

UNIVERSITY MENNONITE CHURCH

Sunday May 30, 2021

Welcome and intro to Zoom worship – Ben Wideman

Prelude video – *Feeling Good Again* by Watkins Family Hour

Call to worship & confession – Esther Prins

Lighting the Peace Lamp

Prayer and offertory – HWB 167 – *For God so loved us*

Children's time – Jess McCormick

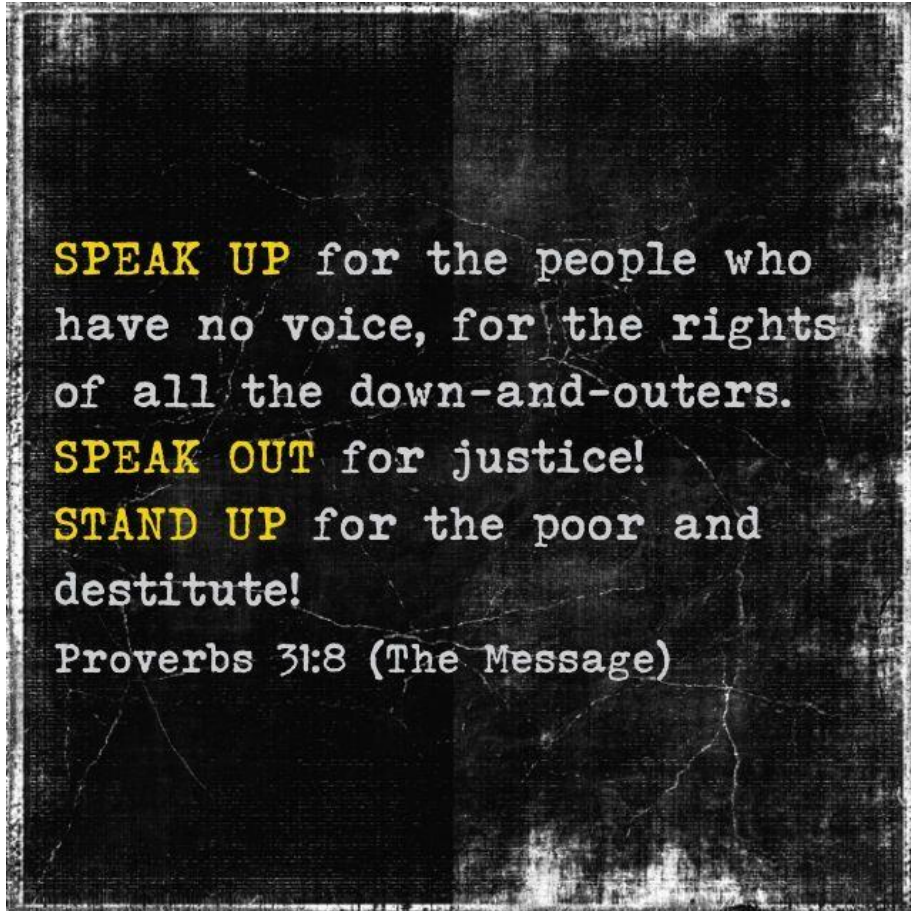
Voices of our congregation – Eric Nord and Ruth Parrish Sauder

Scripture - John 3:1-17 - Readers Theatre by Lily Prins Glenna,
Esther Prins, and Leland Glenna

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No



one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon – Ben Wideman

Sermon response song - *One Voice* by The Wailin' Jennys,
rendition by Lindale Mennonite Church

Sharing time – Leland Glenna

Announcements, birthdays, & introduction of visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Adult Sunday School – This Sunday at 11 am ET we'll continue our series on Lamenting Racism with lesson 4 – *Can You Hear Me?*, *Listening to Race Inflected Stories* led by Laura and Ken Litwiller. Same Zoom link as worship.

Wednesday sharing and prayer time - Join us Wednesdays at noon for a time of scripture, prayer, and an opportunity to share more fully with one another. The Zoom meeting link will be distributed via our email list.

If you're interested in attending the **mindful meditation sessions** on Monday evenings and Thursday or Friday mornings, contact [Kate](#), as times and dates vary.

Missed worship? Our Zoom worship services are recorded and can be watched on our website by clicking [HERE](#).

Walnut Springs habitat restoration work continues Thursday June 17 from 2-4 PM. Come join us! Contact Kate for more information.

Announcements (cont.)

Help MCC fill an urgent need for school kits! MCC school kits provide essential school supplies, like notebooks and pencils. School kits are often requested after disasters. They help bring normalcy to children whose families have been forced to leave their homes. MCC has received requests for over 63,000 school kits from our partners around the world. MCC needs donations of 21,200 school kits by the end of July. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and find kit drop off locations.

Sign up for My Neighbor card - Everence donated over \$345,000 in January through the My Neighbor credit card. You can join in the joy of generosity to generate reward dollars every time you use your card. Our faith-based partner, Everence, will donate 1.50% of the total amount of a purchase to our church or a charity of your choice. Learn more at everence.com/myneighbor.

Palestine/Israel - Violence continues to escalate in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank, worsening an already poor humanitarian situation, especially in Gaza. Tensions mounted over the planned expulsion of up to 2,000 Palestinians from their homes in East Jerusalem to make room for Israeli settlements. Such settlements are illegal under international law and significantly harm the prospect of reaching a just and lasting end to the conflict in the region. Click [HERE](#) to urge an end to the violence in Israel and Gaza.

Volunteer groups needed at Ephrata MRC - Are you looking for a close-to-home, hands-on way to serve your global neighbors? The MCC East Coast Material Resources Center (MRC) in Ephrata, Pa. is in need of volunteer groups. Volunteers are essential to carrying out MCC's mission as they pack kits, fold comforters, recycle books and more. A variety of tasks are available to suit each volunteer's age, skill and ability level.

Volunteer groups of 15 persons or more are invited to contact Marilyn Peters, MRC Volunteer Coordinator, at (717) 733-2847 or MarilynPeters@mcc.org. Weekday, evening and Saturday volunteer hours are available. The Ephrata MRC is located at 517 West Trout Run Road, Ephrata, PA 17522.

Announcements (cont.)

Cross-country bike ride to raise visibility on climate issues - The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions (CSCS) - a partnership between Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) and Goshen College - is organizing the Climate Ride, a cross-country bicycle ride departing May 31 from Seattle, WA and culminating on July 28 in Washington, DC. Climate Riders will raise visibility on climate issues, learn about the impacts of climate change on diverse communities and connect concerned Anabaptists across the country with climate efforts of CSCS and other organizations. Follow along with the young adult Climate Riders and MCC guest riders by signing up for weekly email updates. Join Climate Riders for a series of virtual and in-person Community Townhalls. More information at sustainableclimatesolutions.org/climate-ride.

Virtual Townhall Kickoff on May 30 at 8:00 p.m. EST – “Moving the Story on Climate Change: Our Obligation to Respond” *What motivates people to respond to climate change? What should the climate riders be asking communities along their journey?* Join us for the kickoff of the Climate Ride as we talk with folks working on the front lines of climate change, and as several riders talk about what motivates them. Register for this Zoom webinar at [zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlsduyvrTopHtSbPSf48ZdhB-CoKQ4wflia](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJlsduyvrTopHtSbPSf48ZdhB-CoKQ4wflia).

Need help? We are a community with talents, tools, and a willingness to serve each other. If you need some extra help - gathering groceries, doing yard work, etc., let Kate know. There are some here who might be able to lend a hand.

Financial struggles? As you continue to live into the realities of COVID-19, please let Kate or one of the [elders](#) know if you are living with financial uncertainty and could use some help. UMC, in partnership with [Everence](#), has funds available to help those in need.

Announcements (cont.)

Your offerings support UMC – Don't forget to support UMC with your financial gifts during this time of remote gatherings. You can make your offering the following ways:

- Mail a check to the church to the attention of our treasurer, 1606 Norma Street, State College PA, 16801
- [Donate on the church website](#)
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like [Zelle](#)

Questions? Contact Jim Rosenberger JLRosenberger@gmail.com

Thoughts on Abolition vs. Reform

Why we need Prison and Police Abolition, NOT Reform

Reform implies that the system is broken and needs to be fixed. Abolition understands that the system is working exactly as designed, and that we need a new system.

Reform invests MORE money in police and prisons.

Abolition calls for defunding the police and redirecting the money toward health care, housing, education, and jobs.

We've already seen that reforms like additional training, body cameras, and equipment do NOT diminish the number of people police murder.

We don't have time for reform. Police have shot nearly 300 people in 2021 so far. Prisons are overcrowded.

We need to imagine and build a new system of dignity, compassion, and care NOW. Period.

Patrisse Cullors-Brignac
<https://patrissecullors.com/>

CHURCH INFORMATION

1606 Norma St., State College, PA 16801; (814) 234-2039

www.universitymennonite.org

Pastor: Kate Heinzl

Submissions for bulletin: bulletin@universitymennonite.org

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Fridays at noon (for virtual services)

Staff and Volunteer Leadership

Pastor: Kate Heinzl, kate@universitymennonite.org 717-606-2909

Worship Coordinator:

Ben Wideman, benwideman@gmail.com 215-859-0037

Elders

Rosita Benner Derstine, rderstine@gmail.com 814-360-8789

Leland Glenna, lelandglenna@gmail.com 814-769-3313

Meredith Wideman, meredith.wideman@gmail.com 626-808-2306

Laura Litwiller, 1978lauraashley@gmail.com 717-543-3419

Cong. Chair: Rick Stehouwer, rsc15@psu.edu 814-883-3503

Asst. Chair: Cathy Bresee, cbs4@psu.edu 814-933-8005

University Mennonite Church's safe-child policy demonstrates our commitment to the physical safety and the spiritual growth of all our children and youth, ages birth to 18, as well as to our volunteers who care for them. The complete policy is posted in the lobby entrances and in the nursery room.

Our church maintains a Google Group email list to keep members informed about prayer requests and happenings in the community. Join the email list by sending an email to:

university-mennonite-sharing-list+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Zoom church services are being recorded and published on our [YouTube channel](#). You can also view service videos and listen to audio recordings at on our website at:

<http://www.universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings-current/>