



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

September 10, 2023

Season of Creation: Forest



Centering chimes

Prelude

*Gathering hymn #95

“Praise the Lord, Sing Hallelujah”

Welcome and prayer

Call to Worship

Leader: In the name of the Creator, the fountain of life, the name of Christ, the pulse of life, and the name of the Spirit, the breath of life. Amen.

People: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence.

Leader: Christ, we come into your presence today to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

People: A planet filled with your presence, quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.

Leader: God, reveal yourself to us in this place and show us your face in all creation.

People: Holy! Holy! Holy! Earth is filled with God’s presence.

*Praising hymn #514

“I Saw a Tree by the Riverside”

Children’s story and new offering for Hungry World Farm

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

Scripture

Genesis 2:4-9; 15 and Psalm 1:1-3

Sermon

*Hymn #485

“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”

Offering prayer

Offertory (*Offerings can be placed in the plates as the ushers come by*)

Congregational sharing and prayer (*use a mic or text/email prayers and announcements to Pastor Deb*)

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church (*please come forward to the podium mic to make your announcement*)

Work of the Church Volunteer Opportunities

*Sending hymn #145

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

*Benediction

*Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the ribbons during the hymns.

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 provided in the nursery downstairs.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Fellowship and refreshments in the basement before Sunday school. Please keep drinks in the basement. Snacks for children PreK-Grade School are also available. Parents, please assist your children during snack time. Education opportunities for all ages are held from 11:15am-12pm. Childcare for infants - preschoolers is provided in the nursery.



CLASSES THROUGH NOVEMBER (upstairs/downstairs)

Introduction to Islam: Sanctuary
Inspired: Library
Mennonites 101: Rm 7 Downstairs
Coffee & Conversation: Rm 13 Downstairs
Young Adults: Rm 5 Downstairs

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES (downstairs)

Kindergarten – Grade 3: Room 10/11
Grades 3 – 6: Room 3
Middle School & High School youth are welcome to join any of the adult Sunday school classes

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK (Visit www.fmc-cu.org/events for event details)

TODAY

- FMC worship leader workshop (12:15p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wednesday Zoom Bible Study at FMC (8a)
- FMC Council (6:30p)

THURSDAY

- Thursday Morning Bible Study (9:30a)
- Beloved Community Bible Study at Bethel AME (6:30p)

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

Today:

- We begin a new children's offering to benefit Hungry World Farm in Tiskilwa, IL. Learn more about their mission at: <https://www.hungryworldfarm.com/>.
- Fall Sunday school begins (detailed handouts have been placed on sanctuary chairs)
- 12:15 pm, all FMC worship leaders and people considering worship leading are invited to meet in the fellowship hall for lunch before the training. Bring your own lunch; ice cream sundaes will be provided.
- Volunteer "Work of the Church" Opportunities. Please consider volunteering to support a ministry at First Mennonite. Prayerfully consider the various ministries and opportunities alongside your own gifts, interests and availability. Pastors and committees may call on you to serve in some of your areas of interest. FMC Ministry Volunteer Forms (Work of the Church) are available in the foyer; an online version will go out today. **Forms are due by Sept. 17.**

This Thursday, September 14, 9:30-11 am - Thursday morning Bible study begins. All are welcome to join this study on the book of Ephesians. Bring your own drink.

Next Sunday, September 17 at 5 pm - Council will host a church-wide brainstorming dialogue about the future of our apartment building.

Now through September 16 - Lynne Sancken will be taking orders for FMC Pride short-sleeved T-shirts. The cost will likely be \$25-\$35, depending on the number of shirts ordered. Contact Lynne Sancken to place an order. Once the T shirts have arrived, you will be notified by email with details about pick-up and payment.

Thursday, September 21 at 5:30 pm – 3rd Thursday Taco Night at FMC. Come for fellowship and a taco dinner. Corn and flour tortillas and meat (and vegetarian alternative) will be provided. Although not required, you are invited to bring a topping to share. All are welcome to attend, but RSVP by Tuesday (Sep 19) at: <https://tinyurl.com/Sept-Taco-Night> so that we can plan for the meat and tortillas. Small donations to help defray the cost are welcomed at the event, but not required.

September 30, 1-5 pm, in downtown Urbana - CU Pride Fest Parade. As in years past, FMC will have a group walking in the parade. We are trying to decide if we also need a truck to carry people during the parade. If you plan to participate but would need to ride on a truck bed, contact Lynne Sancken by September 10.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED TODAY:

Greeters: Rebecca Bare & Randy Nelson
Worship Leader: Chuck Gibson
Song Leader: Cindy Breeze; **Piano:** Jan Kellogg
Children's Story: Bonnie Schneider (Baggins)
Scripture Reader: Janet MacLean
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Deb
Zoom: John MacLean; **Audio:** Laurence Koehn
Worship Nursery: Taniya Boone & Karla Woodson
SS Nursery: Taniya & Melissa S.
Stewards: Clark Breeze & Denny Seaman
Refreshments: Chuck & Rhonda Gibson

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT FMC

Scripture: Genesis 4:1-16 and Hosea 4:1-3
Greeters: Rhonda Gibson & Randy Nelson
Worship Leader: Cindy Breeze
Song Leader: Danielle Beard; **Piano:** Bev Birkey Potts
Children's Story: Earl Kellogg
Scripture Reader: Jonah Dominguez
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom & AV: Chuck Gibson
Worship Nursery: Taniya Boone & Megan Cox; **SS Nursery:** Taniya & Doug M.
Stewards: Clark Breeze & Denny Seaman
Refreshments: Mary Krick & Sarah Little

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Contact Us:

Pastor Michael Crosby: michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org | Associate Pastor Debra Sutter: debra.sutter@fmc-cu.org
Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: office@fmc-cu.org | Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday