



# Assembly Mennonite Church

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<https://assemblymennonite.org/>

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[Find COVID-19 Information Here](#)

# AssemblyLine

January 1, 2023

Volume XLII, Number 1

## WORSHIP

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

<p><b>Jan 1</b>  <b>New Year's Day</b>  <i>2% Offering</i>  <b>9:30 AM Breakfast potluck</b>  <b>10:30 AM Worship</b>  <i>No Sunday school</i></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Becky Snider  <b>Sermon:</b> Jonathon Schramm  <b>Scripture:</b> Matthew 2:13-23, Isaiah 63:7-9</p>	<p><b>Jan 8</b>  <b>Epiphany</b>  <b>9:30 AM Worship &amp; Sunday school</b></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Michael Miller  <b>Sermon:</b> Stephen Lowe  <b>Scripture:</b> Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14,  Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12</p>
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## SUNDAY JANUARY 1

**9:30am Breakfast potluck** Bring plenty of breakfast food to share! **Finger foods are encouraged**, to simplify cleanup. Coffee and tea are provided. **Please bring your own household table service (bowls, plates, silverware).**

**10:30am Worship.** On this first Sunday of 2023, our Advent & Christmastide worship series continues with the ongoing theme of "Restoration is Near". In Jesus, God puts on flesh and dwells with us. Jesus has come and brought about restoration! And yet, God's restorative work is ongoing. We live in a world deeply in need of restoration. God comes to us in all our distress.

## COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	TH	FRI	SAT
<p>Jan 1  <i>2% offering</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Breakfast potluck</li> <li>10:30am Worship</li> </ul> <p>No Sunday school</p>		<p>Jan 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Leadership group</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm: Women's lunch bunch</li> <li>5:30pm Small group child care</li> </ul>		<p>Jan 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Play group</li> <li>9:30am Greencroft meet up</li> </ul>	
<p>Jan 8  <i>Epiphany</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am Young adult breakfast</li> <li>9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Yoga</li> <li>6:30pm Dance group (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the Zoom link)</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Labyrinth walk (indoors)</li> </ul>			<p>Jan 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Play group</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30am Assembly Green team</li> <li>11am Mentor/mentee event at OxBow</li> <li>3-7pm: Women's Christmas (<a href="#">sign up here</a>)</li> </ul>
<p>Jan 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:45am Young adult breakfast</li> <li>9:30am Worship &amp; Sunday school</li> <li>12:15pm Reparations group</li> <li>7pm Congregational meeting (in person)</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Yoga</li> </ul>	<p>Jan 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:15pm Small group Reps meeting</li> </ul>			<p>Jan 20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Play group</li> </ul>	

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

**Doctrine of Discovery Short Film.** In preparation for our upcoming worship series on Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery (starting Sunday January 15), the Repair Ministry Team and Worship Committee encourage you to view [this 43-minute documentary, "Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ"](#). Consider watching and discussing it with your small group or with a group of family or friends. (<https://dofdmverno.org/resources/movie/>)

**Help Plan Carnival Sunday Worship.** Assembly traditionally celebrates Carnival on the Sunday before the beginning of Lent. Carnival falls on February 19 this year. We are looking for eager creative folks to help plan this seriously playful Sunday. The theme will likely be "Becoming Human." Intrigued and interested? Contact [loracn@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org) to participate in the planning.

## COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

**Women's Lunch Bunch.** Join us at 1pm on Wednesday, Jan 4. Our speaker is AJ Delgadillo from the [Goshen Community Relations Commission](#). He is looking forward to meeting with us in person at the meetinghouse. Bring your questions.

**Small group childcare:** This Wednesday, Jan 4, from 5:30-8pm. [Please sign your children up on this form](#) by Monday, Jan 2.

**Sunday morning young adult breakfast** will begin again on January 8 at 8:45am every Sunday. All are invited who are post high school up through age 30.

**Yoga class** will again be offered on Monday evenings from 4:30-5:30pm starting on January 9.

**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](#) by January 8. Planned by Anne Birky, Becky Overholt & Meribeth Shank.

**Plan to join our upcoming congregational meeting January 15 at 7 pm.** Agenda will be shared in next week's Assemblyline.

**Naomi Roots is out of the office through January 12.** Until she returns to work, contact [scottc@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:scottc@assemblymennonite.org) with facility concerns, and for check requests contact [treasurer@assemblymennonite.org](mailto:treasurer@assemblymennonite.org).

**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.

**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.

### COVID-19 Policy

Masks are optional during worship & Sunday school, unless Elkhart County's Community Risk Level becomes "High" (according to [covidactnow.org](https://www.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/>.

## WIDER CHURCH

The Central District Conference *Connector* newsletter for December can be read [here](#).

**How shall Central District Conference live into the resolution on Repentance and Transformation? An Invitation to be Heard.** The Leadership Council met at the end of October and one agenda item included responding to this question. One thing that was clear is that CDC leadership is called to listen to the stories of those who have experienced harm by the church or whose gifts have not been welcomed in the church because of their sexual identity or the sexual identity of a family member. The CDC ministerial committee encourages anyone or any congregation who would like to begin a conversation to contact either Gayle Gerber Koontz, ministerial committee chairperson [ggkoontz@ambs.edu](mailto:ggkoontz@ambs.edu), or Conference Minister Doug Luginbill [confmin@mcusacdc.org](mailto:confmin@mcusacdc.org)

Mennonite Men's most recent newsletter can be [read here](#).

Daily prayers for Mennonite education for the month of January can be read [here](#).

**Mennonite Mission Network prayer request.** In this new year, may we be channels of God's love and light to our neighbors and, through Mennonite Mission Network personnel and partners, to our brothers and sisters on six continents.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Webinar: Facing Ministry Pain: Four Ways We Cope.** Mennonite Church USA and the Kineo Center invite pastors and leaders to participate in this upcoming webinar on **Wednesday, Jan. 4**, from 2-3:00 p.m. ET. Register here: [mennoniteusa.org/kineo-center-webinar](https://mennoniteusa.org/kineo-center-webinar)

**Book Reading & Discussion:** Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship will be offering a book reading and discussion of the book, *The Complete Writings of Menno Simons c. 1496-1561*, translated from the Dutch by Leonard Verduin and edited by John Christian Wenger, with a biography of Menno Simons by Harold S. Bender; Published by Herald Press, 1984, Second Printing. Meetings will be weekly via zoom on Wednesdays at 7:30p and will begin on Wednesday, January 9, 2023 and continue through Wednesday, May 24. We will aim to finish in an hour. Some weeks we may not have a lot to discuss, some weeks the discussion may continue. For syllabus and zoom information, please contact Joel Thierstein at [Mennonite.joel@gmail.com](mailto:Mennonite.joel@gmail.com).

**Online workshop – Leading the Church through Transformation, Change & Renewal: Jan 10-13, 2023.** Offered by Conrad Grebel University College and moderated by [Betty Pries](#), this workshop is suitable for anyone involved in a leadership role in a congregation. This workshop explores the dynamics of leading change as well as drawing from both the congregational life cycle and the rhythms of the journey of renewal. Click [here](#) for more information.

**MennoPIN (Mennonite Palestine Israel Network)** invites you to a 1-hour Zoom conversation with Suheil Tarazi and Hani Farah of the Gaza YMCA on Saturday, January 14 at 10:00 am EST. Suheil and Hani will talk about the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the compelling work that the YMCA is doing to support families in the midst of these dire conditions caused by the ongoing Israeli blockade. David Janzen of the Fellowship of Hope Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana will moderate the conversation. The Fellowship of Hope and Gaza YMCA meet by Zoom twice monthly and have been partners for over two years through MennoPIN's "Twinning with Gaza" Initiative. There are currently four such relationships between Mennonite Church USA congregations and non-profit groups in Gaza. The purpose of the initiative is to increase our denomination's awareness of the situation faced by the people in Gaza and their resilient work to express God's love. Join the Zoom link [here](#).

**Free Financial classes from LaCasa:** Classes offered include mastering your debt, mastering homeownership, mastering your credit & mastering your money. Classes are free with registration from Jan-March. For more information, click [here](#).

**Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary Pastors & Leaders 2023: Reimagining Ministry: Feb. 13–16.** How do we think about our ministry in this time of collective trauma? This conference will give participants ideas and practices to help nurture resilience, compassion and hope in themselves and in their congregations by learning from Jesus' ministry. Join us in person or online! Register by Jan. 7 to save \$50. [ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders](https://ambs.edu/pastors-and-leaders)

## 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](#). **Mennonite Church USA's** job postings are [here](#).

<p><b>Assembly Mennonite Church</b> <b>Pastoral Team</b> Karl Shelly <a href="mailto:karlss@assemblymennonite.org">karlss@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-621-1037 Anna Yoder Schlabach <a href="mailto:annays@assemblymennonite.org">annays@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-312-5319 Scott Coulter <a href="mailto:scottc@assemblymennonite.org">scottc@assemblymennonite.org</a> 419-535-2918 Lora Nafziger <a href="mailto:loracn@assemblymennonite.org">loracn@assemblymennonite.org</a> 574-312-0732 <b>Pastoral Intern:</b> Stephen Lowe <a href="mailto:sclowe@ambs.edu">sclowe@ambs.edu</a> <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 <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</p>	
<p><b>Church Administrator:</b> Naomi Roots (Mon, Wed, Fri 9am-12pm) <a href="mailto:naomikr@assemblymennonite.org">naomikr@assemblymennonite.org</a></p>	
<p><b>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>.</b></p>	