



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

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

## Celebration of Worship

February 23, 2025



**Centering chimes**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

One: Who are these crowds I see? And why have they trekked here to this frozen place?

**Many: Our hearts are filled with longing for justice, our souls are starved for the taste of righteousness.**

One: I can see that you are also foot-weary and back-sore; find a comfortable place to rest for a moment.

**Many: Rest is fine, but we are also angry and afraid and anxious and looking for answers.**

One: Begin at the beginning. What little morsels did you bring along? Unwrap them and share them with each other. See what the Spirit may be bringing to our poverty.

**Many: We gather to share and listen and glean and distribute even more widely, and we are fed and warmed and enlightened and comforted, the one by the other.**

**\*Gathering hymn #38** "Life-Giver, Maker, God of All"

**Welcome and prayer**

**\*Praising Hymn #124** "For the Fruit of All Creation"

**Children's story and FINAL offering for SIM Bangladesh Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Program ([www.simbd.org/app](http://www.simbd.org/app))**

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

**Scripture** Matthew 14:13-21

**Sermon**

**\*Response hymn #757** "There's Enough for All"

**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 #42** "Could It Be That God Is Singing"

**\*Benediction**

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\*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

**Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall** - Fellowship, refreshments and children's snacks for ages 1 year through Grade School. Parents, please assist your children during snack time.

**Education opportunities for all ages from 11:15am-12pm.**

**ADULT CLASSES (DEC – FEB)** (upstairs/downstairs)

The Great Rewiring: Sanctuary  
Turning to the Mystics: Library  
Coffee & Conversation: Room 13 (downstairs)

**CHILDREN – YOUTH CLASSES** (downstairs)

Ages 2-5 years: Room 6  
Kindergarten – Grade 2: Room 3  
Grades 3 – 5: Room 10/11  
Grades 6-8: Room 7



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

### TODAY, February 23:

- Final children's offering for SIM Bangladesh Arsenic Prevention Program. Next Sunday, we begin a spring/summer children's offering to benefit Immigrant Services of CU (<https://www.isc-u.org/>).
- Potluck at Noon, followed by our medical debt relief auction at 12:45pm as people finish their meal.
- Deadline for March Vine submissions. Email items to Cindi Schieber.

**Anabaptist World is a monthly paper and digital magazine that offers articles and news from an Anabaptist perspective.** FMC has a reduced-rate group subscription (\$44 for 12 issues), which is up for renewal in March. If you would like to join, please contact the church office by next Sunday, March 2.

### Please let Pastor Deb know if you are interested in:

- Participating in a reader's theater drama on Palm Sunday (April 13); Rehearsal April 12
- Participating in a choir chime group for Easter (April 20); Rehearsals April 12, 13, 19

**Three more weeks in our medical debt relief campaign (through March 16).** Information is on the campaign table in the foyer and at [www.fmc-cu.org](http://www.fmc-cu.org).

**This Friday, February 28 at 3p - The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery will host Decolonial online worship the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.** Worship services will focus on the theme of Healing and Economic Justice, and messages will center Indigenous cosmologies and activism.

**This Saturday, March 1, 10a-3p at Camp Menno Haven – Illinois Mennonite Conference annual meeting.** The meeting is open to all. Please let Pastor Michael or Randy Nelson know if you are attending.

**This Saturday, March 1, 10am – 4 pm - FMC hosts *The Sacred Circle: Native American Spirituality & Christian Friendship* workshop with lunch provided.** Designed for ages 16 and older. Registration is full; contact Janet Elaine Guthrie to be put on a waitlist.

### Next Sunday, March 2 at FMC:

- Sunday morning worship with Dayspring Native American Church friends.**
- The Spring Sunday school quarter begins** (class descriptions are on the handout placed on your chair).

**Friday, March 14 from 5-8:30 pm and Saturday, March 15 from 6 am – 1 pm – 67th Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale at the Interstate Center in Bloomington, IL.** Free and open to the public. Food, markets, auction and more. Proceeds benefit the work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and local hunger initiatives. For details, visit: <https://www.ilreliefsale.org/> or get a booklet from the FMC information table.

**SAVE THE DATE - Menno Nite, Saturday March 29, 6pm at CityView (Illinois Terminal).** The evening will feature a buffet dinner and quality entertainment. The dinner is open to all. Registration will open soon.

## FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

(Details at: [www.fmc-cu.org/events](http://www.fmc-cu.org/events))

### TODAY

- Noon potluck, followed by medical debt relief auction at 12:45 pm.
- Deadline for March Vine submissions. Email submissions to Cindi Schieber.

### MONDAY

- Monday Spiritual Direction Group (6:30p)

### WEDNESDAY

- Wednesday AM Zoom Bible Study (8a)

### THURSDAY

- Thursday Morning Bible Study (9:30a)
- Service & Outreach Cmte-Zoom (3:30p)

### FRIDAY

- Online Decolonial Worship (3p)-see announcement

### SATURDAY

- IMC Annual Meeting at Menno Haven (10a)
- The Sacred Circle Workshop (10a) – registration required

### NEXT SUNDAY, March 2

- Join Worship with Dayspring at FMC (9:15a),** followed by refreshments & Sunday school

## THANKS TODAY TO:

**Greeters:** Marcia E. Nelson & Karla Woodson

**Worship Leader:** Phil Martens

**Song Leader:** Pastor Deb

**Piano:** Pastor Deb & Janet MacLean

**Children's Story:** Lindsey Preston

**Scripture Reader:** Stephanie Thurston

**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael

**Zoom:** Megan Cox; **Audio:** Randy Nelson

**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Mary Hines

**Stewards:** Clark Breeze & Jan Sabey

**Visuals:** Donna Evans

**Refreshments:** John & Janet MacLean

## NEXT SUNDAY, March 2 AT FMC:

**Greeters:** Kate Falk, Earl Kellogg & Daniel Needham

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Michael

**Song Leader:** Pastor Deb

**Piano:** Bev Birkey Potts; **Flute:** Lesley Deem

**Drum Circle:** Dayspring Native American UMC

**Storytellers:** Evelyn & Ken Hayden; Shauna Summers

**Scripture Reader:** Karen McKenzie

**Scripture:** Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

**Sermon:** Rev. Patty Johansen

**Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael

**Zoom:** Chuck Gibson; **Audio:** Laurence Koehn

**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Karla Woodson

**Stewards:** Tim Clink & Lynne Sancken

**Visuals:** Worship Committee

**Refreshments:** Bob King & Mark Evans

### First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

902 W Springfield Ave | Urbana, IL 61801-3021 | 217.367.5353 | [www.fmc-cu.org](http://www.fmc-cu.org)

Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday

### Contact Us:

Pastor Michael Crosby: [michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org](mailto:michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org)

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Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: [office@fmc-cu.org](mailto:office@fmc-cu.org)