

## WORSHIP

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

<p><b>December 31</b>  <b>9:30AM Christmas breakfast potluck</b>  <b>10:30AM Lessons &amp; Carols</b></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Becky Snider</p>	<p><b>January 7</b>  <b>9:30AM Worship</b>  <b>Sunday school</b>  <i>Epiphany</i>  <i>2% Offering</i></p> <p><b>Worship Leader:</b> Susan Nelson  <b>Sermon:</b> Mary Lehman Yoder  <b>Scripture:</b> Mark 1: 1-20</p>
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## SUNDAY DECEMBER 31

**9:30am Breakfast potluck.** Please bring festive finger foods to share as well as your own plate & cup.

**10:30am Worship.** Join us for a musical service of Lessons and Carols planned around themes of names for the Christ Child as we celebrate Christmas Sunday! [The Order of Worship can be read here.](#)

There is no Sunday school or 2<sup>nd</sup> hour this Sunday. If you are able, please help reorient the chairs in the Worship space.

**Sharing Prayer Requests.** Prayer requests are sent out to the congregation via the Assembly listserv on Wednesdays. If you have something to share with the congregation and are not able to share it on Sunday morning during sharing time, [please fill out this Google Form](#). If you wish a pastor to follow up with you, please contact a pastor directly via email or phone.

<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> Isaiah Friesen <a href="mailto:ifriesen@ams.edu">ifriesen@ams.edu</a>  <b>Pastor Emeritae:</b> Lois Johns Kaufmann, Mary Lehman Yoder</p>	<p><b>Elders:</b> Sara Morris (chair), Randy Roth, Leon Bauman, Cheryl Shreiner, Trevor Daugherty, Ben Sywulka, Alex Graber Neufeld  <b>Youth Coordinators:</b> Marlette Gomez Wengerd, Ryan Gomez Wengerd, Stephen Lowe, 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  <b>Church Administrator:</b> Naomi Roots (out of office through Jan 16) <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="https://tinyurl.com/Aline-subscribe">https://tinyurl.com/Aline-subscribe</a>.</p>	

## COMING UP

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Dec 31 ● 9:30am Christmas breakfast ● 10:30am Lessons & Carols	<i>Office closed</i>		Jan 3 ● 11:30am Women's lunch bunch ● 5:30-8pm Small group childcare		Jan 5 ● 9:30am Greencroft meetup ● MYF Winter camp	Jan 6 ● 10am-3pm Women's Christmas ● MYF winter camp
Jan 7 <i>Epiphany</i> <i>2% Offering</i> ● MYF winter camp ● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school ● 12:00pm Immigrant Ministry team ● 7pm UN Climate change presentation <a href="#">on Zoom</a>	Jan 8 ● 6pm Dance group	Jan 9 ● 7pm Leadership group			Jan 12 ● JYF winter camp ● 5-8pm Glen Miller visitation	Jan 13 ● JYF winter camp ● 11am Glen Miller memorial service with meal to follow
Jan 14 ● JYF winter camp ● 8:45am Young adult breakfast ● 9:30am Worship & Sunday school	Jan 15 ● 6pm Dance group	Jan 16 ● 7:15pm Small group reps				Jan 20 ● 3pm MYF

## COVID-19 UPDATE

**COVID-19 Risk Level and CDC Recommended Precautions - UPDATE:** The Elkhart County Hospital Admission Level has recently gone up to **Medium** for the first time since January 2023, with a 40% increase in new hospital admissions of confirmed COVID-19 cases according to the CDC.

**The CDC recommends masking indoors in public for:** those who are at high risk, those with household or social contact with someone at high risk (when indoors with them), and anyone with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Anyone may choose to mask at any time.

At Assembly, we continue to meet for worship as usual, with **masks optional**. However, we encourage those who are at high risk to consider joining worship on Zoom. As always, please stay home and join us on Zoom if you have symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test. If you have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 but do not have symptoms, please wear a mask in accordance with CDC guidelines if you choose to come to worship.

More information can be found on our church website at <https://assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information>.

## COMMUNITY LIFE

**Breakfast potluck this Sunday!** On Dec 31, at 9:30am please join us and bring a festive finger food to share and your own place settings. A service of Lessons & Carols will follow at 10:30am.

**UN Climate Change conference presentation.** You are invited to a conversation with Jim Stump about his recent participation in COP28 - the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Dubai, U.A.E. Find out what that was all about, how the international faith community was involved, and what if anything was accomplished. This conversation with Jim will happen in the Assembly [Zoom room](#), on Sunday, January 7 at 7 pm.

**Family pictures?** Did you take a new family picture for the holidays? The office would love to have a copy to upload to the church directory. Please send a digital photo to [this email](#) or you can upload it to the online directory yourself. If you are not in the directory and would like to be added, please contact the office.

**Membership transfer:** Naomi Chapman & Robin Chico have requested their congregational membership be transferred to Skyridge Church of the Brethren in Kalamazoo. We celebrate that they are finding a good community at Skyridge.

**Glen Miller Memorial service.** The visitation for Glen Miller will be Friday, Jan 12 from 5-8pm at Assembly and the memorial service will be Saturday, Jan 13 at 11 am with a meal to follow. The service will also be streamed on Zoom.

Thank you for your generous giving! **In order to avoid a deficit for 2023, we still need about \$15,000 in giving by December 31st.** We do have enough cash reserves to pay all our bills.

**This Sunday, Dec 31** 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 dropping it in the check drop box in the north door, or you can donate through the church website [here](#).

## GOSHEN MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL

**Goshen Montessori Preschool** is an active and thriving child-care ministry of our church. During the week, our building is filled with a cacophony of sounds from busy toddlers, preschoolers, and teachers. Can you help us fulfill our mission as we move into 2024? We welcome your [donations](#). Read more [here](#).

## DOING JUSTICE & SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

**Young adults! Mennonite Central Committee Appalachia SWAP program is accepting applications for 2024.** SWAP is a home repair ministry program in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. Volunteers help families make their homes safe, warm and dry, while building relationships and learning about Appalachia. Apply today to reserve your spot at <https://mcc.org/get-involved/volunteer/swap>

**Our neighbors are hungry.** This is the last month to add a donation to the grey bin under the mailboxes. Barb Hassan will be taking your contributions to Center for Healing & Hope. Their Tiny Pantry is a no-barrier access to food at any time for anyone. They especially need rice, canned beans, tortillas (flour or corn), applesauce, peanut butter, toilet paper, feminine products and soap. Want to take something special for the holidays? Winter hat/glove sets, socks, Abuelita Mexican hot chocolate and oranges are welcome. Assembly is not solely responsible for filling the pantry this month, but we will be again sometime next year. Comments? Susan Mark Landis

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

**January Women's lunch bunch** will be Jan 3 at 11:30am. Anna Yoder Schlabach will be speaking about her sabbatical. Bring your lunch; drinks provided.

**Small group childcare:** The next small group childcare will take place on Jan 3 from 5:30-8pm. [Please sign up your children here.](#)

**Women's Christmas, Sat., Jan. 6 at the meetinghouse, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** The title for this year's retreat is "In the Light of a New Constellation" by Jan Richardson. This five-hour gathering will offer time for conversation, quiet reflection, and artistic expression. A \$10 registration fee covers the cost of materials. Note paper will be included, but feel free to bring your journal. You may want a sweater or jacket. Hot drinks will be available. A variety of soups will be provided for lunch. Please bring finger foods or desserts to share (remember: some eat gluten-free, others are vegetarians). Bring your own table service: bowls, spoons, mugs, napkins. Contact any retreat committee member if you have questions: Meribeth Shank, Anne Birky, Alma Boyle, Deb Johnston, Sandy Fribley. **RSVP by Dec. 31.** To sign up, [click here](#).

## MENNONITE ACTION

There are a number of ways you can take action in support of a ceasefire in Palestine (in order from least to highest commitment):

- Sign a petition with hundreds of other US Mennonites calling on our federal representatives to support a permanent ceasefire. [Click here for the petition](#)
- Join the **Slack Channel** where folks can meet each other and keep up to date for the most recent movement/plans from Menno Action. [Click here to join the Slack channel](#)
- **Action Hours:** On Tuesdays and Thursdays Mennonite Action will hold action hours where they will call our representatives together, as a Mennonite community. [We encourage you to join as many of these action hours as you're able, as our representatives need to continue to hear from us.](#)
- On January 16th, hundreds of Mennonites will gather in Washington DC to peacefully demonstrate for a permanent ceasefire. Together, we will show our political leaders, our fellow community members, and our Palestinian, Jewish, Arab and Muslim loved ones that there are Christians and Mennonites who stand with them in their call for peace and a ceasefire now. We will bring this petition with us, to demonstrate that thousands of Mennonites from across the United States stand together for a permanent ceasefire and an end to occupation. As soon as details are worked out, they'll be posted on [MennoAction's website](#).

## WIDER CHURCH

**Harmonia Sacra Singing** – New Year’s Day in the Waltner Hall Chapel of the Word at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary from 1-5 pm. A light potluck supper follows. All are invited to participate. For questions, contact Samuel Sommers at [scmws@yahoo.com](mailto:scmws@yahoo.com)

**Newsletters:** [Anabaptist Climate Collaborative](#)

**Prayer requests for January** are now available from Mennonite Education Agency [here](#).

**Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer.** Although 2023 is ending with much suffering and violence around the world, join Mennonite Mission Network personnel in proclaiming our hope in Jesus, who has overcome evil and injustice. May each of us continue to “be the Gospel” wherever we find ourselves.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Thinking about seminary?** Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers generous need-based financial aid, scholarships and church matching grants for students learning on campus or at a distance. Complete your Admissions Application now so you can be eligible to apply for merit-based scholarships by March 15 and ministry scholarships by April 1. [ambs.edu/affordability](https://ambs.edu/affordability)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Hively Avenue Preschool is seeking a teacher** to work with children ages 3 and 4. The position involves approximately 20 hours per week. A degree or certification in early childhood or elementary education is highly preferred. Interested candidates should email their resume to Amy Redar, preschool director [preschool@hivelymennonite.org](mailto:preschool@hivelymennonite.org)

**Hively Avenue Mennonite Church is seeking a half-time Administrative Secretary** by March 1, 2024. We seek an office manager who will maintain records, supplies and equipment, and be responsible for communication within the congregation and online. This position involves regular office hours M–F with flexibility for personal needs. Requirements assume familiarity with office software and equipment and the ability to work independently and interact easily with adults and children. For information, see the job description: [www.hivelymennonite.org/About/staff](http://www.hivelymennonite.org/About/staff). To apply, send a letter and resume to [Moderator@hivelymennonite.org](mailto:Moderator@hivelymennonite.org)

**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](#).

### Current COVID-19 Information (Dec 29, 2023)

In Elkhart County, Indiana, the [COVID-19 Community Risk Level](#) is **Medium**.

Masks are optional. Please join on Zoom if you are feeling sick.

We encourage everyone to stay up to date on vaccinations and boosters.

For current vaccination recommendations see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

For more information visit <https://assemblymennonite.org/covid-19-information/>