



**University
Mennonite
Church**



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

August 9, 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: Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Accompanist: Hal Kunkel

Song Leader: Micah Schonberg

Prelude

Jim Pierce

Welcome and Prayer

Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Call to worship (*from Isaiah 43:1-3, CEB*)

One: But now, says the Lord—
the one who created you, Jacob,
the one who formed you, Israel:

**Many: Don't fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.**

One: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
When through the rivers, they won't sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you won't be scorched
And flame won't burn you.

**Many: I am the Lord your God,
The holy one of Israel, your savior**

Peace Lamp

Singing

led by Micah Schonberg

VT 549 – *Be Thou My Vision*

VT 437 – *The Lord is My Light*

Children's Time

Gloria Horst Rosenberger

VT 282 – *Come and See*

Voices of our Congregation

Hope Brubaker

Baptism Reflection

Ben Schonberg

Baptismal Blessing

Leader: God of grace, creator of waters,
your Spirit hovered over the deep.

**Left: We remember that you separated the land from the waters
and provided rain to freshen the ground.**

Right: We remember that you flooded the earth
and held creatures and people above the waters.

**Left: We remember that you parted the waters
as your people fled from bondage in Egypt.**

Right: We remember Jesus your Son,
who, like all of us, arrived in the waters of childbirth.

**Left: We remember John baptizing in the waters of the Jordan
and the Spirit descending like a dove**

Right: We remember that Jesus shared our thirst
and a Samaritan woman shared water from a well.

*All: Living Water,
pour your Spirit upon us.
Wash us and free us from sin,
make us fruitful in every way,
and renew your world with showers of blessing.*

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon

Ben Wideman

Singing

led by Micah Schonberg

VT 563 – *Come, Thou Font*

Sharing Time

Ken Litwiller

Glimpses of the Divine in our lives video

Music: Take Me to the River by Emma Donovan

Announcements/birthdays/anniversaries/visitors

Bethany Spicher
Schonberg

Benediction

Ben Wideman

Upcoming Events

Look at the church calendar for all events: universitymennonite.org/calendar/

Sun, Aug 9, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Sun, Aug 9, 12 pm – Baptism and Fellowship Meal

Mon, Aug 10, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Mon, Aug 10, 7 pm – Sacred Harp

Tue, Aug 11, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Thu, Aug 13, 7 am – Men's Breakfast

Fri, Aug 14, 8 pm – Outdoor movie night at Doug and Vonda's

Sun, Aug 16, 10 am – Church Around the Table

Sun, Aug 16, 1 pm – Hike at Musser Gap

Sun, Aug 16, 6:30 pm – Congregational Meeting via Zoom

MC USA's Iris de León-Hartshorn shares three **faith-based practices for leading change** — letting go, embracing experimentation and modeling the way of Jesus — to help church leaders navigate transformation with hope and grace. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/change-leadership/>

Subscribe to *Equipping*, Mennonite Church USA's free quarterly **digital resource digest**. Each issue shares timely resources, practical tools, learning opportunities, grants and upcoming events from across the denomination to help pastors, leaders and churches thrive. The next issue will be published Aug. 13. Sign up today at: <https://bit.ly/3Tajczp>

The **Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online (GAMEO)** recently celebrated its 30th anniversary as an open-access repository focused on Mennonite and Anabaptist communities, history and theology. Devon Miller, MC USA archives coordinator, was also welcomed to the board. Read more and learn how you can contribute updates to GAMEO here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/gameo-marks-30-years/>

Registration is now open for **MC USA's Militarism Summit**: Nov. 6-7, 2026, at Forest Hills Mennonite Church in Leola, Pennsylvania. The summit will explore the impact of militarism and will include time to reflect, learn and engage in thoughtful dialogue on waging peace in meaningful ways. The first 50 registrants will get a copy of "Rethinking Life" by Shane Claiborne. The link to register is: mcusa.formstack.com/forms/waging_peace_registration

Announcements

Every Tuesday we gather to prayerfully meditate on Sunday's scripture passage. Lectio divina, which simply means "divine reading," is an ancient practice that involves slowing down and reading the chosen text repeatedly, usually three times in total. With each reading comes a different emphasis. The readings are interspersed with moments of silence, as well as opportunities to reflect on the reading with the rest of the group. All are welcome – Tuesdays at noon on Zoom.

UMC donated 27 lbs. of non- perishable food and a \$50 gift card to **State College Food Bank** in July. Donation requests for August are **Chunky or Homestyle soups** and **any other non-perishable food item**. Thank you again for your generosity.

Announcements

Rooted: Soil+Seed Retreat is a weekend-long, intergenerational retreat and gathering for families and everyone to rest, worship, sing, play, connect, make memories, and be together. It will feature concerts, times of worship, sing-alongs, hiking, campfires, and opportunities to connect with others around nature, music, and faith in Jesus Christ. ALL ARE WELCOME! Registration is now open - eventbrite.com/e/rooted-soilseed-retreat-2026-registration-1993357568146?aff=oddtcreator

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 universitymennonite.org/donate
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like Zelle zellepay.com/

The Interfaith Human Services Community Care Auction is getting organized and in need of great auction items. This year's online auction is from Oct. 6th through Oct. 11th. We are **looking for new items, gift certificates, handmade items, event tickets, timeshare accommodations, hosting guests on your boat or at your camp**, etc.! If you have items to donate and/or if you have an idea for the auction that is not listed above please contact your IHS board member representative, Joyce Hall, at jeh21@comcast.net or 814-360-5191. Thank you for supporting IHS!

It is time to **collect school supplies** for the **MCC (Mennonite Central Committee)** school kit program. Each year, MCC sends school kits to children in countries that experience crises that keep children from attending school and having the supplies they need. Last year MCC sent 89,562 school kits to Burundi, Cuba, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia, And USA. This year MCC goal is to collect 30,000 school kits by August 31, 2026. Our congregation will be collecting school kit items on **August 9, 23, 30**.

The items are:

- 4 spiral or perforated-page notebooks: 8.5 X 10.5 (70 sheets)
- 8 new UNsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler: flat, MUST HAVE 30 CM markings
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils in its original packaging
- 1 large eraser
- 4 NEW blue or black ink pens
- 1 small METAL pencil sharpener (no plastic)

Please bring your donated school supplies into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings so that the children can collect them after children's time.

As we celebrate Ben Schonberg's baptism, and his decision to join the church in this ceremony, you might also be considering joining UMC in your own way. Please let Ben know if you would be interested in any of the following;

1. A conversation about baptism or new membership
2. Officially transferring your church membership from another congregation to UMC
3. Starting the process of moving toward baptism
4. Completing a previous journey where you went through a baptism or new member class but decided not to take the next step

Thank you for considering, and for being a congregation that journeys together!

Struggling with food security or know someone who is? Food Not Bombs is providing free vegan meals on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 4-7pm at Sydney Friedman Park.



Support



by having terrific food at



103 Clinton Ave State College

Good on takeout or dine in only. "All DoorDash orders and Open Table reservations excluded"

Wednesday, August 19th

4:30 pm - 9:00 pm

SHOW THIS FLYER and The Greek will donate 20% of those receipts to our tuition-free preschool for income-eligible families.



Greetings church,

As we look forward to Ben's baptism this afternoon, I've been reflecting this week on how age and experience plays a role in baptism commitment. The loose guideline of "old enough to make a personal profession of faith" is not really a clear guideline. Was I ready for baptism as a young teenager (strongly influenced by my peer group, who had sort of decided as a group to be baptized together)? I remember thinking that if my younger sister was willing, what's stopping me? Was that a good reason to be baptized?

It is also not lost on me that even if I had waited a few more years, I still wouldn't have been a fully formed adult. Scientific findings have shown that in men, the brain's frontal lobes, home to key executive functions such as planning, working memory, and impulse control, are among the last areas of a man's brain to mature; and that they may not be fully developed until halfway through the third decade of life.

One of the wonderful things about connecting one-on-one with so many of you during my first two months is that we are on a journey of faith together, only as strong as the community that surrounds us.

May we remember that baptism is not the end, nor is it the beginning, but rather it is the next step in a long journey of continually recommitting to something significant.

I invite us all to continue to reflect on our faith commitment as more than singular milestones, but an ongoing journey. Just as it will be for Ben this afternoon, it is a daily pledge to follow the example of the one who promises to be with us until the end of the age.

Peace to you all!

Ben

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

Submissions for bulletin: bulletin@universitymennonite.org

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Thursday end of day

Staff and volunteer leadership

Pastor: Ben Wideman, ben@universitymennonite.org 215-859-0037

Church Administrator:

Karl Ahrendsen, karl.ahrendsen@gmail.com 515-999-5275

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, 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 universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/

Our church has an online directory with photos and contact information. Find out more and request to join at: universitymennonite.org/directory/

Sign up to receive **UMC's midweek email newsletter** at:
mailchi.mp/universitymennonite/umc-midweek-newsletter

Missed worship? Our church services are being recorded and published at universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings/

Church calendar universitymennonite.org/calendar/

Church Wi-Fi information

Network name: **umc**

Password: **mennosimons**

