

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

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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, ruthtillman@gmail.com 302-379-8912

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jrosenberger@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**



All generations serving God and the world together

December 14, 2025, 10 am



What do you fear?

EVEN IN OUR FEAR, WE ARE CALLED FORWARD

Third 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: Ruth Kitchin Tillman
Accompanist: Hal Kunkel Song Leader: Mark Minnich

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Micah Schonberg

Welcome & prayer – Ruth Kitchin Tillman

Call to worship

Confession

One: Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one.

Many: We've heard this tale before.

**We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs,
witnessed the children act it out.**

One: The story of this season is not a new one, yet we long to hear it as if it is.

Many: Awaken our minds.

Allow us to hear this ancient tale with fresh ears.

**May we respond with Mary's "yes" to your invitation into the redemption of
the world.**

With hope we pray,

Amen.

Peace Advent candle lighting – with Heidi and Stefan Martin

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

**Many: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We
see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy
in meals around the table and in singing of Christmas songs.**

One: Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of
joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember
that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. May God give us the eyes to
see it.

[candle is lit]

Many: Thanks be to God

Singing –

O Little Town of Bethlehem – VT 245
Join in Mary's Prophet-Song – VT 246

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

Children's Time – Rick Stehouwer

Scripture – Luke 1:26-39 (CEB), read by Heidi Martin

Sermon – Amy Yoder McGloughlin

Singing –

My Soul Cries Out – VT 412

Sharing time – Doug Miller

Glimpses of the Divine – *Show Up* Advent theme by Britt Kusserow

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 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

Dec 15, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Dec 16, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Dec 21 – Advent 4 and Children's Christmas program during second hour

Dec 24, 5 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

There will be a fellowship meal today, Dec. 14th. Enjoy a potluck meal 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.

Christmas Day Dinner at State College Presbyterian – all are welcome to a
community meal on December 25. Details are in the midweek newsletter.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SERIES TODAY

Encountering the Qur'an led by Jon Brockopp

In this series of four discussions, we have explored one of the world's great
religious texts, considering it from Muslim, historical, and Christian
perspectives. Our final session is today - **Dec 14** Christianity in the Qur'an

Announcements (cont.)

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/>

MC USA is launching a new collaborative workshop series to help churches and leaders practice healthier ways of navigating conflict. The first training kicks off in Oregon this March! Discover what's behind this new initiative and how you can take part. Read more and register on our website: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/conflict-transformation-workshop/>

MC USA recently announced the 2025–26 recipients of its Scholarship for BIPOC Students. The scholarship recognized nine students from three partner schools. Read the full story here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/bipoc-scholarships-2025/>

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

Announcements (cont.)

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.

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.

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.