
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: Thursdays end of day

Staff and Volunteer Leadership

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

Worship Coordinator:

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

Elders:

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

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

Doug Yoder, dv83yoder@gmail.com 814-933-6896

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

Asst. Chair: Terry Yoder, tkyoder93@gmail.com 814-321-4964

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jrosenberger@gmail.com 814-234-2167

Masking protocol – To protect those who are vulnerable, masks should be worn in the building for worship.

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

Missed worship? Our church services are being recorded and published on our website at:

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

Church Wi-Fi information – Connect to **umc**, password **mennosimons**



Sunday Worship
December 12, 2021, 10 am
Third Sunday of Advent



Used by permission Sanctified Art

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome – Cathy Bresee

Prelude – *Come Thou Fount* rendition by Sufjan Stevens

Call to worship – Cathy Bresee

Scripture reading – Luke 3:1-6, read by Ben Wideman

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

Lighting the Advent candle – The McCormick family

Call to confession

Prayer of confession

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors we block the door. Instead of welcoming all we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic fearful of letting go of our possessions. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work and can be uncomfortable. Help us be bold enough to see the truth and brave enough to live it.

With hope we pray for your guidance, amen.

silence

Words of forgiveness

Prayer and offertory – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Brahms arrangement played by Krista Weidner

Voices of the congregation – Sara Albrecht-Soto and Pat McDonough

Tell about a time when you experienced home in an unexpected way

Children's time – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Scripture – Luke 3:7-18 read by Ben Wideman

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon – Pastor Kate Heinzl

Special music – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

rendition by Krista Weidner

Sharing time – Pastor Kate

Announcements/birthdays/introduction of visitors – Cathy Bresee

Benediction – Cathy Bresee

As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick.

Open your doors to others.

Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon.

*In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son—
go in peace.*

Announcements

Tuesday sharing and prayer - Join us on Tuesdays 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.

University Baptist and Brethren Church (UBBC) virtual Alternative Christmas Fair, December 5-13 - Consider giving an alternative gift to one of 29 local and international charities. For more details <https://ubbcwelcome.org/acf/>

Christmas caroling at Foxdale – On Wednesday, December 22 at 6 pm, UMC, University Baptist and Brethren and Faith UCC will join to walk the Foxdale campus singing carols (masked) and returning to our lawn for a time around the fire enjoying hot cocoa and cookies. Join us!

Christmas Eve services will be held in person (4:30 pm) and on Zoom (7 pm). Both the in-person and Zoom services will include scripture, music, a time with the children, and our passing of the light with candles and Silent Night. Join us for one or both services as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

No services on Sunday December 26 - We will not be holding a worship service during our normal Sunday morning 10 am time. Worship materials will be distributed to folks to be used with family and friends, at home, during this season of gathering.

Abolition study beginning January 5 - Find out more and sign up at: <http://www.universitymennonite.org/defund-the-police-an-abolition-study/>
Share the link and invite your friends.

Announcements (cont.)

Learn, Pray, Join: Cost of Poverty - How can Mennonites make a difference in the world around us? How can we effect change for the common good? Andre Gingerich Stoner writes about how Mennonites in St. Joseph County, Indiana, have begun to make a difference in the realm of public mental health services, in his blog, "A spirit of power, and of love and of hard work." Read it here: <https://mennoniteusa.org/power-love-work>.

Volunteering at UMC - Ready to give worship leading a try? Have a good message to share with our children? We welcome any regular attender to help provide leadership on Sunday mornings. Ben and Kate can help you learn how to navigate hybrid worship. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e4daeae28a0ff2-worship>. We work as a body with many members, learn as a body, offer grace and love to one another as the body of Christ. Join us!

Hybrid worship update - Leadership team decided to continue with hybrid worship, meeting in our sanctuary with the windows *closed*, heat on, exhaust fan running. We ask everyone in the building to continue to wear a mask to promote safety for all.

If you're interested in attending the **mindful meditation sessions** on Monday evenings and Thursday or Friday mornings, contact Pastor Kate (kate@universitymennonite.org) as times and dates vary.

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

Your offerings support UMC – Don't forget to support UMC with your financial gifts. Offering baskets are by the doors to the sanctuary or 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 at <http://www.universitymennonite.org/donate>
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like [Zelle](#)