
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: Thursday 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 19, 2021, 10 am



Fourth Sunday of Advent
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome – Cathy Bresee

Prelude – Prelude - *Angels We have Heard on High*
rendition by Revamped (Sally and Mark Minnich)

Call to worship – Cathy Bresee

Lighting the Advent candle – Ben and Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Call to confession

Prayer of confession

Expansive God, God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them, and understand their need? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

silence

Words of forgiveness

Special music – Becky Kephart

Offertory prayer

Voices of the congregation – Rebekah Saxena

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

Children's time – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Scripture reading – Luke 1:39-55, read by Lara Rooke

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted

Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

*'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.
Your mercy reaches from age to age
To those who fear you.*



*You have shown strength with your arm;
You have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,
Mindful of your mercy -*

*The promise you made to our ancestors -
To Sarah and Abraham
And their descendants forever.'*

Sermon – Pastor Kate Heinzl

Special music – Becky Kephart

Sharing time – Pastor Kate

Announcements/birthdays/introduction of visitors

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.

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.

How can Mennonites make a difference in the world around us? 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. Read it <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/a-spirit-of-power-and-of-love-and-of-hard-work/>

Announcements (cont.)

Mennonite Church USA awarded three Thrive Church Planting Grants this year, to Community of Hope in Bellingham, Washington, Summit Street Church in Beatrice, Nebraska, and Wild Church in Fresno, California. Read about the grant and these church plants here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mc-usa-awards-three-new-thrive-church-planting-grants/>

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/20f0e4daee28a0ff2-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 <https://www.zellepay.com/>

