

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

January 4, 2026, 10 am



What do you fear?

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FEAR DOESN'T STOP US**

Epiphany Sunday

**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 Kephart Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Hal Kephart

Welcome & prayer – Ross Hardison

Call to worship

One: In the dark of morning,

All: the stars still shine.

One: In the depth of winter,

All: the birds still climb.

One: At the start of the year,
tender and new,

All: God is here.

God is near.

One: Do not rest in your fear.

All: God is here.

One: So like the stars and the birds,

All: Let us worship holy God.

Advent candle lighting and prayer

Singing –

O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem – VT 275

See Whose Glory Fills the Skies – VT 274

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

Children's Time – Marvin Hall

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

Sermon – Ben Wideman

Confession & Communion

Singing –

Arise Your Light is Come – VT 273

Sharing time – Leah Witzig

Glimpses of the Divine – *Home By Another Way*, by James Taylor
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/>

Jan 4, after worship – extended communion conversation

Jan 5, noon – UMC Women's Lunch at Foxdale

Jan 5, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Jan 6, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Jan 8, 7 am – UMC Men's Breakfast at The Waffle Shop

Jan 11, after worship – Christian education for all ages

Thank you for collecting 249 bars of soap to be distributed by Mennonite Central Committee to hospitals, refugee camps, and orphanages in Ukraine and several countries in Africa. Mennonite Central Committee has an ongoing request for bars of bath soap where soap is expensive or difficult to source. Thank you for helping in this way!

Our local State College Food Bank requests chunky soups and crackers this month. Please drop your donations on the table in the foyer. Items will be collected through January 21. Thank you for your support!

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.

Announcements (cont.)

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.



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.

Mennonite Church USA News

Is your congregation undergoing or anticipating a pastoral transition? Join MC USA's Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, for an online Zoom meeting titled, **“Navigating Ministry Transitions,” on Monday, Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. PT/7 p.m. ET**. She will explore the emotional and spiritual dynamics of pastoral change while guiding you through discernment, visioning and practical search processes. Spanish interpretation is available. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4pDziNk>

Did your congregation celebrate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025? As we mark the 501st birthday of the Anabaptist movement, MC USA would like to **share photos from across the church** that capture how congregations honored this milestone. Please submit one or two photos from your celebration, so we can highlight them on MC USA's social media channels this month. Please upload your photos by **Friday, Jan. 9**, using this form: https://MCUSA.formstack.com/forms/500th_anniversary_pictures

MC USA joined Indigenous leaders and partner organizations in a Native-led ceremony in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to honor the children who died at the **Carlisle Indian Industrial School** and to acknowledge Mennonites' historical involvement. Read more about this important step toward truth-telling and repair at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/carlisle>

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/>