

About the Cover: Today's cover art, *Tree of Life* (2018), is by Anabaptist artist **SaeJin Lee**, created with watercolor and colored pencil and reprinted from *Voices Together* (p. 12). In Lee's words, the Tree of Life is both ancient and present, a place of belonging, rest, and play, whose leaves bring healing to the nations. It is where creation is restored, enemies find peace, and we discover the tree has been with us all along.

Attendance: September 7 — 66

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 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

Office Administrator

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

Congregational Chair

Kathy Nofziger Yeakey

kathynofyeak@gmail.com

Elder Team

Jerry Wittrig

jwttrg@comcast.net

Belen Robledo

belen_2910@live.com

Jan Lehman (Chair)

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North Goshen Mennonite Church
September 14, 2025

North Goshen Mennonite Church

Creation by the Word

Genesis 1:1–2:4a

September 14, 2025

Focus Statement: How do we live as stewards of creation's goodness in a world of exploitation?

Gathering *All Things Bright and Beautiful* VT 177

Welcome & Announcements Daisy L.

Call to Worship

Songs *I Sing the Mighty Power God* VT 182
 Nada te Turbe VT 604

Prayer of Confession

Offering Prayer & Coin Collection for MCC

(Children are dismissed for Children's Church)

Offering Song Lucas H.

Scripture Reading Genesis 1:1–2:4a
 Jenny G., Yadira R., Kristina BeMo, Victoria T.

Message Becky H.
 Resistance Poetry at the Beginning of the World

Words of Assurance

Song *God of the Bible* VT 420

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Congregational Prayer

Sending Song *Sizohamba naye* VT 815

Blessing

Today's Volunteers

Children's Church: Bonnie C., Joan U., & Kristina BeMo

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

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

Worship Leader: Daisy L.

Music Leader: Todd H. & Lucas H.

Greeter: Lola J.

Translator: Erin Be-Mo

Ways Children Worship With Us

Children's Church (ages 3 through Grade 4)

- Takes place during second half of worship service
- Children are dismissed after the offering
- Location: Large classroom at bottom of basement stairs
- All children are welcome, especially guests and visitors!

Nursery (infants through age 3)

- Childcare is available in the basement (follow the signs) during the worship service. All are welcome.
- The nursery is staffed by two adults and one youth.

Community Meal – This Wednesday

Join us for our **September Community Meal** this **Wednesday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall! This month, we'll celebrate **National Hispanic Heritage Month** with food, fellowship, and friendship. Bring a favorite dish to share or just come and enjoy the wide variety of flavors around the table.

This is a great opportunity to invite your **friends, neighbors, and family** to share in a meal that honors the rich traditions and cultures of our community. Let's fill the room with good food, laughter, and connection as we celebrate together!

New Small Groups Forming This Fall!

This fall, we're forming small groups designed for connection, care, prayer, laughter, and friendship. Whether you're able to gather in person, online, or need a group to come to you, there's a place for you in this season of community building.

Forms are in your church mailbox today. Please fill one out and return it to the Small Groups mailbox by October 5. Your responses will help us create meaningful, balanced groups that reflect your preferences and needs. Let's build something beautiful together.

Caring for Our College Students

Our college students have returned to classes, and we want them to know that their church family is thinking of them! We'll be putting together care packages and sending notes, texts, and encouragement along the way.

A **collection box is now in the Gathering Area** to receive care package items. We'll be collecting from now through the end of September, so keep your eyes open for small things that might brighten a student's day. If you have questions or ideas, please connect with **Bonnie C.** or **Becky H.**

Upcoming Events

- 9/14 Lucas Harnish Farewell Concert, Silverwood MC (2:30 PM)
- 9/16 Women's Prayer Group (Tue., 9AM) @ Greencroft
- 9/17 Community Meal (Wed., 6 PM)
- 9/26- Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (Fri-Sat.)
- 9/27 and Pie Booth by NGMC
- 10/5 Everence Presents the Wittrigs with the Journey Award
- 10/12 Ordination Service for Becky
- 10/14 Parent-Teacher Conference Meal at Chamberlain

Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale – September 26 & 27

The **Relief Sale** is almost here! Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, September 26 & 27! It's time to start digging through those sofa cushions and collecting change for **My Coins Count** each Sunday. Every coin adds up to make a big difference in the work of Mennonite Central Committee around the world.

If you're planning to **bake pies or other goodies** for the sale, containers are available on the bench outside the church office, please pick up what you need.

Find **Sue LS** to volunteer for a time slot to help in the **Pie Booth** on Friday evening and Saturday morning. This is a great way to be part of the excitement and fellowship of the Relief Sale while supporting MCC's mission of peace and relief work. Let's bring our energy, generosity, and sweet tooth to this wonderful event!

Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

- 9/15 Tim Nafziger
- 9/16 Edith Varillas
- 9/18 Edith & Jerry Acosta
- 9/19 Alan 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!

Next Sunday, September 21

9:00AM Sunday School

10:15 AM Worship Focus: *Binding of Isaac*

Scripture: Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14

Worship Leader: Michael Y.

Song Leader: Todd H.

Speaker: Becky H.

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

Nursery: Tony U., Hilda L. & Kristina Be-Mo

Farewell and Gratitude for Lucas Harnish

Since February, **Lucas Harnish** has been blessing us with his gifts at the piano, playing for worship once a month and sharing beautiful music that has enriched our congregation. This month, Lucas is moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to family, and while we are sad to see him go, we are grateful for the time he has shared with us.

Please join us for a **farewell time in the Gathering Area today between Sunday school and worship** as we thank Lucas for his music and presence among us.

Lucas also invites everyone to his **final concert recital this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. at Silverwood Mennonite Church**. We wish him every blessing as he begins this new chapter and carry deep gratitude for the music and joy he has given to our community.

Narrative Lectionary Begins

Today we begin our journey with the Narrative Lectionary, a year-long way of reading the Bible that moves through the whole sweep of scripture as one unfolding story of God's love and justice. Each week we'll hear a key story from the Old Testament beginning today with creation from Genesis 1:1-2:4a.

Our theme today is "*Creation by the Word: God's creation is good – a foundation for justice and peace.*" Together, we'll ask: How do we live as stewards of creation's goodness in a world of exploitation?

Next Sunday, September 21, we will hear the story of Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 21-22) and remember that God does not desire sacrifice but life, asking how we can resist theologies of violence and walk in God's way of peace