
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, rsc15@psu.edu 814-883-3503

Asst. chair: Ruth Kitchin Tillman, ruthkitchin@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**



University
Mennonite
Church



All generations serving God
and the world together

February 22, 2026, 10 am



Love and grief, glory and belief

*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: Ruth Kitchin Tillman

Accompanist: Hal Kunkel Song Leader: Micah Schonberg

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Hal Kunkel, with Edna Troyer for

Come My Soul, Thou Must Be - #477 in the old red hymnal

Welcome & prayer – Ruth Kitchin Tillman

Call to worship

One: Welcome Lent.

All: Welcome mystery.

One: Welcome dissonance.

All: Welcome grief.

One: Welcome glory and uncertainty.

All: Welcome doubt. Welcome belief.

One: Welcome questions without answers.

All: Welcome fullness from above.

One: Welcome death and resurrection.

All: Welcome Jesus' fiercest love.

Confession

Peace Lamp

Singing –

Strong Peaceful Man of Galilee – VT 573

We Walk by Faith – VT 588

Voices of our Congregation – Reflections with Carl Keener

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

Children's Time – Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Scripture – Luke 5:1-11, read by Melody Thompson

Sermon – Ben Wideman

Singing –

What Comfort Can Our Worship Bring – VT 623

Sharing time – Ken Litwiller

Glimpses of the Divine – *Miracle* by CHVRCHES

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 22, after worship – Christian education for all ages

Feb 23, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Feb 23, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

Feb 24, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Feb 26, 7 am – UMC Men's Breakfast at Waffle Shop

Mar 1, after worship – update from Pastor Search Committee (details below)

Mennonite Mission Network would like to thank University Mennonite Church for the generous gift of \$660.00. Your generosity has enabled us to partner with 116 organizations and churches worldwide and have 74 workers and service program participants serving in 45 countries. We are thankful for your unwavering dedication to this shared mission of sharing God's love across the street and around the world. May God's light continue to shine through your church as a witness in your community and beyond.

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.

Announcements (cont.)

We have some beautiful Lent resources that coordinate with our theme for the season - "Dwelling in Dissonance" (available in the church foyer and by email) - but for those who would like something a bit simpler, here are two other ideas:

1. **Breath Prayers:** "A Simple Lent for Everyone Who Doesn't Really Have Much Left in the Tank Right Now" - a breath prayer and scripture for each day of Lent from Sarah Bessey (available in the church foyer)
2. **Candles:** Choose a place in your home to display 6 tea lights or votives. Light six candles the first Sunday, five the second, and so on, until there is just one light remaining - and then relight all six on Easter. On each Sunday (or Saturday evening), read the scripture for that day.

Feb. 22 - Love and grief, glory and belief - John 11:1–44

Mar. 1 - Obvious and hidden - John 13:1–17

Mar. 8 - Standing up and standing back - John 18:12–27

Mar. 15 - Submission and power - John 18:28–40

Mar. 22 - Complicity and innocence - John 19:1–16a

Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday - John 19:16b–22; 12:12–27

Easter - Death and Resurrection - John 20:1–18

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>

And please be sure to mark your calendars for **Maundy Thursday, April 2** - everyone is invited to the Spicher-Schonberg farm for a simple meal, foot washing, and a campfire.

Blessings this Lent -

Bethany (and our Worship Committee)

Announcements (cont.)

MoBE: Music of the Black Experience Thu, Feb 26 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, PSU Smeal College of Business – Atrium. Join internationally acclaimed jazz artist Ronnie Burrage and the Holographic Principle for an immersive evening exploring the Music of the Black Experience (MoBE). This performance blends jazz, spoken word, history, and storytelling to highlight how Black music reflects culture, resilience, and innovation across generations.

African American Storytelling with Momma Pam Pam Sat, Feb 28 from 10:30 am - 11:00 am. The Schlow Centre Region Library will hold its annual African American Storytelling event with childrens' storyteller Momma Pam Pam. Her animal stories accompanied by rain sticks will delight the whole family. The event is recommended for children ages 2-6, but all are welcome.

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.

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.

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>

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 Women in Leadership ministry welcomes three new steering committee members who will guide efforts to empower women, dismantle patriarchy and strengthen justice-centered leadership across the denomination. Read more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/wil-steering-committee/>

Nancy Kauffmann, senior consultant for Church Safety at MC USA, warns that churches must consistently follow their abuse-prevention policies to ensure real safety, accountability and trust for all. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/safe-church-policies/>

Announcements (cont.)




Join the Justice Committee to learn the power and possibilities for kids to do social justice work!

- **Why and how we support our kids in doing social justice work**
- **Protest etiquette**
- **Tips, tricks, and know-how to help keep yourself, your kids, and your community safe while protesting**

HOW TO RAISE A GOOD CITIZEN WORKSHOP

SUNDAY MARCH 1

UUFCC, ROOM 6
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM



We hope that by attending this workshop you will get to see how everyone, no matter their age, can truly make a difference when it comes to lifting up the voices of those oppressed. We'll also have resources available on how to talk with your kids about how to navigate fear and books to learn!

PARENT/CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the UUFCC Justice Committee
Contact Ashley Hamlin for more information: ahamlin@uufcc.com