
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, ben.wideman@gmail.com 215-859-0037

Elders:

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

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

Faith King, faithyk33@gmail.com 814-571-5666

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

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 4, 2022, 10 am
(in-person and Zoom)

Second Sunday of Advent - PEACE



BLUEBIRD OF PEACE

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Dawn Chorus – bird song while we enter the sanctuary for worship

Songbirds all over the world know a thing or two about singing into the dark. In the wee hours of the morning, before the sun appears over the horizon, they begin a great symphony that scientists call the “dawn chorus.” Birds can sing at any time of day, of course, but in that deep blue space between darkness and light, their songs are louder, livelier, and passionately clear. Advent is the church’s dawn chorus. It starts in the silence, in the shadows, and looks to the light. Each week, we gather together to listen and sing (sometimes quietly at first) straight into the deepening darkness, proclaiming that in the end, the night will give way to the day; winter will give way to spring; despair to hope, war to peace, grief to joy, violence to love – and God will come again, like the morning star in the east, or a mother hen gathering in her brood.

Prelude – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* rendition by The Soil and the Seed Project and *Peace Train* rendition by Playing for Change

Lighting of Advent candles – Hope Brubaker

Call to worship – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Singing – accompanist – Becky Kephart

Voices Together 212 – *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*

Voices Together 259 – *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*

Voices of the congregation – Jesse Weidner

Jesus taught us to consider the birds of the air.

What’s one thing the birds teach you about peace?

Children’s time – Luke 1:39-45 read by Anders Woods

Scripture introduction video – Excerpt from The Well

a chapter on Hagar, in Rachel Held Evan’s book *Inspired*

Scripture – Genesis 17:15-22 read by Ken and Laura Litwiller

God said to Abraham, ‘As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and indeed of her will I give you a son. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; rulers of peoples shall come from her.’ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, ‘Can a child be born to one who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?’ And Abraham said to God, ‘O that Ishmael might live in your sight!’

God said, ‘Nevertheless your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. Now as for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall give birth to at this season next year.’ And when God had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Sermon – Pastor Kate Heinzl

Musical response – *For Unto Us a Child is Born (instrumental)*

by Becky Kephart

Sharing time – Pastor Kate

Announcements/birthdays/introduction of visitors

Benediction – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Voices Together 239 – *He Came Down*

Come forward and get an ornament while singing!

Announcements

Masking protocol – Centre County is currently in the **low** community transmission level for COVID-19 and masks are **optional** for attendance in church.

University Baptist and Brethren Alternative Christmas Fair is today! The fair gives local, national, and international charities the opportunity to raise funds in a group setting. Fairgoers learn about the charities and can make one payment to cover multiple donations and receive gift cards to notify honorees of the gifts made in their names. All charitable donations go directly to the charities. **Sunday, December 4, 10:30 - 2 pm or online.** For more info or to give online go to <https://ubbcwelcome.org/acf/>

Please consider supporting Park Forest Preschool families this holiday season - If interested, **send donations to the church by Wednesday, December 7.** Write checks to UMC and designate “Preschool Christmas Gift” in the memo. Last year we were able to donate thirty \$50 gift cards to each Park Forest Preschool family; this year there are thirty-one. Gift cards allow families to make choices for their holiday celebrations. Park Forest Preschool is a nonprofit, tuition-free school for two-, three-, and four-year-old children from income-qualifying families.

Announcements (cont.)

International holiday potluck: Hosted by the Community Diversity Group (CDG). December 8, 6-8 pm at the South Hills School of Business and Technology, 480 Waupelani Drive. Join in celebrating holiday traditions from around the globe. You are invited to bring a cultural holiday dish to share.

Christmas services at UMC – Join us for an early evening Christmas Eve service on December 24 in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday morning service on Christmas day. Meredith Wideman and Bethany Spicher Schonberg are planning an informal afternoon gathering. More details to follow on these gatherings.

Parents' night out: The Unitarian Fellowship (UUFCC) welcomes UMC's parents to drop your kids off at their church for an evening of fun games, dinner, and a movie while you go have some time for you! Second Saturday of every month, 5-8 pm. Their childcare providers have full PA background clearances and are CPR and First Aid certified. For more information, or to sign up, contact Ashley Hamlin (ahamlin@uufcc.com)

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/20f0e4daee28a0ff2-2022>. 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!

MCC Updates

Advocate with MCC ACTION ALERT: Support Palestinian children's rights
Increasingly violent Israeli military operations in occupied Palestine have resulted in home demolitions, injuries, deaths, and detentions, including the continued detention of 16-year-old Shadi Khoury. Join MCC in encouraging your representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2590, which would prohibit U.S. funding of Israeli military operations which use detention, interrogation, and brute force on children. [Visit mcc.org/washington](http://mcc.org/washington) to learn more and take action. Urge your representative to end U.S. support for military abuses against Palestinian children. Check out <https://mcc.org/get-involved/advocacy/national-peace-justice-ministries?vsrc=/campaigns/>

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.

Announcements (cont.)

Your offerings support UMC – Remember 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/>

Listen for the Dawn Chorus

