
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 717-513-6849

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:
<https://mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter>

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**



**University
Mennonite
Church**



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

December 7, 2025, 10 am



What do
you fear?

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT
OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

Second Sunday of Advent

*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: Ben Wideman

Accompanist: Krista Weidner Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Krista Weidner

Welcome & prayer – Ben Wideman

Call to worship

Peace Advent candle lighting – with Melody Thompson

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see
glimmers of peace?

**All: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet
of early morning, when people shake
hands, when loved ones say they're sorry,
and when the church sings together.**

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world,
peace is all around us.

Today we light the candle of peace as a
reminder of this good news. May this
flicker of light help us remember that
even in a fearful world, peace is present.
We only have to look for it.

(Light candle)

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer of confession & words of forgiveness

Singing –

Sing a New World into Being – VT 809

Hark! The Glad Song – VT 217

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

Children's Time – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Scripture – Matthew 11:1-11, read by Melody Thompson

Sermon – Bonnie Kline Smeltzer

Communion & Prayer – with music from the Minnich family

Singing –

Bless'd Be the God of Israel – VT 223

Sharing time – Leah Witzig

Glimpses of the Divine – *There's a Wild Hope on the Wind* – VT 828

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/>

Dec 7, after worship – extended Communion and Conversation

Dec 8, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Dec 8, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

Dec 9, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Dec 11, 7 am – UMC Men's Breakfast

Dec 14, 10 am – Advent 3, Guest speaker, Amy Yoder McGloughlin

Dec 14, after worship – Christian education for all ages followed by our
December UMC fellowship meal (details below)

Dec 21, after worship – Children's Christmas program during second hour

There will be a traditional fellowship meal next Sunday, Dec. 14th. Bring a dish to share and continue conversation with our guest speaker - Amy Yoder McGloughlin from Allegheny Mennonite Conference. **On Dec. 21 following the children's program** we ask you to bring cookies to share. The committee will provide drinks and healthy snacks.

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

Dec 14 Christianity in the Qur'an

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.

Do you have a winter home improvement project planned but are missing an essential tool or maybe several tools? Check out the church's 'Sharing and Loan List' under the Community tab on the Church website. It lists nearly 100 tools and other items that are available for you to borrow.

Please consider supporting Park Forest Preschool families this holiday season. If interested, send donations to the church by Wednesday, December 10th. Write checks to UMC and designate "Preschool Christmas Gift" in the memo. Last year we were able to donate \$50 gift cards to each Park Forest Preschool family – this year we are aiming for \$75. Gift cards allow families to make choices for their holiday celebrations. Park Forest Preschool is a nonprofit, tuition-free school for two-, three-, and four-year-old children from income-qualifying families.

Mennonite Central Committee has a request for bars of bath soap. MCC provides soap to hospitals, orphanages, and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to source. Generally, MCC does not have enough soap to meet these requests, so MCC is asking church groups to help meet these needs. In 2024: 5,117 pounds of bath soap was sent to Malawi, Ukraine, and, Zambia.

For the month of December we invite you to participate in purchasing bars of hand /bath soap for MCC. Bars need to be at least 3oz. and kept in the wrapper. (No powder and no laundry soap is requested). **Please Note:** Food Bank items will not be collected by UMC for the month of December.



Demonstrations At Allen Street Gates

Black Lives Matter – Mondays from 4:30 to 5 p.m.
Prayers for Peace – Mondays from 5 to 5:30 p.m.
Supporting Ukraine – Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Announcements (cont.)

Since 2022, Church World Service - Harrisburg has welcomed over 1,200 refugees from countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, the DRC, Syria and Guatemala to Pennsylvania. Our church has partnered with CWS-H by bringing refugees to the State College area and in directly supporting the work they do in Harrisburg with volunteers and household good donations.

Beginning last January, CWS-H has had to cut their staff by 80%. Even so, they continue to provide essential programs, such as food pantry, job search and legal support, and case management, to 500 refugees who arrived within the past year. Currently, CWS-H is in critical need of funds to keep operating in 2026. They have put out a broad appeal to raise the \$400,000 needed to continue their refugee program.

The UMC leadership team discussed this request and has decided to do a one-time fund-raising effort. If you want to support this cause, you can put a check in offering basket or send one to Jim Rosenberger, designating CWS-H in the memo line. We will collect donations until the first week in December, when a check will be sent from UMC.



**You are warmly invited to the 43rd Annual
Alternative Christmas Fair!**

**32 Charities to learn about and support -
3 are new this year!**

Delicious home-cooked meal available!

**Celebrate the true spirit of the holiday
season!**



Sunday December 7, 10:30 am to 2 pm

**University Baptist & Brethren Church
411 S. Burrowes Street
State College PA 16801**

Or donate online, November 30 through December 21

**For more information visit
www.ubbcwelcome.org/acf**

Mennonite Church USA News

Advent is underway, and MC USA invites you to deepen your worship at home with our 2025 Advent at Home guide. This year's theme, "Be Amazed," follows MennoMedia's Leader magazine and offers weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families and households of all ages. The guide is free to all MC USA congregations and is available now as a downloadable PDF. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/advent-at-home-2025/>

The MC USA Executive Board recently shared a letter to all MC USA constituents regarding a recent decision by Mennonite World Conference. The letter expresses the Executive Board's deep concern and reaffirms MC USA's ongoing commitment to unity and peacemaking within the global Anabaptist community. Please read it here in English <https://bit.ly/3JUKeGT> and en español: <https://bit.ly/4iizLBA>.

Mennonite Church USA invites you to a 90-minute webinar on navigating pastoral transitions led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, on Mon., Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. PST/7 p.m. EST. This session will offer guidance for congregations navigating or anticipating a pastoral change, with practical tools for discernment and visioning. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3XisPLk>

There's still time to join The Great Menno Give! MC USA staff, Mennonite Mission Network, and MennoMedia are coming together during this season of giving for a special initiative: The Great Menno Give. We invite you to join with others across our church family in a collective act of generosity that empowers mission, education and faith formation. Please give here: <https://bit.ly/4ohMber>

Mennonite Church USA is seeking a Human Resources/Finance Assistant (.5 FTE) to support a wide range of HR and financial functions for the MC USA Executive Board. Experience and knowledge in accounting are preferred, with a minimum of a two-year Business degree or equivalent experience. MC USA is committed to diversity among staff and welcomes people of diverse backgrounds and abilities to apply. The application deadline is January 5, 2026. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/employment>

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/>

Advent Organ Recitals

Wednesdays at 12:30 - State College Presbyterian Church



December 3rd
Heike Burghart Rice,
Director of Music at State
College Presbyterian



December 10th
Mark Ferraguto, Organist at Faith
United Church of Christ and
Professor of Musicology at Penn
State University



December 17th
Mary Bahnfleth, Principal
Organist at St. Paul's United
Methodist Church