

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, ruthillman@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:

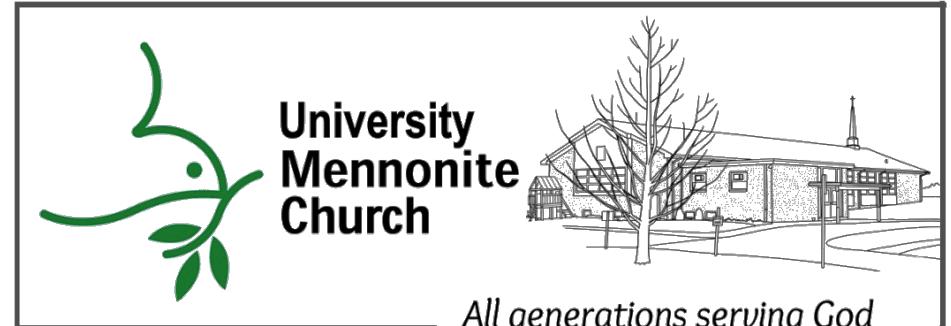
<https://mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter>

Missed worship? Our church services are being recorded and published at

<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 11, 2026, 10 am



Contradictions

**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: Becky Kephart Song Leader: Jim Rosenberger

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Becky Kephart

Welcome & prayer – Ben Wideman

Call to worship

One: Our scriptures are like a library, not a single book; a conversation, not a decree. We gather to worship a God who defies simple explanation, a God of expansive mystery.

All: We come ready to wrestle with the stories—the fiery commands and the gentle whisper, the possibility of judgment and the flood of mercy.

One: The prophets speak of swords beaten into plowshares, yet the Son of Man sometimes brought division. The scriptures tell us to be still and know God, and also to run the race with endurance.

All: We acknowledge the tensions: the ancient law alongside new grace, the call to radical community against the need for solitary prayer.

One: Let us not fear the friction, for in the space between seemingly opposite truths, we often find a more profound reality. Let us celebrate the complexity of a God big enough to hold it all.

All: We open our hearts to the expansive Word, trusting that the contradictions are an invitation to deeper faith. May we gather together in worship.

Singing –

In Christ There is no East or West – VT 390
Faith Begins by Letting Go – VT 585

Calling the children forward for children's time, Come and See - VT 282
Children's Time – Meredith Wideman

Scripture – some contradictions, read by Paula Droege and Jon Brockopp

John 14: 25-27

²⁵“All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Exodus 20:12

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Matthew 5:43-45

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor³³ and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven.

Sermon – Sally Minnich

Singing –

In the Bulb There is a Flower – VT 670

Sharing time – Tim Groff

Glimpses of the Divine – Faith and Doubt, by Aaron Espe
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 11, after worship – Christian education for all ages
Jan 12, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace
Jan 12, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing
Jan 13, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online
Jan 18, after worship – Intergenerational Sunday School

Matthew 10:34-36

³⁴“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,
a daughter against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her
mother-in-law—

³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the
members of his own household.”^[c]

MLK Jr. Memorial March

When: January 20th at 3:30 p.m.

Where: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza, 100 block of S Fraser Street

March Begins at 3:45 p.m. – We will proceed to the HUB-Robeson Center as our ending point.

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.

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

Spiritual director Wendy Janzen offers five simple, embodied **spiritual "pocket practices"** to use anytime to feel more grounded, connected and spiritually supported. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/pocket-practices/>

If you are a Mennonite working or teaching in a public-school setting, you are invited to join the upcoming **Mennonite Public Educators Zoom meeting** on Monday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. PT/7 p.m. ET. Our topic will be student behavior, discipline and restorative justice within your classroom and your school as a whole. Register here: <https://forms.gle/CdbeMF1kKfroTfft8>

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/>

YOU'RE INVITED

STATE COLLEGE NATIONAL DAY OF RACIAL HEALING
RACE AND IDENTITY: FOSTERING HEALING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

3 Tuesday, February 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Municipal Building Community Room 243 South Allen Street

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

A SPACE TO REFLECT ON WHERE WE'VE BEEN, IDENTIFY WHERE WE ARE, AND IMAGINE WHERE WE'RE GOING TOGETHER.

COME AS YOU ARE.

EVERY VOICE BELONGS AT THE TABLE.

The State College National Day of Racial Healing is inspired by the work of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF). Learn more about the Day of Racial Healing at <https://dayofracialhealing.org>

What does healing look like when every identity is acknowledged?

Join the Borough of State College, Community Diversity Group, and AAUW for the State College National Day of Racial Healing. This year's theme is Race and Identity: Fostering Healing in Our Communities, and serves as a day to bring together reflection, dialogue, and creative expression through keynote talks, identity-based discussions, and a collaborative closing activity.

February 3

11:00 AM–2:30 PM

Municipal Building Community Room, 243 South Allen Street

Come as you are. Every voice belongs at the table.

[Register here.](#)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

**A LEGACY OF LOVE:
SERVING WITH PURPOSE, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES**

Join us in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at a free, family-friendly community service event.

- Free Food
- Arts and Crafts
- Financial Literacy Class
- Packing food for Backpack Program

Scan the QR code to sign up for the financial literacy class.

Monday, January 19 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
State College YMCA
677 W Whitehall Rd, State College
RepTakac@pahouse.net | (814) 308-0569