

## FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

### TODAY

Worship 9:15am  
Chrismon Service 3:30pm

### THURSDAY

Early Morning Bible Study (zoom) 7am  
Racial Justice Working Group (zoom) 3pm  
Worship Committee 3pm

### WEDNESDAY

Property & Finance Cmte (Zoom) 5:30pm

### SATURDAY

FMC reserved for private recitals  
(11am-5pm)



Scan or visit  
[www.fmc-cu.org/events](http://www.fmc-cu.org/events)  
for event details.

### ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS (more announcements in the email sent each Tuesday)

#### TODAY at 3:30 pm – Chrismon Service for all ages

Join us in the sanctuary to decorate the tree with symbols of Christ's life, followed by singing carols in the fenced yard to the west of the building.

#### Giving Opportunities for Two Special Offerings through December 12

- 1) Thanksgiving offering for [Sola Gratia Farm](#), a community-based farm dedicated to helping address local food insecurity.
- 2) Chrismon offering for the [Developmental Services Center \(DSC\)](#), which provides services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

[Giving can be done online](#) (use the drop down box to select the special offering) or by check (designate which special offering in the memo line). Cash can also be given; there are envelopes at the ends of the pews, but please specify on the envelope which offering, or if splitting the donation, how much for each organization.

#### Next Sunday, December 5 following worship – Congregational meeting (in-person and on Zoom)

Council is recommending approval for funding of two significant projects: an HVAC upgrade to the offices, library and upstairs restrooms, and new carpeting and chairs for the sanctuary. Information and links were sent out in the Tuesday and Friday emails.

#### Next Sunday, December 5 from 2-4 pm – Youth game day at FMC.



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*

## Celebration of Worship

November 28, 2021

Advent 1

Dare to imagine God's Goodness! (Hope)

*Focus Question: Can we, dare we, embrace hope once more?*



### Centering chimes

#### Prelude

#### \*Call to worship (from Psalm 25)

**East: I offer my life<sup>1</sup> to you, Lord. My God, I trust you.**

West: Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.

**East: Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me.**

West: Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love— they are forever!

But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. For the sake of your good name, Lord, forgive my sins!

**East: My eyes are always looking to you, Lord because you will free my feet from the net.**

**West: Look at my suffering and trouble—and mend all my brokenness.**

**East: Don't let me be put to shame because I take refuge in you.**

**West: Let integrity and virtue guard me because I hope in you.**

#### \*Voices Together #210

"O Come, O Come Immanuel"

#### Welcome & prayer

#### Lighting Advent candles

Leader: We light a candle of hope. And we imagine:

**People: God's righteousness, God's steadfast love, God's justice.**

Leader: We light the candle to see God's goodness in us, among us.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

#### \*Voices Together #216

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#### Children's story and offering for the United Front Against River Blindness

Congregation sings as children come forward (Voices Together #512)

## Confession and Assurance

Leader: A friend once said children grow taller at night—  
while at rest—bones quietly stretch, and bit by bit their bodies grow.  
Trees grow silently, too— from deep inside—energy is released.  
Branches reach for the light. People can grow silently, too.

**People: We confess that all too often we stifle the growth God inspires deep inside of us,  
preferring the immediate, the good enough, the comfortable.**

Leader: In Advent—O God—cause us to get up on our tiptoes, lean forward and extend our gaze.

**People: Surely God, who caused the righteous Branch to spring up,  
will enliven our imaginations in this season of hope.**

*(silence)*

Leader: The kingdom of God is near. Listen—can you hear it? Look—can you see it?  
Our God says, “Surely the days are coming—they are already here!”

**Scripture** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**Sermon**

**Meditation music**

**Mission Moment: Developmental Services Center**

**Offering prayer** *(please place your offering in the baskets at the doors as you leave the sanctuary)*

**Congregational sharing and prayer**

*(use a mic or text email prayers and announcements to Pastor Michael or Pastor Deb)*

**Introduction of visitors**

**Work of the church** *(Please text or email announcements to Pastor Michael or Pastor Deb)*

**\*Voices Together #259** “To Us a Child of Hope is Born”

**\*Benediction**

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*\*Stand if you are able*



## TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

No Kids’ Corner today after worship.

Fellowship is welcome on the lawn west of the church building.

Currently no in-person Sunday school classes. We anticipate resuming in-person classes for all ages in February 2022.

## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED TODAY:

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Sheryl Dyck & Mary Krick

Worship Leader/Scripture Reader: Sam Cox

Candle Lighter: Emily Gibson

Song Leader: Bev Birkey Potts

Piano: Andrea Welty Peachey

Children’s Story: Lynne Sancken

Sermon: Pastor Deb

Mission Moment: Beth Rempe

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastor Deb

Sound System & Tech: Laurence Koehn & Phil Martens

Stewards: Tammie Bouseman & Greg Sancken

## NEXT SUNDAY (DEC. 5) AT FMC:

Advent 2: Dare to Imagine God’s Embrace (Peace)

Scripture: Luke 1:64-79; Luke 3:1-6

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Judy Nafziger & Nancy Seaman

Worship Leader/Scripture Reader: Cindy Breeze

Candle Lighter: TBD

Song Leader: Matt Yoder

Piano & Special Music: Kathy Springer

Children’s Story: Courtney Malcolm

Sermon: Pastor Michael

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastors

Sound System & Tech: Randy Nelson & Phil Martens

Stewards: Emerson Nafziger & Mary Krick

We welcome, without exclusion all who seek God’s love and grace...

You are welcome here, inclusive of gender, race, country of origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, socioeconomic status, family status, past imprisonment, education, citizenship status and physical or mental abilities.

We encourage you to share in the rituals, fellowship and ministry of this congregation.

Hearing devices (T-coil and over-ear) and large print hymnals are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is not currently being provided.

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

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### Contact Us:

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