



**University
Mennonite
Church**



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

September 6, 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: Doug Miller

Accompanist: Becky Kephart

Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

Prelude

Becky Kephart

Welcome

Doug Miller

Call to worship

Leader: Source of all hope and holiness,
we gather today to be church.

**All: Bless those who are absent,
but not from our hearts.**

Leader: Bless those who are distant,
but not from our love.

**All: Bless each of us here,
that we may choose justice by our Spirit,
draw kindness from the well of your mercy,
and walk humbly in your path, O God.**

Prayer

Peace Lamp

Singing

led by Ken Litwiller

VT 45 – *O Gott Vater (O God and Father)* (16th century)

VT 739 – *Fill Me Anew*

Children's Time

Meredith Wideman

VT 282 – *Come and See*

Scripture

Psalm 19:14-20

Matthew 6:5-13 12:1-5

Sermon

Ben Wideman

Confession

VT 888

Communion

music by Becky Kephart

Communion Servers: Molly Bletz and Karl Ahrendsen
Heidi and Stefan Martin

Singing

led by Ken Litwiller

VT 737 – *Breathe On Me, Breath of God* (4 verses)

Sharing Time

Ben Wideman

Glimpses of the Divine in our lives video

Music: VT 698 – *Somebody Prayed for Me* (3 verses)

Visitors/birthdays/anniversaries/announcements

Doug Miller

Benediction

VT 437 – *The Lord is My Light*

Upcoming Events

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

Sun, Sep 6, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Mon, Sep 7, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Tue, Sep 8, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Thu, Sep 10, 5-8 pm – LION Bash, community outreach booth on Allen Street

Sun, Sep 13, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Sun, Sep 13, 12 pm – Pot Luck Fellowship Meal

Announcements

Sunday School at University Mennonite Church begins again in September! As it stands, our plan is to continue our schedule from the past few years...

The first Sunday of the month will continue to be Communion Sunday, a time for extended conversation following the service (please note: worship committee is developing a survey which will, among other things, reflect on our communion frequency). Second, fourth, and months with a fifth Sunday will offer age-based classes for children, and a sermon discussion time for adults. On the third Sunday of the month we will share in an intergenerational Sunday school time for all ages organized by Carmen Groff.

This year we plan to set aside one full hour for continuing education time rather than a hard and fast noon end time. The person doing Sunday morning announcements or benediction will note that Sunday school will begin 10 minutes following the conclusion of the worship service, to allow Sunday school teachers to provide a more meaningful lesson and conversation rather than a condensed one if the service happened to go longer than usual.

We will continue to reflect on what is most meaningful for our congregation moving forward! Please let us know if you have any thoughts or questions.

- Your UMC Sunday School Coordinators

Announcements

The **Centre County Interfaith Coalition for Gun Safety** is hosting an International Day of Peace Prayer Vigil on **Sunday, September 20 at 3 pm** at **University Baptist and Brethren Church**. Join neighbors, people of faith and conscience, and members of our community as we gather to remember those harmed by gun violence and renew our commitment to peace. Together, we will reflect on how peace is cultivated through relationships, shared resources, and reciprocity—recognizing the gifts and needs within our community. Through prayer, reflection, and shared commitment, we will strengthen the bonds of trust, care, and mutual responsibility that make lasting peace possible

Mennonite Church USA News

Marco Güete walks the Camino to support Hispanic Ministries

On Sept. 6, Marco Güete, director of MC USA's Hispanic Ministries, and his wife, Sandra, will begin an 18-day, 143-mile pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain. This is Güete's fourth pilgrimage to raise funds for theological education and leadership development for Hispanic Mennonite pastors and leaders. His goal this year is to raise \$25,000.

Read the news release here: <https://bit.ly/4c9Qrtk>

Follow MC USA on Facebook for updates on their journey:

facebook.com/MennonitesUSA

To support Hispanic Ministries, give online here: <https://bit.ly/4qAQiVO>

Webinar on journaling and wellness

Join The Corinthian Plan on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. ET for "Journaling: Writing Toward Wellness." Well-being specialists Anne Blackwood and Ruth Johnston will explore journaling as a practice for well-being, psycho-spiritual health and spiritual growth.

Register for the free webinar here: <https://bit.ly/4wHS1tX>

Explore a story of conscientious objection

What can we learn from the experiences of Mennonites who have chosen conscientious objection to military service? In his Menno Snapshots blog, "The cost of conscience: My father's peace witness," MC USA Archives Coordinator Devon Miller shares his father's story and reflects on the legacy of conscientious objection. Read the blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/cost-of-conscience/>

Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit

Join Mennonite Church USA **on Nov. 6-7** in Leola, Pennsylvania, for "Waging Peace: A Militarism Summit," a two-day gathering to explore faithful responses to war, political polarization, nationalism and violence through an Anabaptist lens. High school youth attend free when accompanied by a youth pastor or sponsor. Learn more and register here: mennoniteusa.org/militarism-summit/

Announcements

Grace Lutheran will be having a four week series about **artificial intelligence, our humanity, creativity, innovation and faith** starting on **Wednesday, September 16th**. Each week will meet in person at Grace Lutheran from **6:15-7 pm** with speakers from across the country. In-person attendance is encouraged, but the series will be livestreamed and posted to YouTube later as well. Additional information including speakers and topics is available on the homepage of their website.

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/

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.

We are hosting in our building **Rumble and Scream Presents: A workshop in Ukrainian Village Polyphonic Singing** on **Saturday, September 12 from 6-9pm**. The workshop will be in the fellowship hall, and following the workshop, there will be a performance by Rumble and Scream in the sanctuary.

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

Leah Witzig, witzig1@gmail.com 814-933-2503

Cong. co-chair: Rick Stehouwer, rcs15@psu.edu 814-883-3503

Cong. co-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**

