



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

March 2, 2025



Centering chimes

Prelude

Honor Song

Friendship Dance (all are invited to join in the dance circle)

We are honored that Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church accompanies today's worship with the sacred drum. The drumbeat echoes God's heart pulsing in creation.

Call to Worship

*Gathering hymn #39

"As We Rise, O God, to Meet You" (vss. 1, 2, 4, 5)

Welcome & Unison Prayer (hymnal #861)

*Praising Hymn #81

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Hymn #539

"God Speaks to Us"

Storytelling

Scripture

Matthew 8:5-13

Sermon

Striving for the Good Way

*Response hymn #644

"Healer of Our Ev'ry Ill"

Prayer & Offertory

Jesus is Lord

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 #422

"Called or Not Called"

*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

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 (MARCH - MAY) (upstairs/downstairs)

Pathways to Repair: Sanctuary
Planning for End of Life: Library
Coffee & Conversation: Room 13 (downstairs)
Young Adults: Room 5 (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, March 2:

- We welcome our friends from Dayspring United Methodist Church to share in our joint worship service.
- We begin a spring/summer children's offering to benefit Immigrant Services of CU (<https://www.isc-u.org/>).
- We begin a new Sunday school quarter. A handout with details about class options is on your chair.

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

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

Copies of the Lent devotional booklet from Menno Media on the table near the church office.

This Wednesday, March 5, 6:30 pm at FMC – Ash Wednesday Service of song, readings and imposition of ashes.

This Saturday, March 8 – Please set your clocks forward one hour in the evening. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on March 9.

Next Sunday, March 9 during worship – We will have communion.

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 - Saturday, March 29, 6:00 pm at CityView (Illinois Terminal) - Annual Menno Nite Dinner and Talent Show. The evening will feature a buffet dinner and "quality entertainment" some of which you may have seen on Sunday morning and some best reserved for Saturday night. The suggested donation is \$30. We do not want cost to be a factor in attendance, so pay as you are able. View the buffet menu and signup using the link in the email. Signup Deadline is March 20. Questions about the evening? Contact Marcia E. Nelson. Our emcee will be gathering talent soon.

Praise God for the joyful generosity of last week's FMC auction to benefit our medical debt relief campaign. Combined with additional donations from the community and people at FMC, we have raised about \$34,000 so far, exceeding the original goal of \$20,000. There are two weeks left in the campaign, with all donations going to relieve medical debt in East Central IL. If our donations exceed accessible debt in the region, it will expand to western and southern IL.

Saturday, March 22, 6 pm at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur, IL – Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale Kick-off Banquet, featuring storyteller John Walsh. Contact Cynthia Nafziger by March 16 if you wish to attend.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY

- New children's offering & Sunday school quarter.
- Sun. Spiritual Directions Group (3:30p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wednesday AM Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- Ash Wed. service at FMC (6:30p)

THURSDAY

- Thursday Morning Bible Study (9:30a)
- Worship Committee (11:30a)

FRIDAY

- Fri. Spiritual Direction Group (10:30a)

NEXT SUNDAY, March 9

- Worship (9:15a), followed by refreshments & Sunday school
- Council retreat at FMC (12:15-3p)

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Kate Falk & Earl Kellogg

Worship Leader: Pastor Michael

Song Leader: Pastor Deb

Piano: Bev Birkey Potts

Prelude & Offertory: Dayspring Native American United Methodist Church

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

NEXT SUNDAY, March 9 AT FMC:

*Theme: Lent 1 - Christ Challenges Our Bias
Communion will be served*

Greeters: Kate Falk & Earl Kellogg

Worship Leader: Bob King

Song Leader: Danielle Beard

Piano: Ruth Stoltzfus

Children's Story: Tammie Bouseman & Baggins

Scripture Reader: Peter Dyck

Scripture: Luke 10:25-42

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: John MacLean; **Audio:** Emerson Nafziger

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Chuck Gibson

Stewards: Tim Clink & Lynne Sancken

Visuals: Lent Committee

Refreshments: Bev Hertle & Wilmer Otto

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

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

Contact Us:

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