

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* BIRTHDAYS

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** Bob Hudson (TODAY), Evelyn Good (TUE)

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**TODAY after worship – Stay and enjoy food and fellowship at our potluck picnic.**

**This Thursday, September 7 at 6 pm - The Ministerial Alliance of Champaign-Urbana is hosting an Anti-Racism Prayer Service at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 905 S. Russell St., C.**

All are invited to join in praying for an end to racism and for justice and mercy to prevail in our nation. In lieu of an offering, donations of new personal care items for victims of the flooding in Texas will be collected: wide-tooth comb, nail clipper, wrapped bar of bath soap, toothbrush in package, standard size Band-Aids, washcloth, hand towel.

**This Friday at Noon - The University YMCA Friday Forum Lecture Series begins.** This year's theme is *Building a Better Environmental Movement*. Detailed information is on the bulletin board. First Mennonite is a co-sponsor of the Friday Forum Lecture Series.

**This Friday, September 8, 6:30 pm at FMC - MYF Kick-off Meeting.** Come hungry.

**Next Sunday, September 10 – Fall Sunday school classes for all ages begin.**

**Needed no later than the morning of September 10 - A variety of old magazines for making a collage about diversity. Please leave the magazines outside Pastor Deb's office. Thanks!**

**Want to march with the FMC group in the CU Pride Parade, Sept. 16, 2017 (4 pm)? Contact Lynne Sancken.**

**September 14 at 9:30 am - Thursday morning Bible study will resume with a study of Esther. Everyone is welcome to attend this time of study and sharing.**

**2017 Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald, September 15-17 - Restoring our Soul: Cultivating Peace Within & Beyond.** Cost is \$150 (free for women ages 18-25). Discounts are available; please contact a pastor or the church office for more information. Further details and registration: <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/>. Contact [Marcia Nelson](#) or [Janet Liechty](#) if you are interested in carpooling.

**The Service & Outreach Committee is still collecting supplies for MCC school kits, to be assembled on September 24 at Noon. A supply list and instructions for making bags are next to the donation box.**

**September 24, 7-8 pm - Community Taize Service at St. Andrews Lutheran Church (903 S. Wright St., C).** All are welcome to this contemplative service of prayer, music, and meditation centered around the theme of peace and reconciliation. The service provides a safe space where one can find spiritual centering and renewal. Following the service, there will be refreshments and snacks. First Mennonite is co-sponsoring of this event.

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Ministers: Every member of the congregation

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana



## Celebration *of* Worship

September 3, 2017

*Season of Creation: Forest*

### GATHERING

#### Centering chimes

**\*Song** (*insert*)

“This is my father’s world”

#### Welcome & prayer

#### Call to worship

L: We invite the forests to worship with us:

**P: shag bark hickory and the treasured pawpaw, quivering ferns and glistening moss.**

L: We invite tall trees to celebrate life:

**P: straight yellow poplar, white oak old and young, sugar maple, beech, walnut, and elm.**

L: We join the forest with songs of praise:

**P: green tree frogs and fluttering moths, owls and swirling bats!**

L: We join with the fauna of the forest in praising God:

**P: red-winged blackbirds and ruby-throated hummingbirds, red-bellied newts and red-coated foxes.**

L: We celebrate the song of the forest.

**P: Sing praise to God our Maker!**

**\*Passing the peace**

### PRAISING & PROCLAIMING

**\*Song** (*insert*)

“How great thou art”

**\*Song** (*tune: He’s got the whole world*)

“The trees are in God’s hands”

1. The maple and the pine trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.
2. The sycamore and oak trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.
3. The willow and the elm trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.
4. The olive and the birch trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.
5. The cherry and the peach trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.
6. The redbud and the walnut trees are in God’s hand (3x) ...The trees are in God’s hand.

#### Children’s story and offering

**Scripture: Isaiah 41:17-20**

**Psalms 92:12-15**

**Sermon**

*Living the tree life*

\*Song (insert) "I saw a tree by the riverside"  
Offering (silent reflection while plates are passed)  
Sharing and prayers of the people

SENDING

Introduction of guests  
Work of the church (please come to the front if you have an announcement)  
\*Song (words below) "You shall go out with joy"  
You shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace.  
The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.  
They'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.  
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, the trees of the field will clap their hands.  
The trees of the field will clap their hands, while you go out with joy.  
\*Benediction

\*Stand if you are able

Thanks to our worship and  
welcome teams

Next Sunday at FMC  
Sept. 10:

Worship leader – George Ordal  
Song leader – Cindy Breeze  
Guitars – Andrea Welty Peachey  
Children’s story – Abby Crosby  
Scripture reader – Scott Bidner  
Sermon, sharing & prayer – Pastor Michael  
Greeters – Clark Breeze, Earl Kellogg, Jan Kellogg  
Sound system – Phil Martens  
Stewards – Jan Sabey & Greg Sancken

Worship leader – Laura Brenneman  
Song leader – Bev Birkey Potts  
Piano – Kathy Springer  
Children’s story – Randy Nelson  
Scripture reader – Rebecca Bare  
Sermon – Brian Sauder  
Sharing & prayer – Pastor Michael  
Greeters – Clark Breeze, Early Kellogg, Marcia Nelson  
Sound system – Phil Martens  
Stewards – Jan Sabey & Greg Sancken  
Worship nursery – Sheryl Dyck & Perry Biddle  
Refreshments – Reba King & Jan Sabey

Welcome, Guests

It is a joy to welcome you into our midst! We pray that God meets you as we worship together this morning and that our church family helps you feel at home.

Our new children’s offering  
begins today and will go to  
Mennonite Disaster Service  
(MDS) to help with hurricane relief  
efforts in Texas. All are welcome to  
contribute to the offering during the  
coming months.



TODAY – No Sunday school

NEXT SUNDAY –

Fall Sunday school classes for all ages begin.

A detailed description of Fall classes will be included in the prayer/announcement email on Tuesday. Paper copies of the descriptions are available in the brochure rack by the office and will be included in the bulletin next Sunday.



Did you know? Our church has two libraries: one for adults (next to the sanctuary) and one for children and youth (downstairs in room 10/11).

THIS WEEK at FMC

For a full listing of events, visit our website at [www.fmc-cu.org](http://www.fmc-cu.org).

Pastor Deb is out of the office through September 14. Please contact Pastor Michael with changes in worship service roles or pastoral care needs.

SUN	9:15 AM	Worship (outdoors)
	11:15 AM	Outdoor potluck picnic
WED 6	4 – 7 PM	Visitation for John Otto
	6:30 PM	Service & Outreach (downstairs)

THU 7	6:45 AM	Early morning Bible Study
	11:00 AM	Memorial service for John Otto
	5:00 PM	Property & Finance Committee
FRI 8	6:30 PM	MYF Kick-off meeting at FMC

UPCOMING

SUN 10	9:15 AM	Worship (Brian Sauder preaching)
	10:45 AM	Fellowship & refreshments
	11:15 AM	Fall Sunday school classes begin
	12:00 PM	JYF activity at FMC
TUE 12	6:30 PM	Taizé service of song and prayer
WED 13	6:00 PM	FMC Council
THU 14	6:45 AM	Early morning Bible Study
	9:30 AM	Thursday morning Bible study
	5:30 PM	Christian Education Committee