University Mennonite Church



All generations serving God and the world together

November 22, 2026, 10 am



George Carter Needham, *Charity to Street Arab.*
http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58943

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: Rick Stehouwer

Accompanist: Meredith Wideman Song Leader: Mark Minnich

Prelude Meredith Wideman

Welcome Rick Stehouwer

Call to worship from Isaiah 58

One: God calls us not only to worship with our lips, but to serve with our lives.

Many: We come seeking hearts that reflect God's love and mercy.

One: Is not this the worship God desires: to loose the chains of injustice, to share bread with the hungry, and to welcome the stranger?

Many: Lord, open our eyes to those in need around us.

One: God calls us to care for the poor, to lift up the oppressed, and to walk alongside the lonely.

Many: Lord, make us wiling servants of your kingdom.

One: When we pour ourselves out for others, God's light shines through us.

Many: We come to be renewed by God's Spirit and sent into God's world.

One: Let us worship the Lord, whose love moves us to action.

All: We will worship God with grateful hearts and serve our neighbors with joyful hands. Amen.

Peace Lamp

Singing led by Mark Minnich

VT 759 – *Take My Life And Let It Be*

VT 617 – *When Peace Like A River*

Children's Time Micah Schonberg

VT 282 – *Come and See*

Scripture read by Rick Stehouwer

Isaiah 58:1-10

Sermon Ben Wideman

Singing led by Mark Minnich

VT 790 – *How Can We Be Silent*

Mission Moment – Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI) reflection Karen Spicher

Sharing Time Ben Wideman

Glimpses of Joy

Visitors/birthdays/anniversaries/announcements Rick Stehouwer

Benediction

VT 210 – *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

Upcoming Events

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

Sun, Nov 22, 10am – Sunday Worship
Mon, Nov 23, 7-8:30pm – Sacred Harp Shape Note Singing
Tue, Nov 24, noon – Lectio Divina, Scripture & Study online
Tue, Nov 24, 7pm – UMC Pub Night @ Boal City Brewing
Thu, Nov 26, 1:30 pm – Thanksgiving Potluck at UMC

Announcements

This Sunday, **November 22**, all are welcome to an **Advent wreath-making Sunday school time after church** in the basement. We'll be making Advent centerpieces/wreaths with four candles and talking about some simple and meaningful ways to observe Advent at home.

Do you feel a stirring or call to serve in our broader community? We are exploring forming a **group of Neighboring Volunteers from UMC** to build a relationship with a family finding stability and path forward from homelessness through **Bridge of Hope Centre County**. There is no weekly or monthly required time commitment, only as needed. The role typically lasts for 1-2 years. Volunteers will receive training with a hope to match with a State College area family in February-April. See Bill Hartman or Meredith Wideman for more information.

This year, UMC will **not** be hosting a holiday Ten Thousand Villages sale in our building, and instead will be supporting focus our efforts on our booth at **Belle Mercantile in Bellefont**e (bellemercantile.com/). We have many of your old favorites and lots of new items at Belle Mercantile and I encourage you to stop by our booth as you plan your holiday gift giving. Belle Mercantile is located at 135 S. Spring St in Bellefonte.

For November, the State College Food Bank is requesting **fresh and frozen turkeys** for the holidays (please call first, (814)234-2310)) OR let's fill the **spaghetti and pasta sauce** shelves. Thanks for your generosity.

Announcements

If you would like to help low-income, financially vulnerable people in Centre County, all you have to do is ring a bell! It is time to sign up for the annual holiday bell ringing fundraiser to help Interfaith Human Services serve low-income and financially vulnerable people in Centre County. Interfaith Human Services provides families and individuals with resources and guidance on their finances to work toward monthly management instead of crisis control. The bell ringing entails standing outside Meyer Dairy while ringing a bell and being a friendly presence. Interested individuals leave donations in the wishing well structure right there or can donate online. **UMC will be ringing bells outside Meyer Dairy Store on Saturday, December 5, 2026, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.** Please contact Joyce Hall(jeh21@comcast.net, 814-360-5191) to sign up!

This holiday season, we have a wonderful opportunity to support the families of **Park Forest Preschool** again. We would like to provide a $100.00 gift card to each of the 29 families. Giving gift cards allows parents the flexibility to choose what best fits their holiday celebrations. Park Forest Preschool is a nonprofit, tuition-free school for two-, three-, and four-year-old children from income-qualifying families.

How to Contribute:

- **Deadline:** Sunday, December 13th
- **Checks Payable to:** UMC
- **Memo Line:** Preschool Christmas Gift
- **Mailing Address:** 1606 Norma St, State College, PA 16801

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: 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)

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.

Announcements

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 at 7pm**. For more information contact Hal Kunkel (hal.kunkel@gmail.com).

Several years ago our 3rd Way Collective campus ministry hosted a grad student pub night. A few folks have asked if our congregation might offer a casual conversational space like this again, so we will be trying our first UMC Pub Night next week on **Tuesday, November 24 at 7pm at Boal City Brewing** in Boalsburg. This venue offers space for conversation, as well as alcohol-free drink options. No agenda, but consider this space to reflect on our lives and faith journey together. Send Ben a message if you plan to attend, so that we know how big of a table to ask for!

Mennonite Church USA News

Successful appeal clears the way for MC USA to again seek protection for churches in "sensitive locations" lawsuit

Mennonite Church USA and its 26 co-plaintiffs won an important ruling on Oct. 20, 2026, putting them on the path toward injunctive relief in the "sensitive locations" lawsuit, Mennonite Church USA et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al. The case will return to the lower court, where MC USA and its co-plaintiffs can again ask for a preliminary injunction to protect their congregations while the lawsuit continues. mennoniteusa.org/news/successful-appeal/

New Issue of Allegheny Miscellany Available

We're thrilled to celebrate the **100th edition** of The Allegheny Miscellany! Dive into stories of community, faith, and transformation across the Allegheny Mennonite Conference. From reflections, 30 years of change, to Winterville weekend fun. There's so much to explore. Save the dates for upcoming events and stay connected with your AMC family. Let's continue to grow, learn, and inspire one another in faith. alleghenymennoniteconference.org/allegheny-miscellany

Registration is now open for Winterville weekend at Laurelville--January 15-17, 2027. This 2-night stay is packed with camp fun and faith formation. It's a great way to reconnect with the camp community, make new friends, or give overnight camp a try for the first time. Come as an individual or with your church youth group. Head to laurelville.org to find more info and register for Winterville (grades 2-8) or Winterville High (grades 9-12). *Don't forget that AMC youth can use coupon code AMC2027 to get $35 off!*

Mennonite Church USA News

Leaders set three priorities for Reimagining MC USA

Board members and senior leaders from the MC USA Executive Board and its agencies, Mennonite Mission Network and MennoMedia, met near Philadelphia on Oct. 8, 2026, to identify three priorities for the next two years of Reimagining MC USA: equipping congregations for change, strengthening a united peace witness and building a more connected church. Read more here. mennoniteusa.org/news/priorities-for-reimagining-mc-usa/

Guyton to conclude role as MC USA executive director

Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton will conclude his role on Dec. 31, 2026, and will not seek renewal for a fourth term. On Jan. 1, 2027, he will begin a new role as president and chief operating officer of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Executive Board will oversee the transition process and keep the church informed as plans develop. Read more here. mennoniteusa.org/news/guyton-complete

Menno Snapshots: Where does hope grow?

Ingrid Friesen Moser, wellness coordinator for The Corinthian Plan, shares how an evening spent weeding a community garden reminded her that community dispels loneliness, renews hope and supports the well-being of pastors and congregations. Read “Community is where hope grows” here: mennoniteusa.org/community-is-where-hope-grows/

Notes and Doodles

Perry Ground Presents

Re-thinking Thanksgiving

A Native American Perspective on an American Holiday

When: Sunday, November 22nd from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County, 780 Waupelani Dr., State College
About The Speaker: Perry Ground is a Turtle Clan member of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. Perry has been a storyteller and educator for over 25 years and enjoys working with students of all ages to teach about the history & culture of Native Peoples. For guests 4th grade or above.
Sponsoring Congregations: State College Friends Meeting, Grace Lutheran, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County, University Baptist & Brethren Church

This lively, engaging, and content-based presentation will give an overview of the history of this very misunderstood holiday. Based on the only primary source document that chronicles the "First Thanksgiving" and using a true/false format in a PowerPoint presentation, participants will learn accurate and culturally appropriate information about the English settlers at Plymouth and the Wampanoag, the Native people who inhabited that area. The presentation will discuss the actual events of 1621 in Plymouth, the relationship between the English and the Wampanoag, and how this story became the holiday we know today. The concept of thanksgiving held by many Native Americans will be emphasized throughout.

WINTERVILLE

JANUARY 15-17, 2027

MAKE ROOM

Welcoming the stranger.
Loving the neighbor.
Making space for everyone.

Winterville - Grades 2-8 - $150
Winterville High - Grades 9-12 - $175

One weekend packed with fun, faith, and friends.
Come solo, with a friend, or as a youth group.

register here

Laurelville RETREAT CENTER

www.laurelville.org
724-423-2056
program@laurelville.org

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
Bethany Spicher Schonberg	micahandbethany@gmail.com	814-380-7640
Leah Witzig	witzig1@gmail.com	814-933-2503
Cong. chair: Ruth Kitchin Tillman	ruthtillman@gmail.com	302-379-8912
Assistant cong. chair: Rick Stehouwer	rcs15@psu.edu	814-883-3503
Treasurer: Jim Rosenberger	jlrosenberger@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**