

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, 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/>

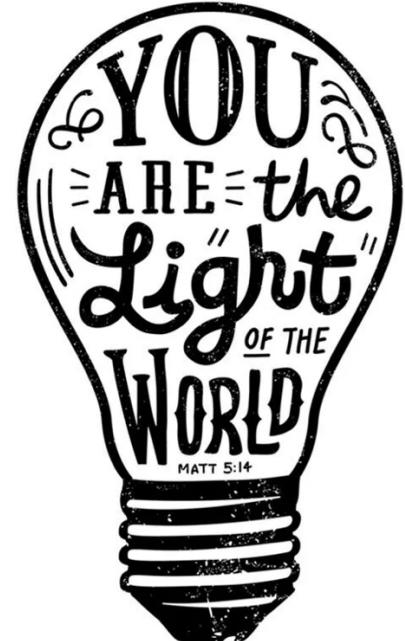
Church calendar <https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/>

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



February 8, 2026, 10 am

Worship with Albright-Bethune United Methodist



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: Meredith Wideman Song Leader: Evelyn Bartsch

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Meredith Wideman

Welcome & prayer – Ben Wideman

Call to worship – from VT 854

Leader: Some of us are exhausted.

People: We come to rest.

Leader: Some of us are curious about Jesus.

People: We come to learn.

Leader: Some of us are hungry.

People: We come to be fed.

Leader: Some of us are disoriented.

People: We come to pray.

Leader: Some of us are broken.

People: We come to be healed.

Leader: We gather around you today, O Christ.

People: Teach us, feed us, hear us, heal us.

All: Grant us your peace. Amen.

Peace Lamp

Singing –

Be Thou My Vision – VT 549

This Little Light of Mine – VT 762

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

Children's Time – Ben Wideman

Scripture – Matthew 5:13-20, read by Ross Hardison

Sermon – Pastor Renee Ford, Albright-Bethune UMC

Singing –

Here I Am – VT 545

Sharing time – Tim Groff

Glimpses of the Divine – *Higher Ground* cover by Playing for Change
Moments where we have seen glimpses of the divine in our lives

Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/visitors

Benediction

Announcements

Coming up – Check out the church calendar for more details

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

Feb 8, 10 am – Joint worship and potluck with Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church, Pastor Renee Ford speaking

Feb 9, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Feb 9, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

Feb 10, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Feb 12, 7 am – UMC Men's Breakfast at the Waffle Shop

Feb 15 – Laura Litwiller speaking, comforter knotting after worship

Doug and Vonda Yoder are inviting anyone who wants to drop by to watch the Super Bowl this evening. If not into the game, they'll be games to play. They will have hotdogs and snacks. 1604 W Whitehall Rd.

Pastor Search Update: On Sunday, March 1, during the second hour in the sanctuary, our pastor search committee is inviting everyone to learn about the progress of our pastoral search journey. As a reminder, our committee members are Jasiel Lira, Emily Pakhtigian, Sally Minich, Doug McPherson, Shelley Davis, Jim Pierce, Marvin Hall, Leah Witzig, Gloria Horst Rosenberger.

February is MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) Comforter Month referred to as: THE GREAT WINTER WARM-UP. On Sunday, February 15 during the second hour all ages are invited to knot comforters and cut fabric for patches for comforter tops. Please bring your scissors. MCC aims to collect 10,000 comforters by the end of March to support international relief efforts, particularly in Ukraine, Palestine, Malawi, and Zambia.

There are several ways to connect with our local Muslim community during Ramadan. On February 28 at 6pm, UMC will host local Turkish community for an Iftar meal. Schlow Library is hosting a family storytime and craft workshop on February 16 from 4:30-6:30. Our friend Ahmet is once again coordinating local home Iftar meals. The sign-up link is here - <https://forms.gle/Tw67C5LAPGHBXVqU6>

2026 Meat Canning Project

2026 is the 51st year for the Meat Canning Project locally. Did you know that 10% of all of the meat canned, remains local? This year we will be canning 40,000 pounds of chicken!

Dates: February 9 – 12 for canning and February 13 for cleanup

Times: Monday – Thursday 6:30 am – 8:00 pm

- Friday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Where: Chief Logan Firehouse
1800 Glenwood Ave Lewistown, PA 17044

How you can help: We are looking for volunteers (groups preferred but not required) to help with all steps of the process:

Grinding Meat → Filling Cans → Cleaning Cans → Labeling/Boxing Cans

Volunteers can be scheduled for a little or as much time as you would like.
(1 hour, 2 hours, 4 hours, all day)

Who to Contact:

UMC is organizing a group! Contact
Laura and Ken Litwiller to participate
-- kenlaura78@gmail.com

Unable to donate your time, but looking to help? We are also accepting monetary donations. **Approximate cost for the project this year is \$100,000.**

Send checks to: Central PA World Hunger Association,

PO Box 76 Belleville, PA 17004



792,407 Total Cans
with the help of
28,000 Volunteers

TOGETHER
WE
CAN

Singers of all levels are welcome to join a community choir during the Lenten season. Rehearsals are Sundays from 2-4 PM beginning on Feb. 8 at Grace Lutheran Church in State College and lasting until the public performance on Wednesday, March 25 at 7PM. Contact Laurel Sanders at lsanders@glcpa.org for details.



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.

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.

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/>

Announcements (cont.)

Mennonite Church USA News

Allegheny Mennonite Conference Minister, Amy Yoder McGloaglin, is currently leading a delegation to Israel/Palestine. Please keep the group in your prayers during this time. They will be planting olive trees and standing in solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank.

MC USA is now accepting applications for the 2026-27 BIPOC Scholarship.

The Scholarship aids students who identify as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Color who are members or active participants of an MC USA congregation and who are attending or plan to attend an MC USA-affiliated Mennonite college, university or seminary. Learn more and apply here: <https://bit.ly/49LLYLi>

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 Beaverton, Oregon on March 12-14! Discover what's behind this new initiative and how you can take part. Read more and register at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/conflict-transformation-workshop/>

Marco Güete, director of Hispanic Ministries for MC USA, highlights how **Anabaptist-rooted theological education pathways equip Hispanic and Latino leaders for faithful, contextual ministry** without leaving their congregations. Read his Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/walking-together/>

Announcements (cont.)

Climate Cafe to Share Eco-Anxiety **Change is challenging; talking with others helps.**



Feeling climate distressed and wanting to share your concerns with like-minded people?

Please come to this free event co-sponsored by the State College Friends' Climate Justice Working Group and Foxdale's Climate Care committee. Co-Facilitators are: Jackie Bonomo, has led online Climate Cafes for Climate Witness Stewards and practiced peer counseling for 50 years; Andy McKinnon is a licensed social worker, therapist and climate activist and Stacey Budd is the Program Director for Team Development at Shaver's Creek.



This Climate Cafe is organized to be a confidential space to share climate anxiety and grief over loss due to climate chaos. The world as we knew it is changing due to our previous inattention/denial of the consequences of our way of living on our planet. In clearly seeing this reality, many of us are fearful, angry and sad and the sharing of our losses and concerns helps. We want to:

- Reduce feeling overwhelmed
- Face the feelings and keep seeing climate reality
- Stay actively engaged with the climate problem
- Keep functioning well while accepting the reality of climate change, both in our everyday lives, as well as act for change to reduce the threat of climate rupture.

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 12

State College Friends Meeting - 611 E. Prospect Avenue, State College

The event is free, please reserve your space:

<https://forms.gle/7HU8AjWD8wTLyVAf9>