



University Mennonite Church



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

September 13, 2026, 10 am



Cara B. Hochhalter, *Zacchaeus*.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59050>

***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: Krista Weidner

Song Leader: Faith King

Prelude

Krista Weidner

Welcome

Bethany Spicher Schonberg

Call to worship

Peace Lamp

Singing

led by Faith King

VT 129 – *O Worship Our God*

Insert – *The Old Rugged Cross*

Children's Time

Doug Miller

VT 282 – *Come and See*

Scripture

Luke 19:1-10

Matthew 1:1-6

Singing

led by Faith King

VT 37 – *Be Still and Know*

Sermon

Rachel Pauline Aikins

Singing

led by Faith King

VT 540 – *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Sharing Time

Leah Witzig

Glimpses of the Divine in our lives video

Music: *Come See the Beauty of the Lord* by Jason Harrod

Visitors/birthdays/anniversaries/announcements

Bethany Spicher
Schonberg

Benediction

Upcoming Events

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

Sun, Sep 13, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Sun, Sep 13, 12 pm – Potluck Fellowship Meal

Mon, Sep 14, 5 pm – Lights and Prayers for Peace

Mon, Sep 14, 7 pm – Sacred Harp Singing

Tue, Sep 15, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Upcoming Events

Sat, Sep 19, 7-9 pm – Acoustic Brew Concert: Midnight on the Water

Sun, Sep 20, 10-11 am – Church Around the Table

Sun, Sep 20, 1-3 pm – Hike at Musser Gap

Announcements

The August UMC food donation provided 182 lbs. of canned goods to the State College Food Bank. The **September** donation request is for **boxed ready-to-eat cereal and oatmeal**. Please place your donations on the table in the foyer. Thank you again for your generosity.

Next week is our final Church Around the Table (CATT). We won't be in the sanctuary next week for worship, but will instead gather in small groups at member's houses to worship together. If you don't yet have a group, just let us know and we'll make sure to get you connected.

Everyone is invited to participate in an evening of shaped note singing in the tradition of **Sacred Harp** which emphasizes participation—not performance. No experience is necessary and all are welcome. We hope you can join us there. We meet in the church lobby on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. For more information contact Hal Kunkel (hal.kunkel@gmail.com).

The first **Acoustic Brew** concert of the season is going to be held in our building on **Saturday, September 19 at 7:00 pm**. The band playing is **Midnight on the Water**, a string trio featuring violin, viola, cello, mandolin, and guitar. An open session will follow immediately after the performance. **Tickets are \$20**, either in advance or at the door. Visit their website to see the [full list of upcoming performances](#).

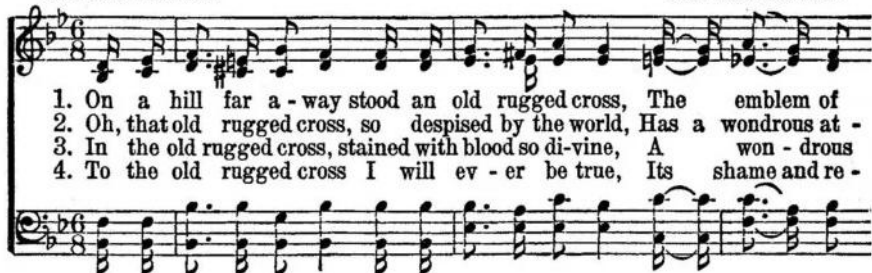
The **Mifflin County Amish-Mennonite Historical Society's Annual Fall Heritage Day** will be held on **Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 9 am to 2 pm** at the corner of **Main and Walnut St, Belleville**. Stop by to visit our two museum buildings and see our many demonstrations and attractions on the lawn from days-gone-by. Putt-Putt's Homemade Ice Cream will once again be with us, churned with a hit-and-miss engine. New this year will be horse drawn wagon rides. All are welcome!

Gaza: 1,000+ Days of Bloodshed is a two-part community series which will explore the war in and around Gaza, bringing together different perspectives and lived experiences while also considering its impact on our local community. On **Wed. Sep. 23rd** there will be a potluck from **6:00 - 6:30 pm**, followed by a **moderated panel discussion until 8 pm**. Panel members include: Gopal Balachandran, Tamir Sorek, Lior Sternfeld, and Spencer Szczesny.

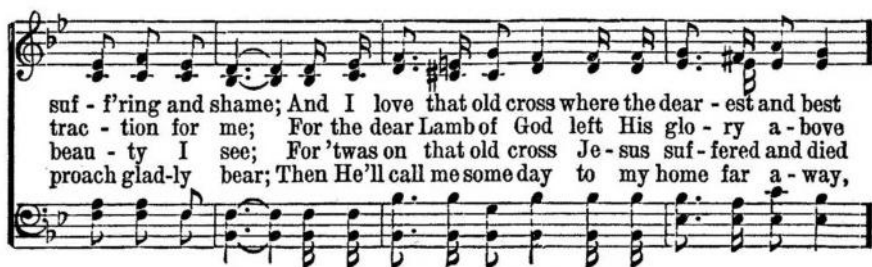
THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

REV. GEO. BENNARD

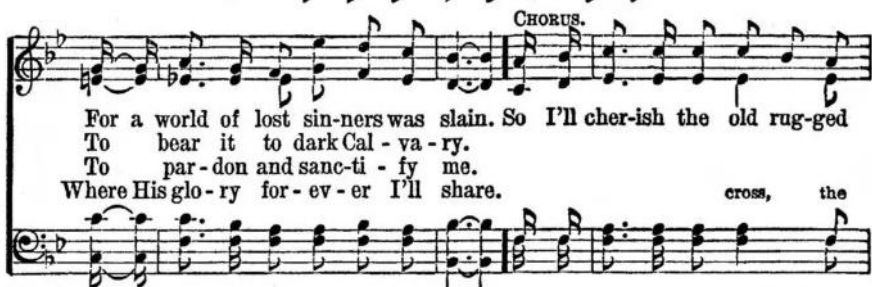
REV. GEO. BENNARD



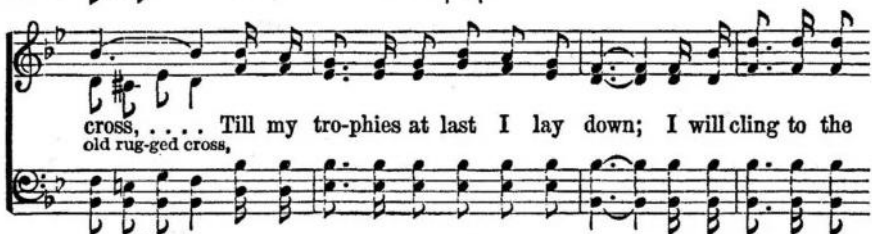
1. On a hill far a-way stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of
 2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous at -
 3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so di-vine, A won-drous
 4. To the old rugged cross I will ev-er be true, Its shame and re-



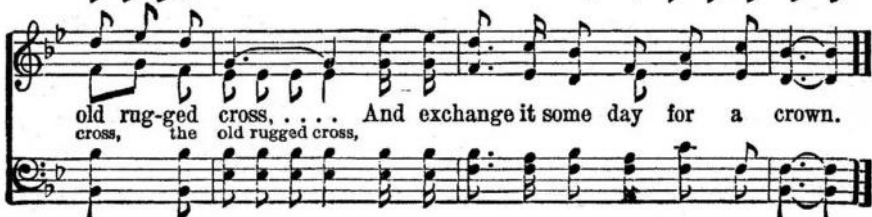
suf-f'ring and shame; And I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
 trac-tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His glo-ry a-bove
 beau-ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died
 proach glad-ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my home far a-way,



CHORUS.
 For a world of lost sin-ners was slain. So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged
 To bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.
 To par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.
 Where His glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share. cross, the



cross, ... Till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the
 old rug-ged cross,



old rug-ged cross, the cross, ... And exchange it some day for a crown.
 cross, the old rugged cross,



Fall Heritage Day

MIFFLIN COUNTY AMISH-MENNONITE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
MAIN AND WALNUT ST, BELLEVILLE PA

SATURDAY, SEPT 26, 2026
9 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

VISIT BOTH OF OUR MUSEUM BUILDINGS!
MANY DEMONSTRATIONS FROM DAYS-GONE-BY!
PUTT-PUTT'S HOMEMADE ICE CREAM!
HORSE DRAWN WAGON RIDES!



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.

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

Grace Lutheran is in the middle of a four week series about **artificial intelligence, our humanity, creativity, innovation and faith**. Each week until October 7th you can meet in person on **Wednesdays from 6:15-7 pm at Grace Lutheran** 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.

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)

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.

Mennonite Church USA News

What does it mean to "hold space" for someone?

In her Menno Snapshots blog, spiritual director Jane Hooper Peifer explores what it means to "hold space" for someone living with deep trauma. She reflects on how compassionate presence, listening and trust can help create room for healing. Read "A 'holding space' story" here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/holding-space/>

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/](https://www.mennoniteusa.org/militarism-summit/)

Notes and Doodles (just a little space)

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 Wi-Fi information

Network name: **umc**

Password: **mennosimons**

