
CHURCH INFORMATION

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

www.universitymennonite.org

Submissions for bulletin: bulletin@universitymennonite.org

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Thursday end of day

Staff and volunteer leadership

Pastoral search process is underway! Hold our search committee in prayer.

Worship Coordinator/Church Administrator:

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

Elders:

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

Gloria Horst Rosenberger, ghr4870@gmail.com 814-571-5608

Ken Litwiller, kenlaura78@gmail.com 717-543-7246

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

Doug Miller, dam8@psu.edu 814-883-1127

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

Cong. co-chair: Rick Stehouwer, rcs15@psu.edu 814-883-3503

Asst. chair: Ruth Kitchin Tillman, ruthkitchin@gmail.com 302-379-8912

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jloosenberger@gmail.com 814-571-4419

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 **UMC'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**



October 12, 2025, 10 am



UMC Heartstrings: Forgiveness

*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: Carmen Groff

Accompanist: Hal Kunkel

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Hal Kunkel

Welcome & prayer – Carmen Groff

Call to worship

Peace Lamp

Singing –

Heart With Loving Heart United – VT 813

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

Children's Time – Matt Rooke

Singing –

Gentle God, When We Are Driven – VT 150

Sermon – Carl Keener, “The Way of Forgiveness”

with scripture reflections from Genesis; Jacob and Esau forgive

Confession – VT 888

Leader: Friends in Christ,

God knows our needs before we ask

and in our asking

prepares us to receive the gift of grace.

We open our lives to God's healing presence,

seeking peace with God

and reconciliation with our neighbors.

We are mindful not only of personal evil

but also of our communal sins

of family, class, race, and nation.

People: We confess to God whatever has wounded us

or brought injury to others,

that we may receive mercy

and become for each other

ministers of God's grace.

(silence)

Leader: Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ,

and Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

People: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Leader: Know that you are forgiven,

and be at peace.

People: Amen.

Sharing time – Tim Groff

Glimpses of the Divine – *Every Time I Hear That Song* by Brandi Carlile

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/>

Oct 12, after worship – Fall Sunday School (details below)

Oct 13, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Oct 13, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

Oct 14, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Oct 19, after worship – Fall Sunday school

Join Sustainable State College and State College Bicycle Ambassadors for a

FREE “Biking in the Borough” educational class. Meet other bike enthusiasts

and leave the class feeling empowered on your biking journey! Tuesday,

October 14 from 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 pm at State College Borough Municipal

Building, Room 241. Registration is required - [https://pa-](https://pa-statecollege.form.transform.civicplus.com/52627)

[statecollege.form.transform.civicplus.com/52627](https://pa-statecollege.form.transform.civicplus.com/52627)

Announcements (cont.)

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.

Sunday school at UMC this fall 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 through middle school age. On third Sundays, all are invited to the basement for an intergenerational class led by Carmen Groff. Sunday school will continue through the end of May and begin again in September.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES THIS FALL

Encountering the Qur'an led by Jon Brockopp

In this series of four discussions, we will explore one of the world's great religious texts, considering it from Muslim, historical, and Christian perspectives. The goal is understanding, but as with all inter-religious encounters, uncomfortable questions may arise. All are welcome to any session, but the four will build on one another.

Sept 14 Reading someone else's religious text and hearing the Qur'an

Oct 12 Historical context of the revelations to Muhammad

Nov 9 The Qur'an and Islamic law

TBD Christianity in the Qur'an

Out of the Cold is in need of volunteers to provide meals, serve as evening hosts, or donate cleaning supplies. Your support during this time would make a meaningful impact on the shelter and guests. Please consider helping—thank you! - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45A9AD2BA5FA7-56017734-ootc#/>

The State College Food Bank: For October, the State College Food Bank specifically needs condiments (like ketchup, mustard, salad dressing), gluten-free items (such as pasta and baking items), and personal hygiene and cleaning supplies.

Would you be interested in possibly volunteering for a week with Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) next January? Let Marvin Hall know. Currently looking at an MDS project in North Carolina but will need to wait until fall to see if the NC project is still an option for January.

Announcements (cont.)

Mennonite Church USA News

MC USA joins over 100 national faith leaders to denounce political violence and attacks on free speech and nonprofit independence -

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/political-violence/>

Sandra Montes-Martinez, Western District Conference associate conference minister, emphasizes the importance of accompanying immigrants and sharing God's love through action in her Menno Snapshots blog. Read more here: [mennoniteusa.org/love-and-action](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/love-and-action)

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/>