



# Assembly Mennonite Church

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[Find COVID-19 Information Here](#)

# AssemblyLine

December 25, 2022

Volume XLI, Number 52

## WORSHIP

Join us on Sundays in Person, or [on Zoom](#)

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| <p><b>Dec 25</b><br/> <b>Christmas Day – No Morning Worship</b><br/> <b>5:00 PM Worship with Faith Mennonite</b><br/> <i>No Sunday school</i></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Kay Bontrager-Singer<br/> <b>Scripture:</b> Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14,<br/>         Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)</p> | <p><b>Jan 1</b><br/> <b>New Year's Day</b><br/> <i>2% Offering</i><br/> <b>9:30 AM Breakfast potluck</b><br/> <b>10:30 AM Worship</b><br/> <i>No Sunday school</i></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Becky Snider<br/> <b>Sermon:</b> Jonathon Schramm<br/> <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 2:13-23, Isaiah 63:7-9</p> |
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## SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

**10am Play practice and set up**

**5pm Candle dance rehearsal** Interested in dancing the candle dance on Christmas Eve? Join with others to practice this simple dance at 5 p.m. [You can see it here.](#)

**6pm Christmas eve supper & service** Soup supper followed by a children's play and candle dance. **Please bring your own bowl, spoon and cup.** Even if you haven't signed up, you are welcome to attend. There will be a wooden box available for offering.

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 25

**5pm Worship** Join us for worship with Faith Mennonite. There will not be a sermon, but there will be lots of singing, children's time and childcare available. Separate offering baskets will be available for Assembly & Faith. Please bring a plate of cookies to share. This service will also be available [on Zoom](#).

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/>.

## COMING UP

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

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY                                     | WED  | TH | FRI  | SAT   |
|--|--|---|--|----|--|---|
| Dec 25<br><i>Christmas Day</i><br>● 5pm Worship with Faith<br>No Sunday school                     |  |   |  |    |  |   |
| Jan 1<br><i>2% offering</i><br>● 9:30am Breakfast potluck<br>● 10:30am Worship<br>No Sunday school |  | Jan 3<br>● 7pm Leadership group             | Jan 4<br>● 1pm: Women's lunch bunch<br>● 5:30pm Small group child care |    | Jan 6<br>● 9am Play group<br>● 9:30am Greencroft meet up |   |
| Jan 8<br>● 8:45am Young adult breakfast<br>● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school                        | Jan 9<br>● 6:30pm Dance group (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the Zoom link) | Jan 10<br>● 6:30pm Labyrinth walk (indoors) |  |    | Jan 13<br>● 9am Play group                               | Jan 14<br>● 9:30am Assembly Green team<br>● 11am Mentor/mentee event at OxBow<br>● 3-7pm: Women's Christmas |

## NEW YEAR'S & EPIPHANY

- **New Year's Day breakfast potluck: Sun, Jan 1, 9:30am.** Followed by worship at 10:30am. Out of consideration for the meal volunteers, **please bring your own household table service.** Finger foods are encouraged to simplify clean up!
- **New Year's Day Harmonia Sacra Singing: Sun, Jan 1, 1-5pm.** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Waltner Hall Chapel of the Word. A light potluck supper follows. We ask that you be vaccinated, although we won't require documentation. We ask that you wear a mask at all times except when eating or drinking. If you have symptoms that could be Covid, even if you've tested negative, please stay home and take care of yourself. Joseph Funk's *The Harmonia Sacra* is a four-part, seven-shape songbook which is extremely significant in Mennonite hymnody. For more information, contact Samuel Sommers at [scmws@yahoo.com](mailto:scmws@yahoo.com)
- **A Path Called Solace: Assembly Women's Christmas – Sat, Jan 14, 3-7pm.** Join us for an evening of restoration, food and fellowship with other women. 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. Soup will be provided. Please bring table service and a dish to share. If interested in attending, [sign up here](#). Planned by Anne Birky, Becky Overholt & Meribeth Shank.

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

**Out of office:** Anna Yoder Schlabach will be gone Dec 27 & 28. Becky Overholt will be out of the office on Tuesday, Dec 27. Please contact Lora Nafziger, Karl Shelly or Scott Coulter for any pastoral needs.

**Weather cancellations:** Winter is officially here! Just a reminder that Assembly often does not cancel worship. If for some reason, worship or other activities are canceled, it will be reported on WNDU and a listserv email will be sent out.

**Scent sensitivities:** One way we care for each other is to avoid wearing heavy scents to church. Some people are sensitive to strong perfume and hair products. Read more about [Multiple Chemical Sensitivity here](#).

**Assembly is down to only one coffee carafe.** There used to be several white carafes. If you have accidentally taken one home please return it to the meetinghouse at your earliest convenience.

**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>. **(Please respond by Dec 25).**

**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

**End of Year Giving.** In order for offerings to meet our anticipated expenses for 2022, we still need \$41,000 in giving before Dec 31. **Sunday evening, Dec 25** is the last opportunity to put money in the offering basket during worship this year, but you can also give by sending a check to the church office, or you can donate through the church website [here](#). 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.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Seminary scholarships for VSers.** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers a 75% tuition discount to current voluntary service participants and a \$1,500 scholarship to former voluntary service participants for graduate-level coursework. Enrollment must occur within five years of completion of the VS assignment. Sign up for a course now, or tap a shoulder! [ambs.edu/vs](https://ambs.edu/vs)

**Seminary Preview Webinar.** Thinking about seminary? Or do you know someone who might be? Join us online on **Wednesday, Jan. 18, 8–8:45 p.m. EST**, and get a glimpse of what Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary has to offer — whether you want to study at a distance or on our campus in Elkhart, Indiana. Areas of study at AMBS include pastoral ministry, chaplaincy, Christian formation, peacebuilding, Anabaptist theology, environmental sustainability leadership and more. Register online: [ambs.edu/preview](https://ambs.edu/preview)

## WIDER CHURCH

**A Christmas message** from Mennonite Mission Network can be viewed [here](#).

**Community Peacemaker Teams** recent newsletter can be read [here](#).

**Mennonite Church USA (MC USA)** has named John Stoner and Clara Weybright as this year's #BringThePeace awardees. Stoner received the Legacy Peacemaker award, and Weybright received the Young Peacemaker award. The awards are sponsored by MC USA's Church Peace Tax Fund. Read more about the awardees here: [mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award](https://mennoniteusa.org/news/2022-bringthepeace-award)

**Important Dove's Nest announcement:** Over the past several months the Board has explored a variety of options to keep the organization moving forward. While the work of Dove's Nest remains essential, the Board has reached the

difficult conclusion that the present structure is not sustainable. They are now in serious conversation with **Mennonite Church USA** about how this work can be continued and supported more broadly within the denomination. While nothing has been decided at this time, all money Dove's Nest has, and continues to receive, will be completely dedicated to the work of abuse prevention which is stipulated in the bylaws.

**Mennonite Disaster Service's** December edition of *On the Level* is now available. In the current issue: find out why some disaster survivors may think it's absurd for MDS volunteers to help rebuild and restore; celebrate six home dedications in time for the holidays in Crisfield, MD; and get more details on how to register for the MDS annual celebration in Pennsylvania in February. Read more [here](#).

**Mennonite Creation Care Network's** December newsletter can be read [here](#).

**Mennonite Mission Network** offers a blessing for each member of your congregation on this Christmas Day. May we encourage one another to follow Jesus' example and become incarnations of God's love and peace in our communities, today and in the coming year.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)** is seeking applicants for two open positions.

- **Project Coordinator-Burkina Faso:** MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator responsible for mentoring and building capacity of local partners towards greater independence and sustainability and, alongside the MCC Burkina Faso Country Representatives, will assist in all planning, monitoring, and evaluating activities for various projects related to conservation agriculture, peace building, education, health, and emergency assistance. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/burkina](http://mcc.org/burkina).
- **Seed Guatemala-El Salvador Coordinator (Español abajo):** MCC is seeking a Seed Coordinator who will coordinate the second SEED Cohort for Guatemala and El Salvador. This position involves the planning, organization and implementation of a service, reflection and peacebuilding program with an intercultural team of young adults in the complex and enriching context of Guatemala and El Salvador. This position will be based in Guatemala and will be supervised by the MCC Representatives for Guatemala and El Salvador. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/seed-guatemala](http://mcc.org/seed-guatemala).

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

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| <p><b>Assembly Mennonite Church</b><br/><b>Pastoral Team</b><br/>Karl Shelly <a href="mailto:karlss@assemblymennonite.org">karlss@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-621-1037<br/>Anna Yoder Schlabach <a href="mailto:annays@assemblymennonite.org">annays@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-312-5319<br/>Scott Coulter <a href="mailto:scottc@assemblymennonite.org">scottc@assemblymennonite.org</a> 419-535-2918<br/>Lora Nafziger <a href="mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org">loracn@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-312-0732<br/><b>Pastoral Intern:</b> Stephen Lowe <a href="mailto:sclowe@ambs.edu">sclowe@ambs.edu</a><br/><b>Pastor Emeritae:</b> Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder</p> | <p><b>Elders:</b> Randy Roth (chair), Sandy Fribley, Eric Yordy, Leon Bauman, Sara Morris, Cheryl Shreiner, Ben Good-Elliott<br/><b>Youth Coordinators:</b> Erich Miller, Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Ryan Gomez Wengerd, Gretchen Krause</p> |
| <p><b>Administrative Assistant:</b> Becky Overholt (Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-3pm) <a href="mailto:office@assemblymennonite.org">office@assemblymennonite.org</a>; 574-534-4190<br/><b>Church Administrator:</b> Naomi Roots (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm) <a href="mailto:naomikr@assemblymennonite.org">naomikr@assemblymennonite.org</a></p>  |   |
| <p>Please email announcements to <a href="mailto:assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org">assemblyline@assemblymennonite.org</a> by 11PM local time Thursday for inclusion in the following Sunday's AssemblyLine. To receive the AssemblyLine via email visit <a href="http://eepurl.com/bsXsDr">http://eepurl.com/bsXsDr</a>.</p>   |   |