



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

August 11, 2024

Season of Creation:
Sky

Centering chimes

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Oh God, we are thankful for your ongoing creation.

People: The Sky seems to reflect your qualities of being infinite and eternal, O God.

Leader: The Sky seems to be unbounded and untamed.

People: Is this a way to remind us to break free of our perceived limits and explore new heights?

Leader: Is the Sky to remind us of something grander and more expansive than human earthly existence?

People: Sky also reminds us of beauty and creativity – the fiery sunsets and dawns and the grandeur of thunderhead clouds rolling across.

Leader: The Sky also is a place of inspiration for us to raise above some petty worldly concerns.

People: The Sky is a window to the rest of God's infinite creation – the galaxies and stars beyond our sight and knowledge.

Leader: Let us worship this Divine Spirit who created all.

***Gathering hymn #6** "Let's Walk Together"

Welcome and prayer

***Praising Hymn #81** "All Creatures Worship God Most High"

Children's story and offering for Champaign County Habitat for Humanity (cuhabitat.com)

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

Back to School Blessing

Scripture Jeremiah 4:23-28 and Mark 15:33-39

Sermon

***Response hymn #806** "Called by Earth and Sky"

Prayer & Offertory (*Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows*)

Congregational Sharing & Prayer (*use the mic or text prayers to pastor Michael*)

Introduction of visitors

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

***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 a large print hymnal & Bible are available from the greeters.

Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Cold drinks and children's snacks (for ages 1 year through Grade School) will be served downstairs in the fellowship hall. Parents, please assist your children during snack time. We do not have Sunday school during August.

Beginning in September, education opportunities for all ages will resume from 11:15am-12pm.

Childcare for infants - preschoolers will be provided in the nursery. We will also begin serving coffee and lemonade again.



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

TODAY

- Worship, followed by fellowship downstairs (No Sunday school in August)

WEDNESDAY

- FMC Council (6p)

THURSDAY

- Facilities Committee (4:30p)

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

TODAY after worship:

- Fellowship, cold drinks and children's snacks will be served downstairs in the fellowship hall.** No Sunday school is held in August.
- David Needham will be available for anyone wanting to share memories/stories of FMC for the 60th anniversary video.** If this Sunday doesn't work, contact him to schedule another time.

This Thursday, August 18 – Deadline to let Pastor Deb know if you would like to be in a Spiritual Direction Group this year (mid-Sept – next Aug).

These groups meet twice a month for 90 minutes to pray, have some meditation, share around a Scripture passage and look for what God is doing in our lives. It is a good chance to get to know a few people more deeply as we focus together on listening for God in both the Scripture and in our lives. Whether you have been in a group before or not, you are welcome to join one of the groups. Feel free to see Pastor Deb for more information.

Next Sunday, August 18:

- During fellowship time - Our Green Team will have letters available to sign and space for a personal note to explain why the passage of a food and climate just farm bill is important to you.** Read more information about the bill in the Aug. Vine; copies of the newsletter are on the FYI table near the church office. The letters will be collected and delivered to our Congressional Representatives.
- Deadline for our MCC's School Kit Challenge Collection.** Copies of the supply list are on the FYI table near the office.
- Deadline to order FMC Pride "God's Love is for Everyone" T-shirts.**
- Deadline to rsvp for our August 20th Taco Tuesday Dinner at 5:30 pm in the FMC fellowship hall.**

Next Sunday, August 18, 4-6 pm at the Crystal Lake Park Large Pavilion – Interfaith End of Summer Picnic. Grilled items (meat and vegetarian) and beverages will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, or just bring yourself. Come for fellowship and fun (yard games, bubbles & more).

Friday and Saturday, August 23 - 24 at the Otto Center (1/2 mile south of Arthur, IL) - 62nd Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale in support of the Mennonite Central Committee. Flyers are also available on the FYI table near the church office.

Sunday, August 25 after worship – Our annual Safe Church Training, followed by a church potluck.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED TODAY:

Greeters: Tim Clink & Bev Hertle

Worship Leader: Earl Kellogg

Music: Worship Band

Children's Story: Randy Nelson

Scripture Reader: Sheryl Dyck

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom & Audio: Chuck Gibson

Visuals: Lynne Sancken

Worship Nursery: Rebecca Bare & Kathy Springer

Stewards: Mary Krick & Greg Sancken

Cold drinks & Children's snacks: Cheryl Koranda &

Rachel Miller-Houghton

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 18 AT FMC:

Season of Creation: Tree

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4; Psalm 96; John 1:1-5

Greeters: Clark Breeze & Cynthia Nafziger

Worship Leader: Marcia E. Nelson

Song Leader: Danielle Beard; **Piano:** Kathy Springer

Children's Story: Megan Cox

Scripture Reader: Tammie Bouseman

Sermon: Rev. Brian Sauder, President & CEO of Faith in Place

Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Phil Martens; **Audio:** Emerson Nafziger

Visuals: Lynne Sancken

Worship Nursery: Sheryl Dyck & Janet E. Guthrie

Stewards: Chuck Gibson & Tom Sutter

Cold Drinks & Children's snacks: Tim Clink & Pastor Deb

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

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Contact Us:

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Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: office@fmc-cu.org | Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday