



**University
Mennonite
Church**



*All generations serving God
and the world together*

October 4, 2026, 10 am



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***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 Yoder

Accompanist: Meredith Wideman

Song Leader: Ken Litwiller

Prelude

Meredith Wideman

Welcome

Doug Yoder

Call to worship

One: The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep
silent before Him

All: We come away from the noise of the world to listen for God

One: Be still, and know that He is God

All: In the quiet of this place, we open our hearts to his peace

One: Let us clear our minds of distractions and breathe in his Holy Spirit

**All: Let us worship God in the beauty of holiness and the power of
silence**

Peace Lamp

Singing

led by Ken Litwiller

HWB 112 – *O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic*

HWB 38 – *The Lord is in His Holy Temple*

Children's Time

Meredith Wideman

VT 282 – *Come and See*

Scripture

Doug Yoder

Mark 1:11-13, 35-39

Sermon

Ben Wideman

Confession

One: God of the wilderness, you invite us into middle spaces... Places of
quiet, away from the demands and distractions of our busy lives.

**All: Yet we often choose noise and endless doing. We measure our
worth by our busyness rather than resting in your love.**

One: Forgive us when we fear silence and solitude, and when we forget
that you call us your beloved before we accomplish anything at
all.

**All: Help us step into intentional rest. Draw us into your presence, so
that we may be renewed and centered in your grace.**

One: Hear this good news: In the quiet of the wilderness, God meets us
with boundless mercy and love.

All: Thanks be to God.

Communion

Served by: Mackenzie and Ben Jones, Cathy Bresee, Ben Wideman

Singing

led by Ken Litwiller

VT 65 – *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Sharing Time

Ben Wideman

Glimpses of the Divine in our lives video

Music: *The Sound of Silence* cover by MonaLisa Twins

Visitors/birthdays/anniversaries/announcements

Benediction

VT 37 – *Be Still and Know (that I am God)*

Upcoming Events

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

Sun, Oct 4, 10 am – Sunday Worship

Sun, Oct 4, following Sunday Worship – Christian Education

Sun, Oct 4, following Christian Education – Fellowship Meal

Mon, Oct 5, 12pm – Women's Lunch at Foxdale

Tue, Oct 6, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online

Thu, Oct 8, 7 am – Men's Breakfast at Waffle Shop Downtown

Announcements

For **October**, the State College Food Bank is looking for **pancake mixes and other baking mixes**. Please consider donating these or any non-perishable food items. Cash is welcome as well.

The Worship Committee would like your feedback about Sunday morning worship at UMC. Please use this link to access the survey:

<https://forms.gle/3n48YxfZv6g2DUhr8> We'd like to hear from everyone, and please respond by October 12. If anyone would prefer to use a paper copy, please contact me (kathleenstehouwer@gmail.com) or Ben Wideman, and we'll get one to you.

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

MC USA honors 2026 Bring the Peace award recipients

Mennonite Church USA has named Weldon Nisly and Fernando Daza-Jabian as its 2026 Bring the Peace award recipients. The award honors individuals who embody Christ-centered peacemaking in their communities and beyond. Read the news release here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/2026-peacemakers/>

Open enrollment for The Corinthian Plan

Did you know? MC USA offers comprehensive health coverage for pastors and staff. Open enrollment begins Nov. 1, 2026. Review the plan, request a quote and join this mutual aid ministry. Learn more at

www.TheCorinthianPlan.org

The Corinthian Plan: Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Do you have questions about health benefits for your pastors and church staff? Join The Corinthian Plan and Everence for a Virtual Town Hall on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026, at 11 a.m. PT/2 p.m. ET. Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/7wdec7vw>

Finding courage on the road less traveled

Caleb Stoltzfus shares his grandfather's story as a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and reflects on the courage it takes to walk a road less traveled — as a conscientious objector or as an LGBTQ+ person finding their place in the church. Stoltzfus will lead a related seminar at MC USA's upcoming Waging Peace Summit. Read the blog here:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/finding-courage/>

Notes and Doodles

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, ruthtillman@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**

