

**About the Cover:** Marian Hostetler, a member of North Goshen Mennonite Church since 1967, is generously offering her artistic gifts to guide us through this season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Her work as a calligrapher is nothing short of extraordinary, each piece a blend of precision and poetry. Marian's creativity extends to Japanese-inspired watercolor paintings, often depicting delicate birds and trees that she sometimes turns into beautiful greeting cards. Her thoughtful sketches and drawings will bring depth and meaning to the stories we are walking with together this season. We are grateful for the care she has poured into this project, which connects us visually to the hope and promise of the Christmas journey.

**Attendance: December 22— 63**

**North Goshen Mennonite Church**

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

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

**Pastoral Team**

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Becky's office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 am to 2 pm

Sabbath day: Monday

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**Elder Team**

Jerry Wittrig

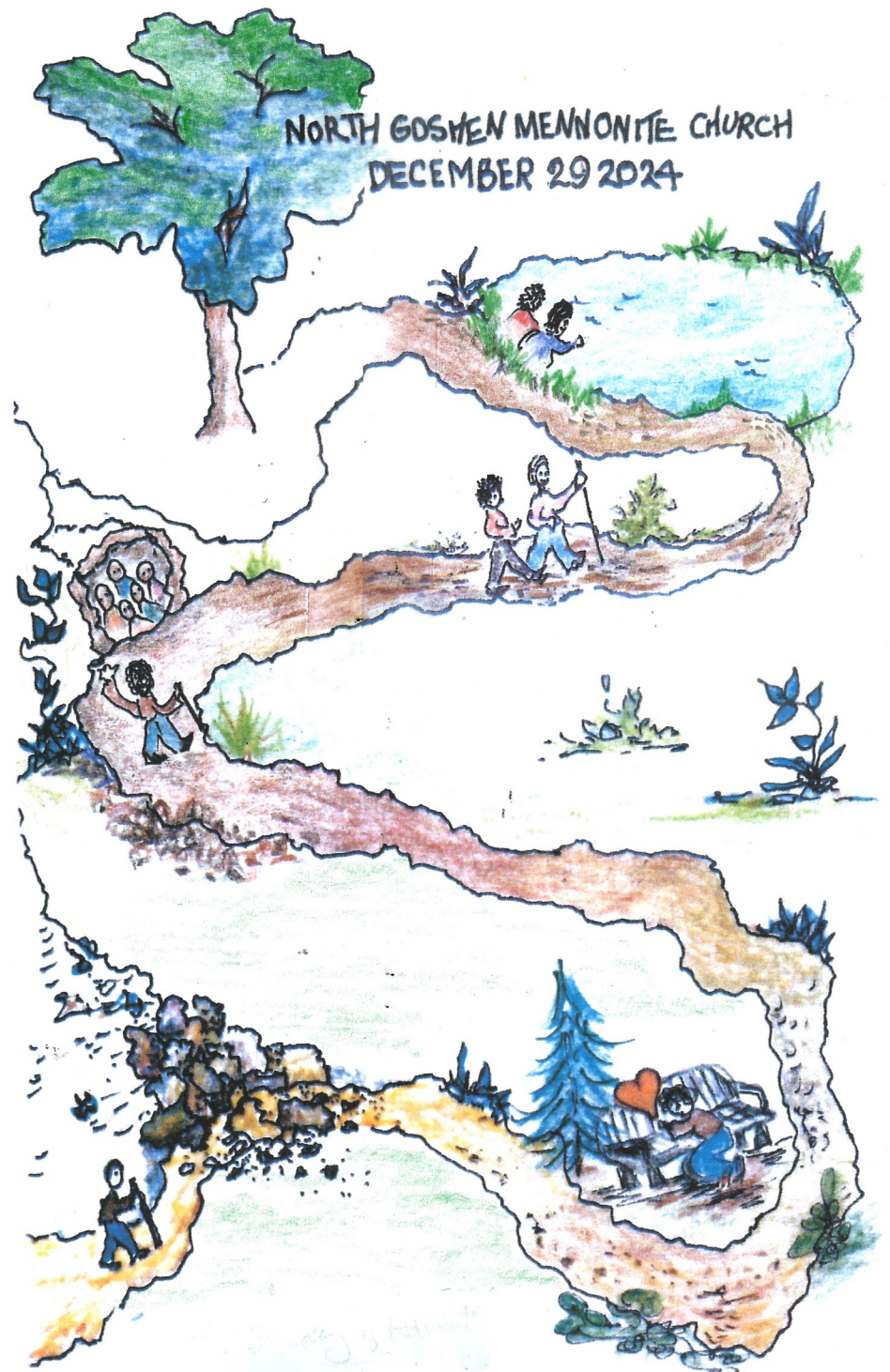
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# North Goshen Mennonite Church

## Sunday Following Christmas

*Keeping Promises: Who Sees It?*

December 29, 2024

### Gathering Song

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Todd H.  
VT 247

### Welcome & Announcements

Becky H.

### Call to Worship

**Songs** *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

VT 249  
VT 401

### Candlelighting

Greg & Sue LS

**Song** *Silent Night / Noche de Paz*

VT 244

### Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**Offering Prayer & Song** *The First Noel*

VT 250

**Scripture:** Luke 2:21-38

Francisco & Kristina

**Message** *A Thrill of Hope in God's Promise*

Izaete N.

**Interpretive Dance** *O Holy Night*

Izaete & Mary T.

### Sharing Time & Prayer

**Blessing & Song** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

VT 252

### Today

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship: Sunday following Christmas

### Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Daisy G.L., Michael Y., & Jenny G

Nursery: Deena B., Alan L., & Kristina Be-Mo

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

### Next Sunday

9:00 AM Sunday School

9:45 AM Koinonia Kafé

10:15 Worship: Epiphany Sunday

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 2:7-8

Focus: *Nurturing Faith: From Whom Do We Learn?*

Worship Leader: Becky H. Song Leader: Todd H.

Speaker: Izaete N.

Children's Time: Erin Be-Mo

Children's Church: Belen R., Jeff U., & Jenny G.

Nursery: Joan U., Bonnie C., & Kristina Be-Mo

**Koinonia Kafé:** Join us next Sunday between Sunday school and worship for 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!

### Sunday Following Christmas

Today, our worship series, *Together on the Journey*, invites us to reflect on God's faithfulness in keeping promises.

Through the witness of Simeon and Anna, we will explore how attentiveness and trust help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Together, we will celebrate the joy of promises fulfilled in Christ and renew our hope in the God who sees and loves us.

**Visuals Today:** This week's bulletin cover, drawn by Marian, continues the journey of the two hikers introduced earlier in the *Together on the Journey* series. In this illustration, the hikers have paused and are kneeling beside a reflective pond, inviting us to consider the themes of stillness, attentiveness, and trust. Just as the hikers take a moment to reflect, this Sunday's focus on Simeon and Anna encourages us to pause and recognize God's presence and fulfilled promises in our lives. Let's be reminded of the importance of slowing down to see God's faithfulness reflected in the world around us.

**Jan. 5 - Epiphany Sunday:** Next week, we celebrate Epiphany with the focus *Following the Light: What Guides Us?* Our worship series, *Together on the Journey*, invites us to reflect on the journey of the Magi and the ways God's light leads us toward hope, understanding, and community. As we follow the star with the Magi, we'll explore what it means to be guided by God's presence and to offer our gifts in response to the gift of Christ. Join us as we begin the new year with renewed faith and purpose!

**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!

**Sharing and Samaritan Funds:** During this Christmas season, we are called to care for one another. The Samaritan Fund supports those in need in our community, and the Sharing Fund aids members within our congregation. We invite you to contribute and help replenish these vital resources. Thank you for embodying Christ's love through your generosity.

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**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).

**Call for submissions:** *Anabaptist Witness* welcomes submissions on the theme of "Latino Anabaptism and Global Mission" for the April 2025 issue. All submissions should relate to the journal's focus on Anabaptist and Mennonite churches in mission, understood as a broad array of practices and not limited to evangelization. Historical, biblical, theological and missiological approaches are welcome. Submissions are due Jan. 1, 2025.

**This week's Birthdays & Anniversaries**

12/24 Richard & Reina Blacut  
12/31 Quinn Stoltzfus  
12/31 Ken & Elaine Thomas  
12/31 Michael & Kathy Nofziger Yeakey  
1/03 Leena Unzicker  
1/04 Christina Elizalde

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