

**About the Cover:** This week's bulletin cover features a simple, tender drawing by **Harlan S.**, created nearly 60 years ago when he was just eight years old for the Mennonite children's magazine **Story Friends**. The picture shows Harlan and his father, **Jake**, working side by side with tools. First launched in 1958 by Mennonite Publishing House in Scottdale, Pa., *Story Friends* was created to help young children encounter Bible stories with wonder, imagination, and heart.

**Attendance: January 11— 58**

**North Goshen Mennonite Church**

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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 505, Goshen, IN 46527

574-533-4255 | office@northgoshenmc.org | northgoshenmc.org

**9:00 AM Sunday school | 10:15 AM Worship services**

**Pastoral Team**

Becky Helmuth 574-370-0767 | rebeccahelmuth@gmail.com

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

Sabbath day: Friday

Izaete Nafziger 574-202-4344 | Izaete@northgoshenmc.org

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**North Goshen Mennonite Church**

**January 18, 2026**

# North Goshen Mennonite Church

Second Sunday after Epiphany

*Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

John 2:13-17

January 18, 2026

**Focus Question:** What needs clearing out so God's house can be a house of prayer for all people?

**Gathering** *Draw the Circle*

**Welcome & Announcements** Izaete N.

## Call to Worship

Leader: Unless the Lord builds the house -  
Si el Señor no edifica la casa -

**All: *Our labor is in vain.  
Nuestro trabajo es en vano.***

Leader: God is building a house of prayer -  
una casa de oración - for all people.

**All: *We come to clear space.  
We come to make room.***

Venimos a hacer espacio.  
Venimos a hacer lugar.

Leader: Come, let us worship together -  
Vengan, adoremos juntos.

**All: *We come as one people.  
Venimos como un pueblo. Amen***

**Songs** *Come Away from Rush and Hurry* VT 9  
*Oh, for a Thousands Tongues* VT 764

## Offering Prayer & MCC Coin Collecting

**Offering Song** *Seeds* VT 777  
Children are dismissed to Children's Church.

**Scripture** John 2:13-17 Iza & Elena Garcia

**Message** *Clearing Space* Becky H.

**Song** *Beauty for Brokenness* VT 712

## Sharing Joys & Concerns

**Congregational Prayer** Izaete

**Blessing** Becky

**Sending Song** *We are People of God's Peace* VT 797

## Clearing Spaces Cards

Today, you'll find a card in your bulletin with four questions for the week ahead. Jesus cleared space in the temple so all people could pray. These questions help us do the same: clearing barriers, making room, protecting dignity.

## Next Sunday, January 25 - Signs of Life

### Worship Focus: Nicodemus

Next week, we continue our "Signs of Life" series with one of the most mysterious encounters in John's Gospel: Nicodemus comes to Jesus under cover of darkness with questions he's afraid to ask in daylight (John 3:1-21). Jesus tells him he must be "born from above" - but what does that even mean? We'll explore what it looks like when God's Spirit moves in ways we can't predict or control, unmaking and remaking us into something new.

### Upcoming Events

- 1/19 MLK, Jr. Day
- 1/20 Women's Prayer Group, Manor 4 (Tues., 9 AM)
- 1/21 January Community Meal (Wed., 6 PM)
- 1/24 Celebration of Life Visitation for Tim Helmuth,  
NGMC Fellowship Hall (Sat., 3-5 PM)
- 1/25 Provide snacks for youth antiracism training
- 1/26-1/27 Becky attends Ministry Reflection Circle at AMBS
- 2/3 Women's Prayer Group, Manor 4 (Tues., 9 AM)
- 2/4 Youth Group, Alan L.'s house (Wed., 6:30 PM)  
Bilingual Group, Elaine H.'s house (Wed., 6:30 PM)
- 2/6-2/8 MYF Live-In at the church
- 2/8 Souper Bowl Sunday—MYF Fundraiser Lunch
- 2/9 NGMC Council Meeting, Fellowship Hall (Mon. 6:30 PM)

### Snacks Needed for Youth Antiracism Training

We've been invited to support local antiracism work! North Goshen will provide snacks for **70 local Mennonite high schoolers** attending MCC antiracism training at Assembly Mennonite Church on **Sunday, January 25.**

We have a couple of items covered, but it would be wonderful to offer one or two more options — especially foods that represent the different cultures in our North Goshen community! Have ideas for good snacks for hungry teenagers? Want to help? Contact Becky Helmuth.

## MLK Day at Goshen College – Tomorrow, 10 AM

If you have Monday off for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, join Goshen College's free public convocation honoring Dr. King's life and legacy. Keynote speaker Dr. Steven D. Parker will address "Good Trouble in 2026: Recognize, Rejuvenate, and Redeem." The program includes music and is followed by coffee and pastries. Church-Chapel Sanctuary, Goshen College campus. All welcome.

### Leadership Team Meeting Highlights

Last Tuesday, sixteen leaders from NGMC gathered for our first Quarterly Leadership Meeting — Church Council members, Ministry Team coordinators, and pastors together around the table. The evening had real energy as we shared stories from each ministry, named what's giving life (we have kids again!), and supported one another through challenges. From worship planning to community meals to mission opportunities, we're finding our way forward together in this season of shared leadership. Full meeting minutes are available in the newsletter link and on the bulletin board outside the church office.

### MYF Live-In & Souper Bowl Sunday!

Mark your calendars! Our MYF youth will take over the church for their annual live-in February 6-8. They'll be sleeping at church, playing games, making memories, and probably staying up way too late. Then on Sunday, February 8, stick around after worship for the MYF's famous Souper Bowl Sunday Fundraiser — hot soup, good bread, and great company to fuel both your afternoon and our youth group. Come hungry and ready to support our young people!

### Planning for Lent

It's time to start planning our Lenten and Easter worship! We're looking for people interested in helping shape the season - including deciding together which special services (Ash Wednesday? Maundy Thursday? Good Friday?) fit our community this year. If you'd like to be part of the planning, reach out to Daisy or Becky.

## Next Sunday's Volunteers

9:00AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Focus: *Nicodemus*

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Worship Leader: Robert M.

Speaker: Becky H.

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

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

## Celebration of Life Visitation for Tim Helmuth

You're invited to a Celebration of Life visitation for Tim Helmuth on Saturday, January 25, from 3-5 PM. This is a come-and-go open house where we'll gather to remember Tim, son of Merv and Sharon Helmuth and brother of Todd. At 4 PM, there will be an open mic time for sharing stories and memories. All are welcome.

## Ways Children Worship With Us

At North Goshen, we celebrate children as full participants in our worship life, and we offer several options to support them — and their grown-ups — on Sunday mornings.

**Children's Church** is available for ages 3 through grade 4 during the second half of the service, giving kids a space to learn, play, and explore the story of faith together.

**Nursery care** for infants through age 3 is offered throughout the service by our team of caring adults and youth.

**Buddy Bags** with quiet activities, books, and art supplies are available in the narthex for children who prefer to stay in the sanctuary. Wherever children choose to be — up front, in a pew, downstairs, or moving between spaces — their joy and presence are a welcome part of our worship.

## Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

1/20 Dan & Carol Wolfer

1/23 Baylen Loera

## 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes

### Pathfinders

- Intergenerational Bible study using the Mennonite "Builder" curriculum
- Location: Curtained classroom next to kitchen in the fellowship hall
- All are welcome

### Contemporary Issues and Christian Faith

- Explores current events through a Christian lens using "The Wired Word"
- Location: South corner of fellowship hall
- All ages welcome

### Clase de los Amigos (Latino Bible Study)

- Bible study in Spanish
- Location: Large classroom at bottom of basement stairs
- Todos son bienvenidos

### Youth Class (Grades 6-12)

- Location: Basement classroom (follow posted signs)
- All youth are welcome to attend!

## Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Bonnie C., Harlan S., & Kristina Be-Mo

Nursery: Elaine T., Kerry C., & Jenny G.

Tech Team: Jose J., Greg S & Tim N.

Translator: Erin Be-Mo

Music Leader: Todd H.

Worship Leader: Izaete N.

Sunday School Greeter: Terry P. Worship Greeter: Lola J.