

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:

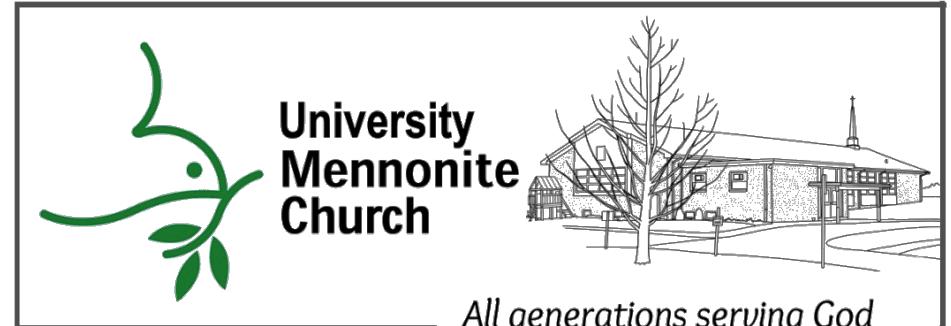
<https://mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter>

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 18, 2026, 10 am

TRUTH?



**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: Leah Witzig
Accompanist: Joyce Hall Song Leader: Evelyn Bartsch

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Joyce Hall

Welcome & prayer – Leah Witzig

Call to worship

Leader: What did John notice that led him to point toward Jesus?

People: No angels appeared - only water, a voice, and the Spirit's breath.

Leader: John watched what was given, without spectacle or certainty.

People: Teach us to notice what is quietly revealed.

Leader: Where are God's messengers for us today?

People: In Scripture, in faithful witnesses, in the stillness where God speaks.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who meets us without fanfare.

People: We come, open and listening. Amen.

Peace Lamp – with Leah and Fidele Lumeya, Rimrock, AZ

Singing –

Summoned by the God Who Made Us – VT 1

We Are One in the Spirit – VT 387

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

Children's Time – Jess McCormick

Scripture – John 1:29-41, read by Elaine Mercer, Belleville, PA

Sermon – Ben Wideman

Singing –

Sing a New World Into Being – VT 809

Sharing time – Leah Witzig

Glimpses of the Divine – Tell the Truth by the Avett Brothers
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 18, after worship – Intergenerational Sunday School

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 25, 10 am – guest speaker Kevin King from Mennonite Disaster Service

Jan 25, after worship – Christian Education for all ages

MLK Day of Service 2026 – consider community volunteer efforts tomorrow through Penn State University, as well as at our local YMCA.

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.

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light Annual Convening, January 25th-29th.

PA IPL invites you to five days of programming later this month! We launch in dialogue with [Valarie Kaur](#) on the theme of revolutionary love on Sunday Jan 25th at 2pm, followed by a panel discussion reflecting on 10 years of Laudato Si at 3pm. On Monday 26th at 7pm, we'll be hearing about all things trees and announcing our new program, Roots, Branches, & Hands. On Tuesday 27th at 7pm, we'll host a community organizing 101 workshop. On Wednesday 28th at 7pm, we'll be talking about pollinators, community resilience, and gardening. On Thursday 29th at 7pm, we'll close out the week with guided meditation focused on love through the works of bell hooks. All sessions will be recorded. Tickets start at \$5. You can register here - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-your-neighbor-love-your-world-annual-convening-tickets-1489022770189>

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!

Announcements (cont.)

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!

Save The Date!



"1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted A Culture"

When: Monday, Jan. 26th at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 205 S Garner St, State College

St. John's UCC Boalsburg and Grace Lutheran Church have partnered to host a showing of the documentary: "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture"

"1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture" is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.

It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film's creators, 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.

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

MC USA invites you to an interactive online (Zoom) meeting on **coping with and processing grief** on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. PT/7 p.m. ET. 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>

Join MC USA's Safe Church ministry for an online webinar titled, "We are a small church: HELP," on Monday, Jan. 26, at 4 p.m. PT/7 p.m. ET. The webinar will look at the unique opportunities for and challenges of being a small church – and explore MC USA's Safe Church policies and practices for smallish congregations. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3Mzmqcv>

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/>