

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* BIRTHDAYS

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Anthony Schreiber (TUE), Gordon Oyer & Brent Racobs (THU), Marlin Sieber (FRI), Sabrina Askew & Courtney Malcolm (SAT)

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Through 100 votes cast by the congregation, the candidates for council representatives and chair-elect were overwhelmingly affirmed. Thanks to all for participating in this process.

Do you know of an adult outside of FMC who could provide skilled child care in the nursery during worship on Sundays? FMC leadership made a decision to add a paid person to help lighten the burden of those on the nursery rotation and to have a consistent presence each week. The paid person would work in the nursery with 1-2 FMC volunteers. Please have potential candidates email Pastor Michael (michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org) to set up an interview.

TOMORROW - December 24, 6:30 pm – FMC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. All ages are welcome!

Deb and Tom Sutter will be hosting a potluck Christmas meal for anyone who would like to celebrate together at 1 pm on Christmas Day. Please RSVP to Pastor Deb if you want to join us.

New phone number and email for Baggins (Bonnie Schneider). Please update your FMC directory: 217.377.8044 bagginsat2006@icloud.com

FMC Committee members – Please submit your 2018 receipts this week. The treasurer's mailbox slot (bottom slot) is located in the office on the wall near the copier.

2018 FMC budget update - We are nearly at our goal! General offerings to date have totaled \$251,125. To support committee work, church expenses, and our planned missions giving approximately \$7,334 is still needed in offerings by the end of December.

January 6, Noon - Lunch and Colombia Delegation presentation. Lunch will be provided, but we need a count of those attending so that we can plan accordingly. Please sign up on our website homepage (www.fmc-cu.org) no later than Friday, January 4.

SAVE THE DATE: Jan 27 – Potluck & Annual Congregational Meeting.

December Council summary, 11-month offering chart, and committee reports are posted on the bulletin board.

Students - Apply now for a scholarship with higher awards in 2019. Everence wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are Everence members and you will be enrolled as an undergraduate or in a trade school next fall, apply now for a scholarship of \$1,000 to \$3,000. The deadline is Feb. 28. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships for the guidelines and an application.

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana • 902 West Springfield Avenue • Urbana, IL 61801-3021
Office Hours: 9:00AM-2:00PM (Tuesday – Friday) • Phone: (217) 367-5353 • Website: www.fmc-cu.org
Pastor Michael Crosby • michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org and Associate Pastor Debra Sutter • debra.sutter@fmc-cu.org
Rhonda Gibson, Administrative Assistant • office@fmc-cu.org | Ministers: Every member of the congregation

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN URBANA
A congregation of Mennonite Church USA



Celebration *of* Worship

December 23, 2018

SIGNS OF HOPE

Centering chimes

Prelude

***Hymnal #182**

“Oh, how shall I receive thee”

Welcome & prayer

Call to hope:

One: Now is the time of waiting and watching.

We wait expectantly for the Messiah, for God's promises to be fulfilled.

**Many: We turn to you, O God, in the midst of this chaotic world,
longing for that day of salvation to arrive. How long must we wait?**

One: Pay attention, be still and know that God is with us.

The *signs of hope* are all around us.

**Many: Fill us with the faith and the hope of what is to be
as we come before you with open hearts.**

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Lighting of the Advent candles

Purple songbook #7 “Come, come Emmanuel”

***Hymnal #208**

“Love came down at Christmas”

***Passing the peace**

Children's story and offering (*please pass the welcome pads*)

Congregation sings as children come forward (purple songbook #47)

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55 (*page 934*)

Sermon

*Hymnal #180

Offering (prayer cards collected)

Offertory

Sharing and prayer

Introduction of guests

Work of the church

*Hymnal #318

*Benediction

Can you sing Mary’s song with her?

“My soul proclaims with wonder”

In the bleak midwinter

by Rossetti & Holst

“Joy to the world”

*Stand if you are able



It is a joy to welcome you today. Your presence enriches this gathering. We pray that God meets you as we worship together this morning and that our church family helps you feel at home. Join us down-stairs for refreshments after the service so that we can get to know you.

Hearing assisted devices are available from the greeters. T-coil and standard over-ear devices are available.
Childcare for children birth - preschool is available downstairs during worship and the education hour.

Thanks to our worship and welcome teams

Worship leader – Martha Moore
Song leader – Andrea Welty Peachey
Piano – Ruth Stoltzfus
Women’s ensemble – directed by Andrea Welty Peachey
Advent lighter – TJ Black
Children’s story – Alex Bidner
Scripture – Hannah Lake-Rayburn
Sermon, sharing & prayer – Pastor Michael
Greeters – Randy Nelson & Judy Nafziger
Sound system – Phil Martens
Visuals – Rachel Horst Lehman
Stewards – Sheryl Dyck & Scott Bidner
Worship nursery – Bob King & Marcia Nelson
Refreshments – Donna Nelson Evans & Mark Evans

Sunday, December 30
Worship at 10 am
Christmas Sunday: Hope Nurtures

Worship leader – Randy Nelson
Song leader – Cindy Breeze
Piano – Pastor Deb
Advent lighter – TBD
Children’s story – Tammie Bouseman
Scripture – Bob King
Sermon, sharing & prayer – Pastor Michael
Greeters – Laurence Koehn & Bev Hertle
Sound system – Phil Martens
Visuals – Rachel Horst Lehman
Stewards – Sheryl Dyck & Scott Bidner
Worship nursery – Amber Anderson & Mary Hines

Join us after the service for...

FELLOWSHIP HOUR – 10:45

You are welcome to stay for refreshments and conversation downstairs after the service. A snack is available for children.



CLASSES FOR ALL AGES – 11:15 AM

All are welcome to attend any Sunday.

Quarterly Adult Classes (Dec - Feb)

Library - The Road Back to You
Sanctuary - Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

Ongoing Adult Discussion Groups (year-round)

Coffee and Conversation – Room 5 (downstairs)
Knit and Nurture – on break for winter quarter
Young Adults – Room 13 (downstairs)

Children & Youth Classes (downstairs)

2-3 yrs – Room 6
4 yrs - Grade 5 – Room 3
Grades 6-8 – Room 10/11
Grades 9-12 - Room 7
(Nursery care provided for children birth to age 2)

Our current children’s offering benefits the Casa Mariposa Detention Visitation Program in Tucson, AZ which offers support, friendship, and encouragement to immigrants living in detention through weekly visits and letters. Outside of detention, the program supports immigrants as they return to life on the outside and help reunite folks with their loved ones.



THIS WEEK at FMC

For a full listing of events, visit our website at www.fmc-cu.org.

SUN	9:15 AM	Worship (Advent 4); followed by fellowship & Sunday school
MON	6:30 PM	FMC Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (for all ages)
TUE		Merry Christmas!
	1:00 PM	Christmas potluck at Deb’s house; RSVP please.

Office hours during the week of December 23:

Tuesday, Dec. 25: FMC office closed on Christmas
Wed – Fri, Dec 26-28: FMC office open regular hours: 9 am – 2 pm.

Staff vacation during the holidays:

Pastor Michael is on vacation Dec 31 - Jan 4
Rhonda Gibson is on vacation Dec 30 - Jan 6

Office hours during the week of December 30:

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 1-2: office closed.
Thurs. & Fri, Jan 3 – 4: office open 9 am - 2 pm.
Pastor Deb will be in the office January 3 & 4.
Please contact her with pastoral care needs at any time; her cell number is 217.369.6142.

UPCOMING

SUN 30	10:00 AM	Worship (Christmas Sunday) No Sunday school
SUN 6	9:15 AM	Worship (Epiphany Sunday)
	10:45 AM	Fellowship & refreshments
	11:15 AM	Sunday school for all ages
	12:00 PM	Lunch & Colombia Delegation presentation (rsvp for lunch)