

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 15, 2026, 10 am



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: Krista Weidner Song Leader: Faith King

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Krista Weidner

Welcome & prayer – Leah Witzig

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 –

We Are People of God's Peace – VT 797

Somlandela – VT 566

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

Children's Time – Meredith Wideman

Scripture – Luke 5:1-11, read by Jen and Rob Bies

Sermon – Laura Litwiller, "A Call to Discipleship"

Singing –

Take My Life and Let it Be – VT 759

Sharing time – Gloria Horst Rosenberger

Glimpses of the Divine – *Fishers of Men* by Rhonda Vincent

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 15, after worship – MCC comforter knotting for all ages (details below)

Feb 16, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Feb 17, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Feb 18 – Ash Wednesday (details below)

Feb 22 – First Sunday in Lent, second hour Christian education for all ages

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. MCC aims to collect 10,000 comforters by the end of March to support international relief efforts, particularly in Ukraine, Palestine, Malawi, and Zambia.

Dish and laundry detergents are always in demand at the State College Food Bank. Please consider donating detergents or any non-perishable food item during February. The January UMC Food Bank donations weighed 115 lbs. Thank you for your generosity.

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 Minnich, Doug McPherson, Shelley Davis, Jim Pierce, Marvin Hall, Leah Witzig, Gloria Horst Rosenberger.

On Sundays, March 22 and 29, during the UMC Adult Education time following worship, **Prof. Lior Sternfeld, one of the leaders of the "New Minyan" that has been meeting in our building, will speak** about the history of his group and some of his experiences, both of being an Israeli Jew in State College and of his time in Israel during the Gaza war. Please plan to come, welcome Prof. Sternfeld, and hear a very interesting perspective. -- Ken Litwiller for the UMC Adult Education Committee.

Notes

Announcements (cont.)

Lenten Season traditionally begins with Ash Wednesday, this year on February 18. Given several circumstances including our ongoing pastoral search process, the Worship Committee decided not to hold our own Ash Wednesday service this spring. Instead, we have compiled a list of Ash Wednesday related services and events at some of our local downtown congregations. We encourage you to explore these options or find another that is not listed!

- **Albright-Bethune United Methodist** will hold a Community Imposition of Ashes at their Civil Rights Heritage Garden and Bench outside their building from 9-11 am.
- **Faith United Church of Christ** will hold a service at 7 pm and the sanctuary will also be open 12-1 for ashes and prayer.
- **Grace Lutheran** will hold worship services at 12:15 pm and 6:15 pm.
- **St. Andrew's Episcopal** will have services at 7:30 am, 12:15 and 7:00 pm. Plus, ashes to go out in front of the church from 2:00 to 3:00 pm.
- **State College Presbyterian Church** will hold a service at 7:00 pm and the service will be led by their senior high youth as is their tradition. Imposition of ashes will be offered.
- **St. Paul's United Methodist** will have a traditional service beginning at 7pm, featuring the imposition of ashes, a (somewhat unorthodox) message about how delight can lead to repentance, and our choir singing an anthem version of "Simple Gifts."
- **Abba Java Coffee House and Lutheran Campus Ministry** will distribute ashes on campus from 9-12 in front of the old Palmer Art Museum (lion paws)

In addition to these options, **State College Friends Meeting** is hosting a chili dinner fundraiser for Centre County Rapid Response Network. The menu consists of white chicken, red beef, and vegan chili, rice, salad, bread, fruit and dessert. Dinner is free, donations are encouraged.

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.

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.

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/>

Mennonite Church USA News

Allegheny Mennonite Conference Minister, Amy Yoder McGloughlin, 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's 2026 Lent at Home Worship Guide invites households to journey through Lent with simple rituals, Scripture from John's Gospel and opportunities for reflection. This guide, titled "Dwelling in Dissonance," helps all ages hold grief and hope together, as we walk with Jesus toward resurrection. Available in English and Spanish. Download it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/lent-at-home-2026>

In her Menno Snapshots blog, Shé Langley, MC USA's director of event planning and digital marketing, shares five practical AI and automation tools churches can use to reduce burnout, improve communication and support ministry, while grounding technology use in ethical, pastoral and climate justice values. Read it here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ai-for-churches/>

Announcements (cont.)

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>

Interfaith Human Services (IHS) would like to inform you that our Executive Director of six years, Curt Knouse has resigned his position at IHS to pursue his passion for missionary work. The staff and Board of Directors wish Curt all the best in his new position. We recognize that times of transition can cause uncertainty, but they also create opportunities. We are excited to explore new possibilities for IHS and to determine what type of leadership positions and agency structure will carry IHS into the future. Our programs and the people we serve remain our top priority.

If you have questions, please contact BJ Weaver, Senior Case Manager, or Sue Forster, Development Coordinator, at 814-234-7731.

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.