

---

## CHURCH INFORMATION

---

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

---

**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 31, 2023, 10 am**

Advent 5

*How*  
WILL WE  
*know?*

...who knows?

---

Worship Leader: Leslie Webb

Accompanist: Krista Weidner

Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

---

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Welcome and prayer** – Leslie Webb

**Prelude** – *Wonderful Christmastime* rendition by Pentatonix

*O Holy Night* rendition by Kelly Clarkson

**Call to worship**

*Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,  
“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”*

**High voices: At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the  
temple with fasting and prayer night and day,**

**Low voices: began to praise God and to speak about the child  
to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

*Leader: The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said  
about him.*

**People: Our long wait is finally over!**  
(pause)

*Leader: Together we rejoice.*

**Singing** – *Hope Is a Candle*, VT 211

with lighting of the first Advent wreath

**Scripture 1** – Isaiah 61:10–13, read by Leslie Webb

**Voices of the congregation** – Leland Glenna

How do you experience God at work in the world now?

**Scripture 2** - Luke 2:21–40, read by Leslie Webb

**Children’s time** and lighting the second Advent wreath

Bethany Spicher Schonberg

**Singing** – *Love Has Come*, VT 258

**Sermon** – Conversation with Bethany Spicher Schonberg

**Special music** – The Schonberg family

**Lighting of third Advent wreath**

**Sharing time** – Pastor Kate

### Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/introduction of visitors

**Benediction** – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*, VT 243

---

And the light is the life of all people.

In Gaza, in Ukraine, in Sudan,  
the light shines and the darkness can’t overcome it.  
In those who trust, who hope, who heal, who bear witness,  
the light shines.

Even in those who fear whoever’s not White,  
in those who despair of democracy,  
or those who consider women as objects,  
still, somehow, the light shines.

In days when our love falters and our hope loses its footing  
the light shines.

In our deepest apathy and unbelief,  
in our worst sin, still the light shines in the darkness.  
The light that is the life of all people is our salvation,  
shining in the unknown, shining in the unseeable,  
now and always, still shining.  
Still. Shining.

-Steve Garnaas-Holmes

---

### Announcements

---

**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/)

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 children’s Sunday School this morning.**

**UMC adult education** - This Sunday, we will resume our practice of holding adult education every Sunday. After coffee, please join a sermon response to the sharing by Pastor Kate and Bethany Spicher Schonberg in the sanctuary. During January, we will plan for an adult education event each Sunday, January 7, 14, 21, and 28. More details to follow. - UMC adult education committee

---

## Announcements (cont.)

---

**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.

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA NEWS** - H.A. Penner, war tax resister/redirector, explains the benefits of the Mennonite Church USA Church Peace Tax Fund, which offers an opportunity for Mennonites to redirect the portion of their taxes that would have otherwise supported war efforts toward peacebuilding efforts. Read more at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/church-peace-tax-fund-war-tax-redirection/>

**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.

**Did you know the UMC online directory app has the ability to view a list of birthdays and anniversaries by date?** Open the **Instant Church Directory** app on your phone. Touch the word MENU (iPhones) or for Android, the three horizontal bar menu icon in the upper left corner. Choose the option for either Birthdays or Anniversaries. The list will begin with the current month, and you can scroll through the whole year. **Join the online directory by** reading more and signing up here: <https://universitymennonite.org/directory/>

**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/>