

**About the Cover:** A special thank you to Marian Hostetler for designing and sketching our beautiful weekly bulletin covers throughout this Advent-Christmas season. Each illustration has added depth and meaning to our worship experience, inviting us to reflect on the themes of the season in creative and thoughtful ways. Thank you, Marian, for sharing your artistic gifts with us and enriching our journey together.

As we look ahead to January and February, we'll be exploring stories from Exodus, and we welcome others who may wish to contribute artwork for our bulletin covers during this series. If you are interested, please reach out to Belen and Becky for more details. We'd love to feature your creativity!

**Attendance: December 29— 67**

### North Goshen Mennonite Church

501 N. 8th St., Goshen, IN 46528

574-533-4255 | [office@northgoshenmc.org](mailto:office@northgoshenmc.org)

[www.northgoshenmc.org](http://www.northgoshenmc.org)

### Pastoral Team

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Sabbath day: Monday

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# North Goshen Mennonite Church

## Sunday Following Christmas

*Nurturing Faith: From Whom Do We Learn?*

January 5, 2025

**Gathering Song** Todd H.  
*Morning Has Broken* VT 495

**Welcome & Announcements** Izaete N.

### Call to Worship

**Songs** *What Child Is This* VT 267  
*Open My Eyes That I May See* VT 738

**Candlelighting** Tim, Izaete, and Alaiza

**Song** *Longing for Light* VT 715

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** Izaete N.

**Offering Prayer & Song**  
*Shout to the Lord (Cante al Señor)* VT 125

**Children's Time** Erin, Kristina & Jenny

**Scripture:** Luke 2:41–52; Psalm 2:7–8

**Dramatic Monologue:** *A Mother's Epiphany* Terri Y.

**Song** O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem VT 275

### Sharing Time & Prayer

### Blessing

**Sending Song** *You Shall Go Out with Joy* VT 847

### Today

9:00 AM Sunday School

9:45 Koinonia Kafé

10:15 AM Worship: *A Mother's Epiphany*

**Koinonia Kafé:** It's a time to connect, enjoy fellowship, and share conversation over coffee and light refreshments. Whether you're new or a longtime member, all are welcome. We hope to see you there!

### Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Joan U., Bonnie C., & Kristina Be-Mo

Nursery: Belen R., Jeff U., & Jenny G.

Scripture Readers: Jake S., & Santa M.

Song Leader: Erica U. / Todd Translator: Erin Be-Mo

### Next Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:15 Worship: Stories of Exodus

Scripture & Focus: Exodus 3:1-12; *Exodus: Called by Name*

Worship Leader: Mary T. Song Leader: Erica U.

Speaker: Becky H. Children's Time: Erin Be-Mo

Children's Church: Elaine H., Kathy N.Y., & Jenny G.

Nursery: Robert M., Hilda L., & Kristina Be-Mo

**Epiphany Sunday:** Today, we celebrate Epiphany and conclude our Advent-Christmas series, *Together on the Journey*. Our focus, *Nurturing Faith: From Whom Do We Learn?*, invites us to reflect on how growth comes through asking questions, listening, and learning from one another. Through a dramatic monologue from Mary's perspective, we'll explore how God provides mentors and spaces for wisdom to take root and grow.

### Questions for reflection

- Who are the Magi and the teachers in your life?
- Who is helping you see the world differently?
- And how are you helping others grow, just as others have helped you?

**Visuals Today:** This Sunday's visuals reflect growth, learning, and the nurturing of faith. Beside the Christ candle, a cross-section of a tree trunk reveals concentric rings, symbolizing the slow, steady growth of a tree through seasons of abundance and challenge. Like these rings, faith grows layer by layer as we learn from God, one another, and life itself. On the bulletin cover, Marian's illustration depicts people gathered at the base of a tall, mature tree, symbolizing community and connection. Together, these visuals remind us that faith is nurtured in shared wisdom, rooted in love, and reaching outward in growth. As we reflect on today's theme, *Nurturing Faith: From Whom Do We Learn?* may these images inspire us to grow, like trees, in wisdom, grace, and strength.

**A Heartfelt Thank You:** We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to our Advent-Christmas worship journey. Thank you to the worship planners, musicians, candlelighters, visual creators, food organizers, worship leaders, and all who participated in our services, including the Christmas Eve celebration. Your collective gifts of time, creativity, and presence created space for us to reflect, connect, and grow together. In this season of light and love, your contributions remind us of the beauty of shared leadership and the power of community. Thank you for embodying the spirit of collaboration and offering your gifts in ways that nurtured faith and brought us closer to one another and to God.  
- Izaete & Becky

**A Special Thank You:** A heartfelt thank you to Erin, Kristina, Jenny, Jordan, and Ashlynn for the creativity and care you brought to our Children's Time puppet shows this Advent-Christmas season. Our work created meaningful connections with our children and invited the entire congregation into the joy and wonder of the season. Thank you for helping us reflect on God's love and the beauty of growing in faith together.

**Feedback on Email Newsletters:** We'd love to hear your thoughts on how best to communicate with you. Let us know which format works best for you so we can keep you informed in the way that's most helpful!

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**Exodus for Today: God's Call in Our Time:** Beginning next Sunday, we'll journey through the book of Exodus, where we explore themes of liberation, identity, resilience, and God's enduring presence. Each week, we'll draw connections between the Israelites' journey and our own, reflecting on what it means to be called by God, walk in faith, and build a community shaped by justice and hope. This Sunday, we begin with *Exodus: Called by Name*, focusing on Moses' encounter with the burning bush. Together, we'll reflect on how God knows us by name, calls us to sacred purpose, and invites us to respond with courage.

**Repeat Announcements:**

**Follow Jesus Mennonite convention 2025:** Registration for Mennonite Church USA's Follow Jesus '25 convention will open Jan. 6, 2025, for early-bird pricing. The denomination's biennial faith formation gathering will take place at Koury Convention Center, in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Learn more at the MCUSA website.

**Job Opening:** Hively Avenue Mennonite Church is seeking a half-time Administrative Secretary / office manager who will maintain records, supplies and equipment, and be responsible for communication within the congregation and online. This position involves flexible office hours, preferably weekday mornings. Requirements assume familiarity with office software and equipment and the ability to work independently and interact easily with adults and children. For information, see job description: [hivelymennonite.org/About/staff](http://hivelymennonite.org/About/staff).

**This week's Birthdays & Anniversaries**  
1/05 Leena Unzicker  
1/06 Christina Elizalde  
1/08 Greg & Sue Leatherman  
Sommers  
1/09 Jenny Gonzalez  
1/15 Ruth Ann Wittrig  
1/23 Baylen Loera

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