



Assembly Mennonite Church

727 New York St, Goshen, Indiana 46526

<https://assemblymennonite.org/>

office@assemblymennonite.org

[Find COVID-19 Information Here](#)

AssemblyLine

January 8, 2023

Volume XLII, Number 2

WORSHIP

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

<p>Jan 8 Epiphany 9:30 AM Worship & Sunday school</p> <p>Worship Leader: Michael Miller Sermon: Stephen Lowe Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 3:13-17</p>	<p>Jan 15 9:30AM Worship & Sunday school</p> <p>Worship Leader: Small Group Zed Sermon: Luke Gascho Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19</p>
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SUNDAY JANUARY 8

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

9:30am Worship. This Sunday we mark both Epiphany (Jan 6) and the Baptism of Jesus. “Epiphany” means “realization,” a revelation or manifestation of God. This ancient festival falls on the 13th day of Christmastide, and celebrates “the sudden discovery of who Jesus was and what his coming into the world meant for humanity.” Epiphany is linked to the Gospel stories of the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana. (from amnetwork.uk).

Updated COVID-19 Information. As of Jan 5, Elkhart County is at “Medium” COVID-19 Community Level. At this level, the CDC recommends wearing a high-quality mask (e.g. N95) when you are indoors with high-risk individuals. Please consider wearing a mask in worship to help protect high-risk individuals worshipping with us. Visit <https://assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information/> for more information.

Second hour: In an ongoing effort to be a fully welcoming congregation to queer and transgender folks, we’ll be using second hour on Sunday to show the first part of a webinar called "A Name Greater, A Christian and Transgender Training." It is produced by Father Shannon Kearney, a transgender ordained priest, playwright, theologian and creator of [Queer Theology](#). While some of it may be review, we are aware that the work of inclusion is ongoing and ever-changing and all of us have more to learn.

Sunday School classes for children and youth (infants through 12th grade) immediately follow first hour. Locations of classrooms by age/grade are posted in the Gathering Space.

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.

<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 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>	

CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS



J Kern (K, Waterford) turned 6 on Dec. 31st! J loves math tests and art stations at school. J likes to do dance parties and listen to stories at home. J is good at telling stories and solving problems and likes to swim, jump on the trampoline and is very ticklish!



Sadie Janzen (2nd Bethany) turned 8 on Jan1st! Sadie likes to draw and collect rocks and stuffed animals. She is a good acrobat and does tricks on the monkey bars and the trampoline. She plays violin and likes to read with her parents and likes to play horsey with her sister. Over the holidays she likes to spend time with cousins. She wants to learn to walk on her hands.

COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	W	TH	FRI	SAT
Jan 8 <i>Epiphany</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Young adult breakfast 9:30am Worship & Sunday school 	Jan 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 & 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Dance group (contact Linda Schlabach Miller for the Zoom link) 	Jan 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Labyrinth walk (indoors) 			Jan 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Play group 	Jan 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Assembly Green team 3-7pm: Women's Christmas (sign up here)
Jan 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Young adult breakfast 9:30am Worship & Sunday school 12:15pm Reparations group 7pm Congregational meeting (in person) 	Jan 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 & 6pm Yoga 	Jan 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:15pm Small group Reps meeting 			Jan 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Play group 	
Jan 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am Young adult breakfast 9:30am Worship & Sunday school 	Jan 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 & 6pm Yoga 6:30pm Dance group 			Jan 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Play group 		

SERVING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Bushelcraft Farm (an educational nonprofit farm) is providing food baskets to families at Boys & Girls Club throughout the winter. This involves some fresh produce from our farm, but also we include recipes and staple ingredients to put in the baskets. **Next baskets will be delivered Mon Jan 9. We'd like to get ingredients by this Sunday if possible.** Here are specific items we'll need for the baskets:

*8 dozen eggs (or if folks get generous, we could say 16, 2 per family). Prefer non-GMO fed, cage free.

Organic would be great. *8 small bottles of olive oil *8 loaves of sliced whole wheat bread

If you would like to help participate in this work (purchasing items yourself, or donating financially), please **contact Jon Zirkle** directly (bushelcraftfarm@gmail.com or call/text my cell #) **by this Saturday night**. Note that we will deliver food baskets at least 3 more times this winter and early spring if you'd like to help later. Thanks!

COMMUNITY LIFE AT ASSEMBLY

Hospitality Tasks Calendar. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with Sunday morning tasks in 2023. [Calendars listing volunteers for each Sunday can be found here](#). (Thank Becky Overholt for her work coordinating these volunteers!)

Assembly Women's Christmas – Sat, Jan 14, 3-7pm. Join other Assembly women for a time of contemplation as we reflect on the themes of grief & solace. Our evening will include reflection, walking the labyrinth, doing a creative project individually, singing & blessing each other. We will also share a meal together. Soup will be provided. Please bring a dish to share (vegetarian & gluten-free options appreciated), table service including a bowl, and mug for hot drinks. You may also want to bring a journal/pen and a sweater. Cost is \$10 for materials. [Sign up here](#) by **January 9**. Planned by Anne Birky, Becky Overholt & Meribeth Shank.

Yoga Classes begin Monday 9th January and will run for 6 weeks. Due to demand Alma will lead 2 classes from 4.30 - 5.30pm and 6pm - 7pm. Overall theme is to be more present in our lives, moment by moment, through gentle movement and stretching, encouraging strength, flexibility and balance. Pranayama (Breathing Practices) and Yoga Nidra (relaxation). Suggested donation of \$10.

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.

Mentors and mentees are encouraged to gather once a month. The second Saturday suggested activity this month is to go sledding or for a walk at Oxbow at 10 AM Saturday, January 14. This is an informal (self-guided) event; if you're interested in participating, make plans with your mentor/mentee and check in with other mentor-mentee pairs if you want to be sure to have company.

Craft Plants Wanted for Assembly Library. Maria Wenger, chair of the library committee, is looking for people to make some plants for our own Assembly Library. Instead of keeping live plants in there or buying plastic artificial ones, she'd like to warm up the space with some craft-made plants. They could be made of felt, fabric, paper, etc. They'll 'live' primarily above the shelves, near the ceiling. No previous crafting experience necessary, all plants accepted. Might be a great family or mentor/mentee project. Please let Maria know if you're interested: Maria Wenger 404-435-1536.

Plan to join our upcoming congregational meeting next Sunday January 15 at 7 pm. We will meet in the Worship Space in person; there will be an option to watch/listen to the meeting live via Zoom. Agenda items include: first reading of the 2023 Spending Plan, second reading of the [Montessori Preschool proposal](#), and second reading of the [Elder Selection Process proposal](#).

Leadership Group met this past Tuesday. Agenda items included the 2023 Spending Plan and planning a new Capital Campaign to pay off the mortgage. Approved December congregational meeting & Leadership group minutes can be read [here](#).

Exciting Update on the Building Mortgage! Thanks to your generous giving to the building fund, an astonishing \$158,600 in extra payments was made on the mortgage principal in 2022! We now are on track to pay off the mortgage by March 2026 (more than 13 years ahead of schedule! – [see chart here](#)). For monthly updates on the mortgage visit <https://www.assemblymennonite.org/minutiae/finances/>.

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

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Worship Series (Jan 15-Feb 12). Assembly recently joined [a coalition of Anabaptist groups and congregations committed to the cause of Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery](#): a historic and ongoing legal/philosophical framework that gave Christian governments moral and legal rights to invade and seize Indigenous lands and dominate Indigenous Peoples. Each week we will hear from speakers in first and second hour who have engaged this work. How might God be calling us to repent and repair? How might telling our stories in different ways invite us to new ways of relating to our neighbors and to the land? [For the complete series introduction click here](#). As preparation for this series, we encourage you to watch the documentary "[Doctrine of Discovery, In the Name of Christ](#)" and/or listen to [the Doctrine of Discovery podcast](#), with your small group or with a group of family or friends.

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 to participate in the planning.

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Masks are optional during worship & Sunday school, unless Elkhart County's Community Risk Level becomes "High" – 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.**

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee: Are you looking for a resolution for the new year? Why not add "Volunteer with MCC's SWAP" to your list? Volunteering with SWAP gives you the opportunity to share the love of Christ in tangible ways as you work with homeowners to make their homes safe, warm and dry. Located in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky and West Virginia, SWAP volunteers grow and learn as they serve and experience Appalachian culture. For more information and to register, visit mcc.org/swap

WIDER CHURCH

Register for Grand Camp at Camp Friedenswald! [Grand Camp](#) (March 31-April 1) provides a weekend filled with quality time for grandparents (or grand-friends) and grandchildren to make memories together at Friedenswald. This one-night camp will include times of storytelling, guided conversations, art projects and time in nature. Lisa Weaver will be sharing stories from her co-authored book Let the Children Come to Me. The theme this year is "Walking with Jesus."

Mark your Calendars: Central District Conference 2023 mid-year gatherings will happen on Feb 11, 10a-3pm ET at Columbus Mennonite Church and on March 18, 10a-3p ET, location TBD. More information & registration forthcoming.

Mennonite Church USA will host its annual Hope for the Future conference Feb. 3-5 in Atlanta. The conference welcomes MC USA-affiliated BIPOC leaders and young adults for a time of networking and mutual edification. Register by Jan. 18. Learn more here: mennoniteusa.org/hope-for-the-future

Area conference ministers from Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada gathered in San Francisco in early December for renewal, training and collaborative work around a new misconduct accountability and prevention guide. mennoniteusa.org/proposed-misconduct-policies

Mennonite Mission Network prayer request. Mennonite Mission Network praises God for the 40 SOOP participants who are serving this month in places like Kykotsmovi, Phoenix, and Tucson, Arizona; Gotha, Florida; Americus, Georgia; Meridian, Mississippi; Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania; and San Antonio, Texas. Pray that they will be instruments of God's justice, peace and love.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary 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 AMBS short course and save \$50. ambs.edu/online-short-courses

Do you want to explore a call to ministry? Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary's distance-friendly undergraduate-level **Journey Missional Leadership Development Program** supports learners as they explore spiritual leadership in their local churches and communities and deepen their understanding of Anabaptist theology and ministry with a dedicated mentor. The Spring 2023 cohort begins Feb. 22; application deadline is Jan. 11. ambs.edu/journey

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