



WORSHIP

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

<p>Dec 11</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship & Sunday school <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>2nd hour Hymn singing</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Jon Zirkle Sermon: Brian Roots Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11</p>	<p>Dec 18</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship & Sunday school <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <i>2nd hour Congregational meeting</i></p> <p>Worship Leader: Jon Zirkle Sermon: Anna Yoder Schlabach Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25</p>
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SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

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 third 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.](#)

2nd hour Hymn sing Join us second hour for a seasonal hymn sing. Write down your favorite Advent and Christmas hymns on the slips of paper handed out at the door. Place them in the basket next to the offering basket before second hour.

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](#).

Masks are optional during worship & Sunday school, unless Elkhart County’s Community Risk Level becomes “High” (according to 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/>.

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	TH	FRI	SAT
Dec 11 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Young adult breakfast 9:30am Worship & Sunday school 11am Repair Network 7:30pm Holden evening prayer 	Dec 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30pm Mini yoga retreat 6:30pm Dance group on Zoom (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the link) 	Dec 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Labyrinth walk indoors 	Dec 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm JYF candle dipping at Steve Shantz's (60728 CR 27, Goshen) 		Dec 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Play group 	Dec 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 & 7pm Advent spiral (sign up here)
Dec 18 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship & Sunday school 11am Congregational meeting 2pm MYF Christmas party 7:30pm Holden evening prayer 			Dec 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Longest night service 			Dec 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Christmas Eve service (sign up here)
Dec 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Worship with Faith No Sunday school 						

ADVENT SEASON ACTIVITIES

Here are some opportunities to enter into the season:

- **Holden Evening Prayer** (Assembly & Faith): 20-minute service each Sunday of Advent, 7:30 pm at the Meetinghouse
- **Winter Solstice - Christmas Slow Down Mini Yoga Retreat** - Monday, December 12, 4:30 - 6pm in Room 2. Alma Boyle would like to invite you to wind down with some gentle slow flow yoga, a calming candle meditation and restorative relaxation, finishing with some Christmas treats. **All donations will be given to the Centre of Healing and Hope and First Light Missions.** (Bring a blanket and a pillow) Contact Alma to book a spot alma.boyle53@gmail.com
- **Indoor labyrinth walk:** Join Meribeth Shank, certified labyrinth facilitator, on Tuesday at 6:30pm in Assembly's multipurpose space. After a brief introduction to the labyrinth as a meditation tool, we'll walk together using a smaller canvas labyrinth, concluding with a chance to reflect together. Contact Meribeth Shank with any questions.
- **JYF candle dipping: Wed, Dec 14, 6:30pm** at Steve Shantz's (60728 CR 27, Goshen)
- **Advent Spiral: Sat, Dec 17.** The Advent Spiral is a quiet prayerful practice that helps us notice the multiplying of the Light. The activity is geared specifically toward children, though depending on the individual, it could be very meaningful to all ages! **Children** (parents accompany them but do not walk the spiral) are invited to join the Advent Spiral **at 5:30 PM or 7 PM.** Please sign up your child [here](#) under the 5:30 or 7 pm time slot.
- **Christmas Eve meal & service: Sat, Dec 24, 6pm.** Join us for a simple soup and bread supper, followed by a play and candle dance. [Sign up here](#) to indicate interest in attending/ participating.

- **Assembly Women's Christmas – Sat, Jan 14, 3-7pm.** Mark your calendar for an evening of restoration, food and fellowship with other women. Women's Christmas is celebrated on Epiphany. Originating in Ireland, where it is known as *Nollaig na mBan*, Women's Christmas began as a day when the women set aside time to enjoy a break and celebrate together at the end of the holidays. Join us as we explore this year's theme of *A Path Called Solace*. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS



Maia Sywulka (GCMS) turned 4 on November 23rd! She enjoys playing with her friends at recess at Goshen Christian Montessori, playing with her older sisters, drawing and dancing. She likes riding bikes, swinging on swings and swimming in the summer. Her favorite colors are blue and pink and she likes to help her dad make popcorn!

Thomas Schlabach (7th BCS) turned 13 on Dec. 10! Thomas enjoys all kinds of music; he plays saxophone and sings in choir. He likes running, mostly long distances and acting. He enjoys reading widely and currently is enjoying non-fiction. He likes to hang out with friends and is looking forward to Christmas with family in New Jersey.



Magdalena Gollner (3rd BCS) turns 9 on Dec. 11! She enjoys music, gym and recess at school. She likes to play with friends. Someday she would like to work to save Siberian Tigers. In the summer she likes swimming at the beach and in the winter going sledding (she is eager for snow!) She loves reading and listening to stories and would like a puppy for Christmas and to learn how to rap. Dark purple is her favorite color!

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Out of town: Naomi Roots will be unavailable from Dec 12, 2022 through Jan 12, 2023 as she travels out of the country with her family for the holidays. For check requests, please email treasurer@assemblymennonite.org. For facility concerns, email Scott Coulter at scottc@assemblymennonite.org.

Pronoun stickers: In a continuing effort to be a supportive and welcoming congregation, we now have pronoun stickers to add to nametags. Please update your nametag with a pronoun sticker. [Here's a quick video](#) about why sharing pronouns matters.

Congregational Meeting next Sunday, 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. A Zoom option is available with the understanding that those on Zoom will not be able to give input into discussions.

Leadership group met this past week. Agenda items included discussing responses to the current masking policy, responses to elders selection changes and the GCMS proposal. The most recent approved Congregation and Leadership group minutes can be read [here](#).

The November 20 congregational meeting included discussion of ways to be more inclusive of those of us in the congregation who are not comfortable attending worship in person since the change to a mask-optional policy for first hour. We are making an effort to make joining worship via Zoom a more participatory experience, for the sake of those who are staying home because they are sick as well as those who consider themselves high-risk. We plan to continue the current mask policy for now. One suggestion was to designate a section of the worship space where masks would be

required, while keeping the rest of the worship space mask-optional. You are invited to give feedback on this suggestion, and you may also provide other comments, using this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/DfRitTSWXhfd8fgj7>.

50th 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.

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.

FINANCIAL GIVING AT ASSEMBLY

In order to meet our budget this year we need just a little more than \$78,000 in giving during December. Our giving is up significantly this year, though our budget is bigger too. Our December giving is often strong, so we are hopeful about meeting our budget. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Thank you! For your generous pledges supporting the 2023 Spending Plan! We asked for a 12% increase in pledges from last year, and the congregation rose to meet that challenge! Over \$400,000 in pledges have been received, slightly in excess of what finance committee needed to support our "aspirational spending plan". The spending plan will be presented at a congregational meeting early next year.

2 PERCENT FUND

The 2 percent committee proposes giving to the following agencies: ([What is the Two Percent Fund?](#))

Local: \$1,400 to [Walnut Hill Early Childhood Center](#); \$500 to [Center for Healing and Hope](#); \$500 to [Jail Ministry of Elkhart Co.](#); \$500 to [Mosaic Health and Healing Arts](#); \$500 to [Ryan's Place](#); \$1,000 to [The Window](#); \$1,000 to [Safety Networks LLC](#)

International: \$2,100 for [Association for a More Just Society](#); \$1,600 for [Community Peacemaker Teams](#); \$1,000 to [MCC for Afghanistan](#); \$700 to [Great Lakes MCC for relief kits](#)

Please discuss any requests or concerns with a member of the committee:

Susan Mark Landis, Chair; Joel Zwier, Barb Hassen, Barb Swartley, Glenn Gilbert, Marshall King

DOING JUSTICE AND SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Donate period products: An ad hoc group of Assembly folks donates period supplies to local public schools. If you'd like to enable students having periods to attend classes rather than stay home, place supplies in the bin under the mailboxes. Currently schools appreciate thinner, regular absorbency pads, individually wrapped. They also appreciate new underwear in youth sizes and wipes. Questions to Susan Mark Landis.

The Window needs your help! The Window is in desperate need of [children's winter clothing](#) and [winter coats of all sizes](#). There has been a high demand for winter coats and they are completely out. If you have winter coats or children's winter clothing to donate please consider taking them to The Window at 223 S Main St, Goshen.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

FEMALE MIDDLE AGE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED. Deana Baker's dissertation research, which is being conducted in the Exercise Science lab on Goshen College campus, needs about 8 more participants to reach the power needed for statistical analysis. Her study is looking at walking and recovery heart rate variability while watching videos of nature. If you are a **woman between the ages of 45-65** and are willing to walk on a treadmill three different times for 10 min. each, while wearing a heart rate monitor, please contact her at deanarm@goshen.edu.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Uniting for Ukraine webinar - December 20. Since February, over 14 million Ukrainians have been forced to flee their homes and seek safety in areas within and outside Ukraine. In response, the US government developed the Uniting for Ukraine program which enables individuals and communities to sponsor Ukrainians to come to the United States. [Join](#)

[MCC and Church World Service to learn more about the Uniting for Ukraine program and how you can walk alongside Ukrainians as they seek refuge in the U.S.](#)

Podcast: Preventing and responding to abuse in the church. Jaymie Friesen and Val Hiebert, Abuse Response and Prevention coordinators for MCC in Manitoba, explore how church culture can sometimes enable abuse, how to prevent it and how to best respond when it happens.

Online Short Course: Understanding Anabaptist Approaches to Scripture: Feb. 1 – March 14. Join David Cramer, PhD, and Susannah Larry, PhD, to study how 16th-century Anabaptists approached Scripture — as compared with Catholics and other Protestants — and to understand those similarities and differences in light of today. Sign up by Jan. 11 for this six-week online Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary short course and save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

CHRISTMAS RESOURCES

Mennonite Central Committee's Christmas Giving guide: Christmas is in <20 days! Still looking for that perfect Christmas gift? We've got you covered. Every gift in our Christmas Giving guide helps share God's love with others around the world. There's something for everyone on your list. [Take a look \(you will love #4\).](#)

Activity book for kids: Download Mennonite Central Committee's free fun activity book filled with worksheets, coloring pages and crafts to help you teach the kids in your life about generosity. [Access MCC's FREE Generosity resource today!](#)

WIDER CHURCH

Illuman Watering Hole with Adam Bucko - Thu, Dec 15. Illuman exists to help men do their inner, spiritual work to become healthier and more authentic human beings. Founded in 2012 by the Franciscan mystic and teacher [Richard Rohr](#), Illuman is non-denominational, interfaith, and spiritually inclusive, welcoming all male-identified persons. Illuman offers four virtual "Watering Hole" events annually to engage and stimulate your mind and spirit. This event is open to all people, regardless of gender identification. <https://illuman.givecloud.co/watering-hole-dec22-adam-bucko>

Camp Friedenswald Winter Getaway – Feb 3-5. Come on your own for a solitary retreat, or get away with family and friends. There's no pressure to do anything – just soak in the peace of the woods and lake. We'll provide the tasty meals in the Dining Hall, a comfy cabin, and trails for exploring. This is a program-free weekend. Meals are the one coordinated corporate activity. The Getaway runs Friday (dinner served at 6:30 pm) through Sunday noon (last meal is breakfast on Sunday). All ages welcome. [Register here.](#)

SWAP program changes locations in response to flooding, community needs. A new site location for MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) home repair program is set to open in May 2023 in Elkhorn City, Kentucky. This new location will allow SWAP to serve some of the most vulnerable communities impacted by the catastrophic flooding in eastern Kentucky this summer. The SWAP site in Harlan, Kentucky, will be closing after 37 years. [Learn more about the new location and plans for the future.](#)

Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) has released the completed report from its denominational survey, "The Mennonite Experience: MC USA Membership Study 2021-22." The 85-page report revealed that members have deep commitments to their faith, a passion for peacebuilding, a heart for service and close congregational ties. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/denominational-survey

The Pathways Retreat newsletter for December can be read [here](#).

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer. Laura Schlabach, who is serving with Mennonite Mission Network, asks for God's wisdom for the decision-makers at JCS International, a consortium of mission agencies in Mongolia. She also requests prayer for those who have been affected by the extreme winter air pollution that has caused respiratory illnesses in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital, and other cities.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Goshen Public Library is seeking a full-time, community-focused team member to work as a Community Outreach Specialist to serve the Latino & Hispanic Communities in Goshen. The ideal candidate shares a passion for serving Goshen's diverse populations and sees the library as a place where learning transforms lives. This is a grant-funded position through the generous support of the Community Foundation of Elkhart County. Click [here](#) to learn more and to

apply. Applications are accepted until December 16, 2022.

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](#).

<p>Assembly Mennonite Church Pastoral Team 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 Lora Nafziger loracn@assemblymennonite.org 574-312-0732 Pastoral Intern: Stephen Lowe sclowe@ambs.edu Pastor Emeritae: Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Administrative Assistant: Becky Overholt (Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm) office@assemblymennonite.org; 574-534-4190</p>	
<p>Church Administrator: Naomi Roots (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm) naomikr@assemblymennonite.org</p>	
<p>Please email announcements to 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.</p>	