories at home and school and doing art. Bryn enjoys playing Lego with her bother Linden and would love it if Layton would teach her to make a knife. She is learning to play piano and speak Spanish!

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

**Volunteers for 2023:** More than half of Assembly's participants have not signed up for volunteer tasks yet! We need everyone's help to make Sunday mornings happen. We ask that each person sign up for at least **two tasks** for next year. Please fill out the form [here](#). Signup sheets are also on the table in the Gathering space.

**Meal train:** Ellen Kennel is having knee replacement surgery Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up to help provide meals for Ellen if you are able: [this is the link](#). Ellen's daughter, Celeste, will be with her December 5-10 and we are requesting vegan and gluten free meals that week. Alexa, a niece, will be staying with Ellen December 10-23 and we are requesting vegetarian meals that week. Ellen will be by herself the week after Christmas (26-30) and she would welcome Christmas leftovers that week. Contact Julia Gautsche (574-596-1632) with questions.

**Women's lunch bunch** - December 7 at 1pm, in person and [on Zoom](#), will be a reader's theater with dessert to follow. Please RSVP to Amy Kauffman at [zbamygk@gmail.com](mailto:zbamygk@gmail.com)

**Congregational Meeting Dec 18.** Please plan to attend this month's congregational meeting Dec 18 during second hour. The agenda will include a first reading of a proposal to sponsor the Montessori Preschool that meets in our building.

**Pledging for the 2023 Spending Plan.** Thank you to everyone who has already pledged for 2023! Pledges received so far are slightly higher than last year's pledges, however they are **still significantly short of our "aspirational budget"**. If you have not yet pledged, please contact [John Nafziger \(offering@assemblymennonite.org\)](mailto:John.Nafziger@assemblymennonite.org) with your pledge as soon as possible. ([The letter explaining the pledge process can be read here](#)).

**50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary** Elroy Holsopple and Mary Yoder Holsopple are celebrating fifty years of marriage this month. In celebration they are inviting you to share in an open house on December 30 from 2:00 to 5:00pm at the Terrace Green Club House, 1522 Kentfield Way. Please rsvp to [asha.holsopple@gmail.com](mailto:asha.holsopple@gmail.com).

**No small group childcare in December.** The December small group childcare evening coincides with the K-5 candle-dipping activity at Steve Shantz's. We want the children to participate in the candle-dipping so we are canceling the small group childcare night for December. We will resume on January 4 with a **new time of 5:30-8pm**.

**Recycling Project.** Faith's JYF/MYF is going to be collecting flexible plastic packaging to recycle through Terracycle. This will help to care for the earth and also raise money for Faith youth activities. **All Kroger-branded flexible plastic packaging is eligible to be recycled** through this program; [see the attached PDF flier](#) for details on the "mail-in recycling". There will be a large box by the North doors for you to place your recycling items into.

**Prayer Requests.** Please share prayer requests by contacting one of the pastors via email or phone. Prayer requests are sent out to the congregation via the Assembly listserv on Wednesdays.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Historical Site Commemoration** A brief ceremony marking the historic nature of the former Jewish Synagogue, will be held at 1:00 pm, Wednesday December, 7<sup>th</sup> at the former Synagogue, 520 S Third St, Goshen (currently an apostolic church). Heather Bridger-Ulloa and Barb Hassan will be conducting the service. A professional videographer will be documenting this event. Feel free to attend if interested.

## ADVENT RESOURCES

**An Evening of Advent and Christmas Carols: Sunday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.,** in Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount (3003 Benham Avenue, Elkhart, Indiana). This evening of music will feature seasonal arrangements of carols and include congregational singing. With Don Kehrborg (oboe/English horn), Shirley King (organ) and Brian Wiebe (viola/piano), the program will be approximately 90 minutes long, with an intermission. All are invited and admission is free, with donations accepted for the Worship Arts Scholarship at AMBS.

**Free Advent Calendar from Community Peacemaker Teams:** Each day, from December 1st - 25th, you will have the opportunity to open a new door with a different contribution from our communities. We're inviting you to take joy in these stories and dances we've shared, spread love (and food!) with our recipes, foster hope by taking action, and live into peace through a game of chess or a song of solidarity. The CPT Advent calendar can be viewed in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

**Two Advent retreats via Zoom:** Pastor Joanna Harader will be Samantha Lioi's guest via Zoom for two Advent retreats this year! Joanna is the author of *Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women Who Prepared the Way* - an Advent devotional (really a collection of probing reflections on Scripture) exploring the stories of the women who appear in Jesus' genealogy at the beginning of the gospel of Matthew. If you are ready for fresh and deepening ways to engage the season of Advent, we welcome you to join us for one or both retreats. [Tuesday evening, December 6, we'll explore Tamar's story](#), and [the morning of Saturday the 10th we'll spend time with Ruth](#). See [samanthaelioi.com/groups](http://samanthaelioi.com/groups) for all the details. You can register for both at a small discount. You are encouraged to bring a friend - you'll both receive 15% off. Spiritual directors, pastors, chaplains - any folk in ministry - are eligible for 20% off. Both retreats will be recorded.

## MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

The Mississippi/LA Unit is partnering with the Indiana Unit to do roofing work in response to tornado damage in Holmes County, MS. Volunteers will be staying in the community of **Durant, MS** at the Castilian Springs Retreat Center, 3 miles to the west of Durant. The MS/LA Unit is looking for **skilled roofers** and **drivers** for the weeks of **January 9-14** and **January 15-21**. They do not have many crew leaders, so volunteers will need to be self-led. Contact **Elmer Hochstetler** at **260-499-3280** for volunteer scheduling. Interested volunteers will have to leave a voicemail and wait for a call back.

Weekly Volunteers needed to assist in remodeling of a Volunteer Center in **Red Lake, MN**. Work will include framing, drywall, flooring installation, etc. We will need crews (**3-5 people or larger**) from late **January through late March**. All work is indoors, out of the cold Minnesota winter! Lodging and meals provided. **Contact Jeff Koller (717-823-7415 or [jkoller@mds.org](mailto:jkoller@mds.org)) for details.**

## WIDER CHURCH

**Support Bethany Christian Schools:** On December 2<sup>nd</sup> (First Friday) from 5-9pm, you have a chance to support Bethany Christian Schools by coming and shopping at Ten Thousand Villages Goshen. Bethany Christian Schools have teamed up with Ten Thousand Villages to host a benefit shopping night where all shoppers who mention Bethany Christian Schools will have a portion of their purchase go back to Bethany Christian Schools.

**Jubilee Partners** newsletter can be read [here](#).

Mennonite Men's newsletter *Engage* can be read [here](#).

Seeds of Peace newsletter from Mennonite Mission Network can be read [here](#).

**Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) Executive Board** staff has posted the new "Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA" on the MC USA website. The guidelines are effective immediately and apply to proposed organizational resolutions or church statements submitted for consideration by the 2023 Delegate Assembly (Kansas City, Missouri, July 7-8, 2023). Learn more here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/resolutions-process](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/resolutions-process)

**Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer.** Cassidy Bush, Anna Lubbers, Rachel Miller and Eli Reimer make up Mennonite Mission Network's San Francisco (California) Mennonite Voluntary Service unit. Pray for them as they join First Mennonite Church of San Francisco in ministries that work toward reducing poverty and homelessness and promoting social justice, education, and health.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Bethany Christian School** job openings can be found [here](#). **Goshen College** job openings can be found [here](#). **AMBS** job openings can be found [here](#). **Other jobs in Mennonite education** can be found [here](#). **Mennonite Church USA's** job postings are [here](#).

### ***Assembly Mennonite Church***

#### **Pastoral Team**

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Anna Yoder Schlabach [annays@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:annays@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-5319  
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Lora Nafziger [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) 574-312-0732

**Pastoral Intern:** Stephen Lowe [sclowe@ambs.edu](mailto:sclowe@ambs.edu)

**Pastor Emeritae:** Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder

**Elders:** Randy Roth (chair), Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Leon Bauman, Sara Morris, Cheryl Shreiner, Ben Good-Elliott

**Youth Coordinators:** Erich Miller, Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Ryan Gomez Wengerd, Gretchen Krause

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

**Church Administrator:** Naomi Roots (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm) [naomikr@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:naomikr@assemblymennonite.org)

Please email announcements to [assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org) by 11PM local time Thursday for inclusion in the following Sunday's AssemblyLine. To receive the AssemblyLine via email visit <http://eepurl.com/bsXsDr>.