
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/Church Administrator:

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

Elders:

Faith King, faithy33@gmail.com 814-571-5666

Leah Witzig, witzig1@gmail.com 814-933-2503

Doug Yoder (Jan-March, filling in for Doug Miller),
dv83yoder@gmail.com 814-933-6896

Cong. chair: Joel Weidner, joelpsu82@outlook.com 814-777-4494

Asst. chair: Tim Groff, tgroff@centreconcrete.com 814-360-1086

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jrosenberger@gmail.com 814-234-2167

Leadership team: umc-lt@googlegroups.com

Elders: umc-elders@googlegroups.com

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 – March 2, 2025, 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.

Worship Leader: Ross Hardison

Accompanist: Hal Kunkel Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Minnich Family

Welcome and prayer – Ross Hardison

Call to worship, from Psalm 103:1-6

One: Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise God's holy name.

All: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

One: who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you
with love and compassion,

**All: who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

Singing

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty – VT 88

Peace Lamp

Scripture - Luke 7:36-50 (page 840 in the pew Bible)

Singing

To My Precious Lord – VT 755

Calling the children forward for children's time, Come and See – VT 282

Children's time – Ben Wideman

This I Believe – Leland Glenna

"I believe that humor is a virtue"

Singing

Take My Life, and Let It Be – VT 759

Sermon – Pastor Kate Heinzl

"I believe stories have the power both to imprison us and set us free"

Confession

Communion

Sharing time – Pastor Kate Heinzl

Glimpses of the Divine – *10,000 Reasons*, VT 111

rendition by Rend Collective

Moments where we have seen glimpses of the divine in our lives

Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/introduction of visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Coming up – Check out the church calendar for more details

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

Mar 2, after worship – Extended communion conversation time

Mar 3, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace at Allen St. Gates

Mar 4, 12 pm – Lectio Divina, Zoom

Mar 8, 9:30 am – Allegheny Mennonite Conference Spring Gathering at UMC

Mar 9, after worship – Christian education for all ages

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 on refugee resettlement are stepping into the role of developing and coordinating remote ESL work with the refugees CWS has recently welcomed to the Harrisburg area. 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! 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 and bksmeltzer22@gmail.com). They can also answer any questions you have. Thank you!!

In addition to language learning, The State College Interfaith Group is assisting 200 refugee families in the Harrisburg area during their 90-day entry period. During March,* UMC is collecting hygiene items, Giant grocery, Visa, and Uber gift cards. **Items for hygiene kits:** shampoo/conditioner, soap, hairbrush/combs, toilet paper, laundry detergent, toothpaste/toothbrushes, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, feminine pads.

**This collection is instead of the State College Food Bank donation for March.*
Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks, Mary Derstein

Announcements (cont.)

University Mennonite congregation donated 73 lbs. of food in February - 67 lbs. canned chicken, 6 lb. other. Thank you for your generosity, Mary Derstein

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!

University Mennonite Church Energy Savings Fund is a no-interest loan to support University Mennonite Church members and regular attenders who wish to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. See 2/22/25 email from Jean Landis for more details or reach out to any member of the Creation Care committee--Jean Landis, Jim Rosenberger, Marvin Hall, Ruth Kitchin-Tillman, Tim Groff and Matt Rooke for more information.

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.

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.

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 by tomorrow (by 3/3/25). 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.

Announcements (cont.)

Mennonite Church USA News –

There's still time to enjoy early bird pricing for MC USA's Follow Jesus '25 convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12, 2025. Register before March 31 and save \$145 per person. The first 300 registrants will receive a free copy of the Anabaptism Community Bible, courtesy of MennoMedia, a \$69.99 value. Register here: mennoniteusa.org/registration/

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/>