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## CHURCH INFORMATION

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

[www.universitymennonite.org](http://www.universitymennonite.org)

Pastor: Kate Heinzl

**Submissions for bulletin:** [bulletin@universitymennonite.org](mailto:bulletin@universitymennonite.org)

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Thursday end of day

### Staff and volunteer leadership

Pastor: Kate Heinzl, [kate@universitymennonite.org](mailto:kate@universitymennonite.org) 717-606-2909

Worship coordinator:

Ben Wideman, [ben.wideman@gmail.com](mailto:ben.wideman@gmail.com) 215-859-0037

Elders:

Faith King, [faithk33@gmail.com](mailto:faithk33@gmail.com) 814-571-5666

Doug Miller, [douglasalanmiller@gmail.com](mailto:douglasalanmiller@gmail.com) 814-883-1127

Doug Yoder, [dv83yoder@gmail.com](mailto:dv83yoder@gmail.com) 814-933-6896

Cong. chair: Joel Weidner, [joelpsu82@outlook.com](mailto:joelpsu82@outlook.com) 814-777-4494

Asst. chair: Tim Groff, [tgroff@centreconcrete.com](mailto:tgroff@centreconcrete.com) 814-360-1086

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, [jrosenberger@gmail.com](mailto:jrosenberger@gmail.com) 814-234-2167

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**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.** Find out more and request to join at <https://universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/>

**Our church has an online directory with photos and contact information.** Find out more and request to join at: <https://universitymennonite.org/directory/>

Sign up to receive **Pastor Kate's midweek email newsletter** at: <http://eepurl.com/gtOJur>

**Missed worship?** Our church services are being recorded and published on our website at: <http://www.universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings-current/>

**Church calendar** <https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/>

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



**Sunday Worship**  
**December 24, 2023, 10 am**

*Advent 4*



*...why me? Why not me?*

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Worship Leader: Ross Hardison                      Accompanist: Becky Kephart  
Song Leaders: Bethany & Micah Spicher Schonberg

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Welcome and prayer** – Ross Hardison

**Prelude** – VT #276, *Solemn Stillness, Weary Streets*  
(*Singing Joy to the World*) rendition by Salford Mennonite Church Choir

### Call to worship

*Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior!*

**High voices: For the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
Low voices: and holy is God's name.**

*Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.*

**People: What will God do next?**

*(pause)*

*Leader: Together we wonder.*

**Singing** – *Hope Is a Candle*, VT 211  
with lighting of the first Advent wreath

**Scripture 1** – Psalm 89:1–4, read by Ross Hardison

**Voices of the congregation** – Joyce Hall, Kathleen Stehouwer,  
Nathan Davis

*Tell about a time you have shown or been shown love in an  
extraordinary way*

**Scripture 2** - Luke 1:46b–55, read by Allison Cornell

**Children's time** and lighting the second Advent wreath  
Bethany Spicher Schonberg

**Singing** – *Oh How Shall I Receive Thee*, VT 215

**Sermon** – Pastor Kate Heinzl

**Special music** – *Mary Did You Know?* rendition by Becky Kephart

**Lighting of third Advent wreath** – Diane Gingerich

**Sharing time** – Pastor Kate

**Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/introduction of visitors**

**Benediction** – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, VT 241

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## Announcements

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**During the season of Advent** we are drawing from Kate Bowler for devotional and Christian education materials. You can subscribe to her entire Advent series at [https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/blessthisadvent/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/blessthisadvent/)

Dec 24, 5 pm – Christmas Eve Service (readings, carols, and candle lighting)

Dec 26, 12 pm – Lectio Divina on Zoom

Dec 28, 7 am – Men's fellowship breakfast, Waffle Shop, 364 E College Av

Jan 2, 12 pm – Lectio Divina on Zoom

Jan 6, 7 pm – Acoustic Brew Concert featuring Joe Crookston

Jan 8, 7 pm – Sacred Harp singing, foyer

Jan 9, 12 pm – Lectio Divina on Zoom

Jan 11, 7 am – Men's fellowship breakfast, Waffle Shop, 364 E College Av

Jan 16, 12 pm – Lectio Divina on Zoom

Jan 21, noon – Potluck fellowship meal, fellowship hall

Jan 22, 7 pm – Sacred Harp singing, foyer

**There will be no Sunday school this morning.** All are invited to a **Christmas Eve service at 5 pm.** We will celebrate the birth of Christ in our midst with readings, carols, and candle lighting.

**Join Kate for brunch on Christmas Day** – Kate is hosting a brunch from 11-1 pm at her home, 1146 Old Boalsburg Rd. Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift for some fun. Please RSVP if you're able to come.

**Join others for a candlelight peace vigil at the Allen Street Gates** each Monday from 5 to 5:30 pm. Join us as we pray for peace and an end to violence in the Middle East.

**Thanks to all who signed the ceasefire letter and showed up at Glenn Thompson's office on Tuesday.** Our protest for a cease fire in Gaza was met by skepticism by representative Thompson, but the news coverage in the CDT and WJAC TV helped to shed light on the ongoing injustice and massacre and showed solidarity with our Palestinian and Muslim friends and neighbors. On Wednesday evening, State College Borough Council passed a resolution calling on our president and elected representatives to support a ceasefire.

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA NEWS** - Jon Carlson, moderator for Mennonite Church USA, reflects on how Mennonite Church USA is better together and how our collective participation in the church shapes us and reflects who we are as a body. Read his reflections online at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/fear-not-of-man-where-mc-usa-is-going/>

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## Announcements (cont.)

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Each year we collect donations for a monetary **Christmas gift for our pastors**. Ben continues to support our ministry with an important role in producing our worship services, and we plan to provide him with a gift in recognition of his significant role in our church ministry. The donations received will be shared 2/3 to Kate, and 1/3 to Ben. If you wish your donation to be divided differently than that, please include a note to that effect with your donation. Please provide your gift to our treasurer, Jim Rosenberger, by December 27.

**Children in UMC worship** – Children through sixth grade are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for children's time. After children's time, the nursery is available for children ages three and under. (Parents, please check to see if the nursery is staffed; if not, please stay with your child.) Children of all ages are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the service or to gather at the table in the back for quiet activities using the materials provided.

**Missed worship?** Our church services are being recorded and published on our website at: <http://www.universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings-current/>

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

**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 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/>