

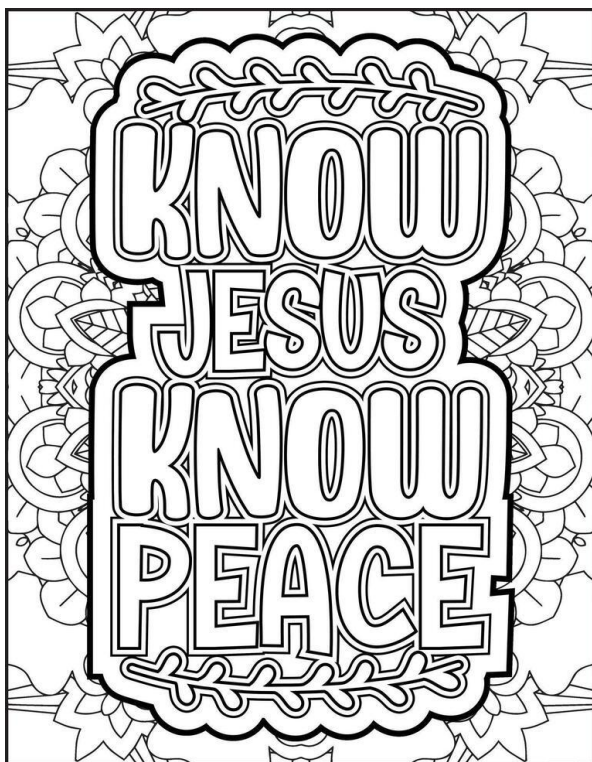


**University  
Mennonite  
Church**



*All generations serving God  
and the world together*

**August 23, 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.***

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Worship Leader: Leah Witzig

Accompanist: Joyce Hall

Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

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**Prelude**

Joyce Hall

**Welcome and Prayer**

Leah Witzig

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

One: Jesus calls us away from retaliation  
and into the costly way of love.

**Many: We come to lean the way of peace.**

One: When anger tempts us to strike back,  
Christ says, "Put your sword away."

**Many: We come to follow Jesus in courage and compassion.**

One: Let us open our hearts to the One  
who meets violence with mercy and hatred with love.

**Many: May our worship shape us into faithful peacemakers.  
Let us worship God!**

**Peace Lamp**

**Singing**

led by Ken Litwiller

VT 408 – *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

VT 409 – *For We are Strangers No More*

**Children's Time**

Marvin Hall

VT 282 – *Come and See*

**Voices of our Congregation**

Fidele Lumeya

**Scripture**

Amy and Jess McCormick

Matthew 5:38-42, 26:50-56

**Sermon**

Ben Wideman

**Singing**

led by Ken Litwiller

VT 715 – *Longing for Light*

**Sharing Time**

Tim Groff

**Glimpses of the Divine** in our lives video

Music: "Peaceful Place" by Leon Bridges

**Visitors/birthdays/anniversaries/announcements**

Leah Witzig

**Benediction**

Ben Wideman

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## Upcoming Events

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Look at the church calendar for all events: [universitymennonite.org/calendar/](https://universitymennonite.org/calendar/)

Sun, Aug 23, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Mon, Aug 24, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Mon, Aug 24, 7 pm – Sacred Harp

Tue, Aug 25, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Thu, Aug 27, 7 am – Men's Breakfast

Fri, Aug 28, 8 pm – Outdoor movie night at the Wideman's

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## Mennonite Church USA News

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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](https://mcusa.formstack.com/forms/waging_peace_registration)

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## Announcements

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**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.

**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](https://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](https://universitymennonite.org/donate)
- Set up an automatic payment with your bank (bill pay service)
- Use a service like Zelle [zellepay.com/](https://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 [je21@comcast.net](mailto:je21@comcast.net) or 814-360-5191. Thank you for supporting IHS!

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## Announcements

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 4-7pm at Sydney Friedman Park.

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## From Pastor Ben

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Over the past 2.5 months, I've navigated these three questions with folks who have been able to meet with me one-on-one; What brought you to UMC, and why have you stayed (or not)?, When are we at our best?, and What are your hopes for the future? – I have been touched by the variety of responses. Many of you point to the bubbly conversation in our foyer before and after each service, as a sign of the kind of community and connectedness that we strive for here at UMC

In these first few months I've also become more acutely aware that our church has a significant number of folks who fit one of the following categories;

- Unspoken prayer requests or concerns, too weighty to share during a service
- Ongoing health challenges that are not apparent when we meet on Sunday morning
- Navigating complicated relationship challenges with family and friends

We are a group that includes many who desire more ways to explore their faith and study scripture. We also long for more ways to connect beyond Sunday mornings, and the informal and formal connecting points during this summer have been a lovely way to continue to build community.

Join us for the following...

Friday, August 28, 8pm - Backyard movie night at the Wideman home

Thursday, September 3, 5pm - LION Bash community event on Allen Street

Sunday, September 20, 1pm - Hike at Musser Gap

Wednesdays of October 28, November 4, 11, and 18 at 6pm - Grief, Loss, and Recovery series with Jackie Hook

I hope we continue to imagine how we can reach beyond our Sunday morning times, to invite the broader State College area to connect with what is taking place in our midst.

In peace,

- Ben



# Year round program providing nutritious food.

Depending on the harvest season, distribution will include a variety of fresh, nutritious fruits & veggies.

## Grace Lutheran Church 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM

205 S. Garner Street State College, PA 16801

|                              |                                                        |                                                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, August 13, 2026    | Thursday, October 8, 2026                              | Thursday, December 3, 2026                               |
| Thursday, August 27, 2026    | Thursday, October 22, 2026<br>(3 weeks until Nov. 5th) | Thursday, December 17, 2026<br>(4 weeks until Jan. 14th) |
| Thursday, September 10, 2026 | Thursday, November 5, 2026                             | Thursday, January 14, 2027                               |
| Thursday, September 24, 2026 | Thursday, November 19, 2026                            | Thursday, January 28, 2027                               |

NOTE: We hold our Food Distributions on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month EXCEPT NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER WE HOLD OUR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS ON THE 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS.

Organized in cooperation with:



In striving to provide nutritious food to our neighbors in need, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank operates the Fresh Express Program. The Food Bank receives millions of pounds of fresh produce and dairy products from both local and national donors. Since these products have a short shelf life, the Food Bank takes the perishable products directly to people in need through partnerships with partner agencies. [www.centralpafoodbank.org](http://www.centralpafoodbank.org)

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## CHURCH INFORMATION

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1606 Norma St., State College, PA 16801; (814) 234-2039  
[universitymennonite.org](http://universitymennonite.org)

**Submissions for bulletin:** [bulletin@universitymennonite.org](mailto:bulletin@universitymennonite.org)

Deadline for bulletin inclusion: Thursday end of day

### Staff and volunteer leadership

Pastor: Ben Wideman, [ben@universitymennonite.org](mailto:ben@universitymennonite.org) 215-859-0037

Church Administrator:

Karl Ahrendsen, [karl.ahrendsen@gmail.com](mailto:karl.ahrendsen@gmail.com) 515-999-5275

Elders:

Tim Groff, [tgroff@centreconcrete.com](mailto:tgroff@centreconcrete.com) 814-360-1086

Gloria Horst Rosenberger, [ghr4870@gmail.com](mailto:ghr4870@gmail.com) 814-571-5608

Ken Litwiller, [kenlaura78@gmail.com](mailto:kenlaura78@gmail.com) 717-513-6849

Leah Witzig, [witzig1@gmail.com](mailto:witzig1@gmail.com) 814-933-2503

Doug Miller, [dam8@psu.edu](mailto:dam8@psu.edu) 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) 814-571-4419

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 [universitymennonite.org/email-sharing-list/](http://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/](http://universitymennonite.org/directory/)

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

**Missed worship?** Our church services are being recorded and published at [universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings/](http://universitymennonite.org/worship-service-recordings/)

**Church calendar** [universitymennonite.org/calendar/](http://universitymennonite.org/calendar/)

### Church Wi-Fi information

Network name: **umc**

Password: **mennosimons**

