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## CHURCH INFORMATION

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1606 Norma St., State College, PA 16801; (814) 234-2039

[www.universitymennonite.org](http://www.universitymennonite.org)

**Submissions for bulletin:** [bulletin@universitymennonite.org](mailto: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](mailto:ben.wideman@gmail.com)

215-859-0037

Elders:

Tim Groff, [tgroff@centreconcrete.com](mailto:tgroff@centreconcrete.com)

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814-883-1127

Cong. co-chair: Joel Weidner, [joelpsu82@outlook.com](mailto:joelpsu82@outlook.com)

814-777-4494

Cong. co-chair: Rick Stehouwer, [rcs15@psu.edu](mailto:rcs15@psu.edu)

814-883-3503

Asst. chair: Ruth Kitchin Tillman, [ruthkitchin@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkitchin@gmail.com)

302-379-8912

Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger, [jrosenberger@gmail.com](mailto:jrosenberger@gmail.com)

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Leadership team: [umc-lt@googlegroups.com](mailto:umc-lt@googlegroups.com)

Elders: [umc-elders@googlegroups.com](mailto:umc-elders@googlegroups.com)

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**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:

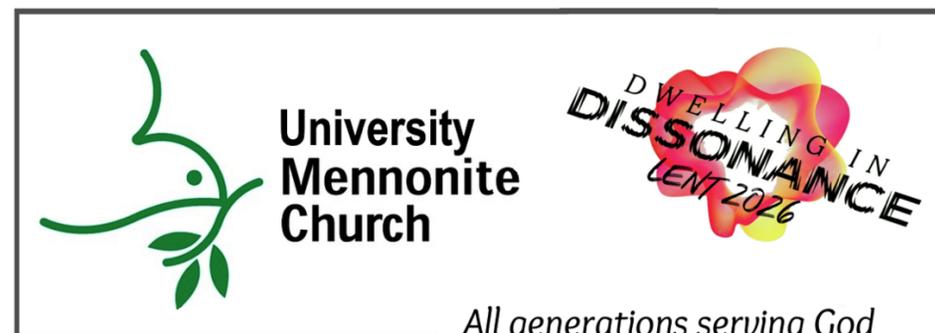
<https://mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter>

**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*

**March 8, 2026, 10 am**



***Standing Up, and Standing Back***

*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.***

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Worship Leader: Ruth Kitchin Tillman

Accompanist: Krista Weidner Song Leader: Faith King

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude** – Krista Weidner

**Welcome & prayer** – Ruth Kitchin Tillman

**Call to worship**

One: Confident, hesitant, maybe just tired.

**All: We come to worship.**

One: Wanting to follow but not always sure how.

Embarrassed by the ways we've fallen short.

**All: We come anyway.**

One: Seeking, hurting, longing, needing.

**All: We come.**

One: When hopes are high, and dreams are bright.

When hopes are dashed, and the world is not  
all right.

**All: We come again. We keep coming.**

One: Ready or not. Here we are.

**All: Come, Jesus. Come and meet us.**

**Confession**

**Peace Lamp**

**Singing** –

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* – V 98

*Just A Closer Walk With Me* – VT 743

**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** – John 18:12-27

**Sermon** – Leland Glenna, "Killing and Dying for Jesus"

**Singing** –

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* – VT 156

**Sharing time** – Tim Groff

**Glimpses of the Divine** – *By the Waters of Babylon* by Minnich family  
*Moments where we have seen glimpses of the divine in our lives*

**Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/visitors**

**Benediction**

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## Announcements

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**Coming up** – Check out the church calendar for more details

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

Mar 8, after worship – Christian Education, followed by a Potluck

Mar 9, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Mar 9, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

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

Mar 12, 7 am – Men's Breakfast

Mar 15, after worship – Intergenerational Sunday school

All are invited to a **Movie Afternoon at Vonda and Doug Yoder's home**, this afternoon at 3pm. The movie is *Train Dreams*. It is about the building of the railroad into the Pacific Northwest in the 1800's. It has a good story line and the scenery is beautiful. It lasts 1 hr 45 mins and it is rated PG 13. - Leslie Webb

Grace Lutheran Church (205 S. Garner Street, State College) invites you to the **13th annual ecumenical Lenten Musical Meditation** on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 PM. The free program, "I Believe: Songs of Faith, Hope, and Joy," focuses on the 1700th year of the Nicene Creed. It features Vivaldi's Credo with string orchestra; a jazz mass; Afro-Caribbean creed; and handbell choir. Dinner is available at 5; prelude at 6:40 (Nittany Brass). Free-will offerings defray costs. Call 814-238-2478 for info.

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.

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## Announcements (cont.)

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Our friends at **Albright-Bethune United Methodist** are hosting a “**Blue Monday**” service on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. This is a time for grief, loss, loneliness, sadness, distress, patience, and presence. Join Albright-Bethune as they hold space for one another to acknowledge and give voice to that which troubles our heart through candles, quiet music, scripture, and song. All are welcome.

**We are invited to submit artwork for an exhibition titled "Rainbow Creation," sponsored by Centre LGBT+ and a group of local faith communities.** LGBT+ people have experienced harm in many faith-based spaces, and 2026 is proving to be a particularly difficult and challenging time for the LGBT+ community, particularly for trans and non-binary folks. The exhibition is meant to elevate the voices of that community as well as the voices of its allies, especially those in faith-based spaces. We want to celebrate the beauty and dignity of people who identify as LGBT+ as well as to underscore their humanity. Submit artwork by March 15 to [rainbowcreationsubmission@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowcreationsubmission@gmail.com)

**The State College Food Bank** is looking for condiments, especially mayonnaise and salad dressings. Please consider donating these or any non-perishable food items during March. Cash is welcome as well.

**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.

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## Announcements (cont.)

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**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)

**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

**Mennonite Church USA responded to the deadly violence in January** in Minneapolis with a statement calling for peacemaking and urging faith-based action rooted in justice, nonviolence and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Read the statement here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/minneapolis-statement/>

**“What is the most important skill of a competent pastor?”** This is the central question answered by pastors across Mennonite Church USA during “The Competent Pastor” podcast, hosted by MC USA’s Michael Danner and Rachel Ringenberg Miller. Listen to new episodes every month on Spotify, Apple podcasts or on the MC USA website: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/the-competent-pastor/>

**The deadline for MC USA’s 2026-27 BIPOC Scholarship applications is April 1.** 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>



## 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.

**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE**

Saturday, March 28, 2026, 7:00 pm  
University Mennonite Church  
1606 Norma St., State College, PA  
**Live performance by YiYi,**  
Ukrainian folk trio featuring  
Caroline Kuhn, Katie Pawluk, and Zoya Shepko

**Donations accepted at the door.**  
All proceeds go to the Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine via Sister's Sister, Inc.

Concert sponsors: Woskob Family Endowment in Ukrainian Studies & PSU Ukrainian Society