

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, ruthtillman@gmail.com 302-379-8912

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, jlrosenberger@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

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

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

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



All generations serving God and the world together

December 28, 2025, 10 am



What do you fear?

LET FEAR FUEL A FIRE FOR JUSTICE

First Sunday After Christmas

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: Becky Kephart Song Leader: Jim Rosenberger

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Becky Kephart

Welcome & prayer – Ross Hardison

Call to worship

One: Here in worship—

All: we pray together,

One: we stand together,

All: we sing together,

One: we listen together.

All: Here in worship—

we are not alone.

One: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry,
remember this moment.

All: We are not alone.

Let us worship our God, who is with us.

Advent candle lighting

Singing –

Joy to the World – VT 240

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks – VT 253

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

Children's Time – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Scripture – Luke 2:7-20 (Common English Bible)

Sermon – Ken Litwiller

Singing –

To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born – VT 259

Sharing time – Doug Miller

Glimpses of the Divine – Wonderful Christmas Time

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 28, after worship – no Sunday school programming

Dec 29, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Dec 30, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Jan 4, after worship – Epiphany Sunday, extended communion

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.

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.)

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 year 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.

Mennonite Church USA News

MC USA invites you to an interactive online (Zoom) meeting on **coping with and processing grief**. Sponsored by The Corinthian Plan, MC USA's healthcare plan for pastors and church workers, this webinar will encourage and equip attendees with practices that lead toward resilience and peace. All are welcome to attend. Register here: <https://bit.ly/48d6TGo>

MC USA's Safe Church ministry recently presented an online training webinar based on Part 1 of the denomination's new **Prevention and Accountability Resource**. Designed for pastors, church leaders and congregational teams, this session provides practical guidance to help congregations create safer spaces and stronger systems of accountability. Watch it here in English <https://bit.ly/44uyi5q> or Spanish <https://bit.ly/48nXw6T>.

Jamaica Mennonite Church has been hard hit by Hurricane Melissa, a Category 5 storm that caused widespread destruction in the Caribbean. Please remember those affected in prayer, and consider making a donation to help our sister churches recover from this devastating storm. 100% of donations will go directly to Jamaica Mennonite Church. Donations can be made online here <https://bit.ly/4pwk648> (temporarily under Climate Justice), noting "JAMAICA" in the note field.

Announcements (cont.)

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/>