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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/Church Administrator:

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

Elders:

Faith King, [faithy33@gmail.com](mailto:faithy33@gmail.com) 814-571-5666

Leah Witzig, [witzig1@gmail.com](mailto:witzig1@gmail.com) 814-933-2503

Doug Yoder (Jan-March, filling in for Doug Miller),  
[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

Leadership team: [umc-lt@googlegroups.com](mailto:umc-lt@googlegroups.com)

Elders: [umc-elders@googlegroups.com](mailto:umc-elders@googlegroups.com)

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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>

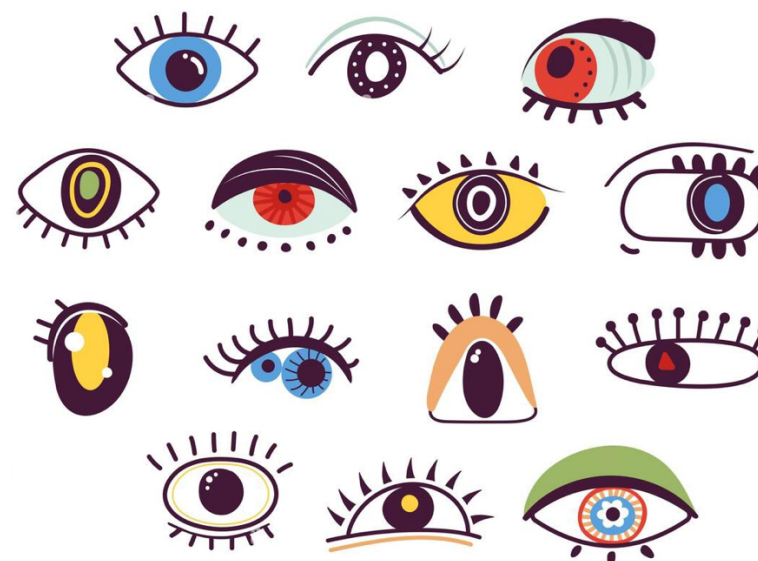
**Missed worship?** Our church services are being recorded and published at  
<http://www.universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings-current/>

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

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



**Sunday Worship – February 23, 2024, 10 am**



***Join us as we continue our journey  
through the Gospel of Luke***

**Rooted in the love of Christ, we welcome each one here today—**  
*we welcome your mind, body, and spirit; we welcome your faith and your doubts; your joys and your sorrows. Wherever you come from, whatever your age, and whomever you love...*  
**Whoever you are, you are welcome and affirmed here.**

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Worship Leader: Esther Prins  
Accompanist: Krista Weidner Song Leader: Sally Minnich

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude** – Krista Weidner

**Welcome and prayer** – Esther Prins

**Call to worship**, from Psalm 146:5-10 (CEB/Anabaptist Community Bible)

Leader: The person whose help is the God of Jacob—  
the person whose hope rests on the Lord their God—  
is truly happy!

**People: God: the maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
God: who is faithful forever,**

Leader: who gives justice to people who are oppressed,  
who gives bread to people who are starving!  
The Lord: who frees prisoners.

**People: The Lord: who makes the blind see.  
The Lord: who straightens up those who are bent low.  
The Lord: who loves the righteous.**

Leader: The Lord: who protects immigrants,  
who helps orphans and widows,  
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!

**All: The Lord will rule forever!  
Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!**

### Singing

*What Is This Place* – VT 22

*Holy Spirit, Come with Power* – VT 57

**Peace Lamp** - *A prayer before reading the news* (from Irwin Keller)

**Confession** - from Hymnal: A Worship Book #696

**Offertory Prayer**

**Scripture** - Luke 7:18-35 (page 839-840 in the pew Bible)  
read by Leland Glenna

**Calling the children forward for children's time, Come and See** – VT 282  
**Children's time** – Rob Bies

**Sermon** – Ben Wideman

### Singing

*Lord Jesus, Come and Overturn* – VT 146

**Sharing time** – Doug Yoder

**Glimpses of the Divine** – *Jerusalema*, by Master KG, dance from Palestine  
*Moments where we have seen glimpses of the divine in our lives*

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

### Benediction

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#### Announcements

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**Coming up** – Check out the church calendar for more details  
<https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/>

Feb 23, after worship – Christian education for all ages

Feb 24, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace at Allen St. Gates

Feb 25, 12 pm – Lectio Divina, Zoom

Mar 2, during worship – Communion & This I Believe

Mar 2, after worship – Extended communion conversation time

**UMC library Black History Month book display in the elevator lobby: *I'm still here: Black dignity in a world made for whiteness*, Channing Brown, Austin. *A Black theology of liberation*, Cone, James H. *White fragility: Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism*, Diangelo, Robin. *Dear white peacemakers*, Moore, Osheta *We shall live in peace: the teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Deloris Harrison, ed. (juvenile literature). Sign the card in the back and deposit it in the box. Return the book when you are finished with it.**

**Ramadan Iftar Dinners** - Through traditional Turkish meals, meaningful conversations, and the joy of breaking our fast together at sunset, these gatherings will celebrate our shared values while also promoting diversity and unity within our community. To join one of these special Iftar dinners at the home of a Turkish family, click here by Feb 20 and select dates that work for you - <https://forms.gle/frznMpXbpiAt4GKb8>

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## Announcements (cont.)

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**This is an update from the State College Interfaith Group** (made up of 3 congregations – University Baptist and Brethren Church, Congregation Brit Shalom, and University Mennonite Church) who worked together with Church World Service (CWS) a few years ago to resettle a family from Afghanistan to State College. While we had hoped to welcome another refugee family to our area this year, that is no longer possible. Rather, we'll be stepping into the role of developing and coordinating remote ESL work with the refugees CWS has recently welcomed to the Harrisburg area. This is a big task, and one for which CWS has lost staff and funding. We believe that this is a valuable way to be involved, using the gifts and resources of our congregations. At this time, we are seeking volunteers from our three congregations to be remote conversation partners. Volunteers don't need formal training—just patience, consistency, and a willingness to engage! We will provide the tools to begin one-on-one work with interested learners in the Harrisburg area. We will need lots of volunteers and are hoping to begin the process within the next few weeks. If any of you are interested in volunteering to be a remote conversation partner or to teach very basic English skills, please email **both co-chairs** Kathleen Stehouwer and Bonnie Kline Smeltzer

([kathleenstehouwer@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenstehouwer@gmail.com) and [bksmeltzer22@gmail.com](mailto:bksmeltzer22@gmail.com)).

They can also answer any questions you have. Thank you!!

**Children in UMC worship** – Children through fifth 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 four 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.

**UMC will host the next Allegheny Mennonite Conference Spring Faith and Life gathering** on March 8th, from 9:30am-3:00pm. This spring conference gathering includes financial updates, affirming a new slate, and hearing from committees about the work of the church. It is a meeting, but also a time to fellowship and renew and deepen friendships across the conference. You do not need to be a delegate to attend!

**Thank you everyone for cutting patches, knotting comforters, and binding the edges for comforters last Sunday.** Last year MCC distributed 53,601 comforters: 450 to Canada, 807 to El Salvador, 1587 to Puerto Rico and USA, 4420 to Zambia, 5577 to Malawi, 40,760 to Ukraine. Our comforters help to make a difference.

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## Announcements (cont.)

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**The UMC by-laws stipulate the periodic evaluation of the current serving pastor.** Tim Groff, Doug Miller, Sally Minnich and Karen Rath have been tasked by the UMC Leadership Team to prepare and distribute a survey to the congregation, which has been sent out via email. This group will also compile the survey results and provide a report to the Leadership Team. Please complete the form within two weeks (by 2/24/25). For those who prefer hard copies, they will be available in the church foyer. When completed, please place hard copies in Tim & Carmen Groff's mailbox.

**2025 Sunday school at UMC** will include a mix of intergenerational gatherings and traditional age-divided class. On first Sundays, communion is extended into the foyer after the service with snacks and discussion questions for all - an opportunity for conversation with a variety of ages. On second, fourth and fifth Sundays, adults meet in the sanctuary, and there are classes for children in grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. On third Sundays, all are invited to the basement for an intergenerational activity. Sunday school will continue through the end of May and begin again in September.

### Mennonite Church USA News –

**Mennonite Church USA has joined with 26 other faith traditions to take legal action** that seeks to restore the rights of people of faith to gather, worship, and serve without government interference. MCUSA news release can be found here - <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/mc-usa-joins-more-than-two-dozen-christian-and-jewish-denominations-and-associations-sue-to-protect-religious-freedoms/>

**New to UMC?** Considering joining our email sharing list and online directory **Directory** - <https://universitymennonite.org/directory/>  
**Sharing List** - <https://universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/>

**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/>