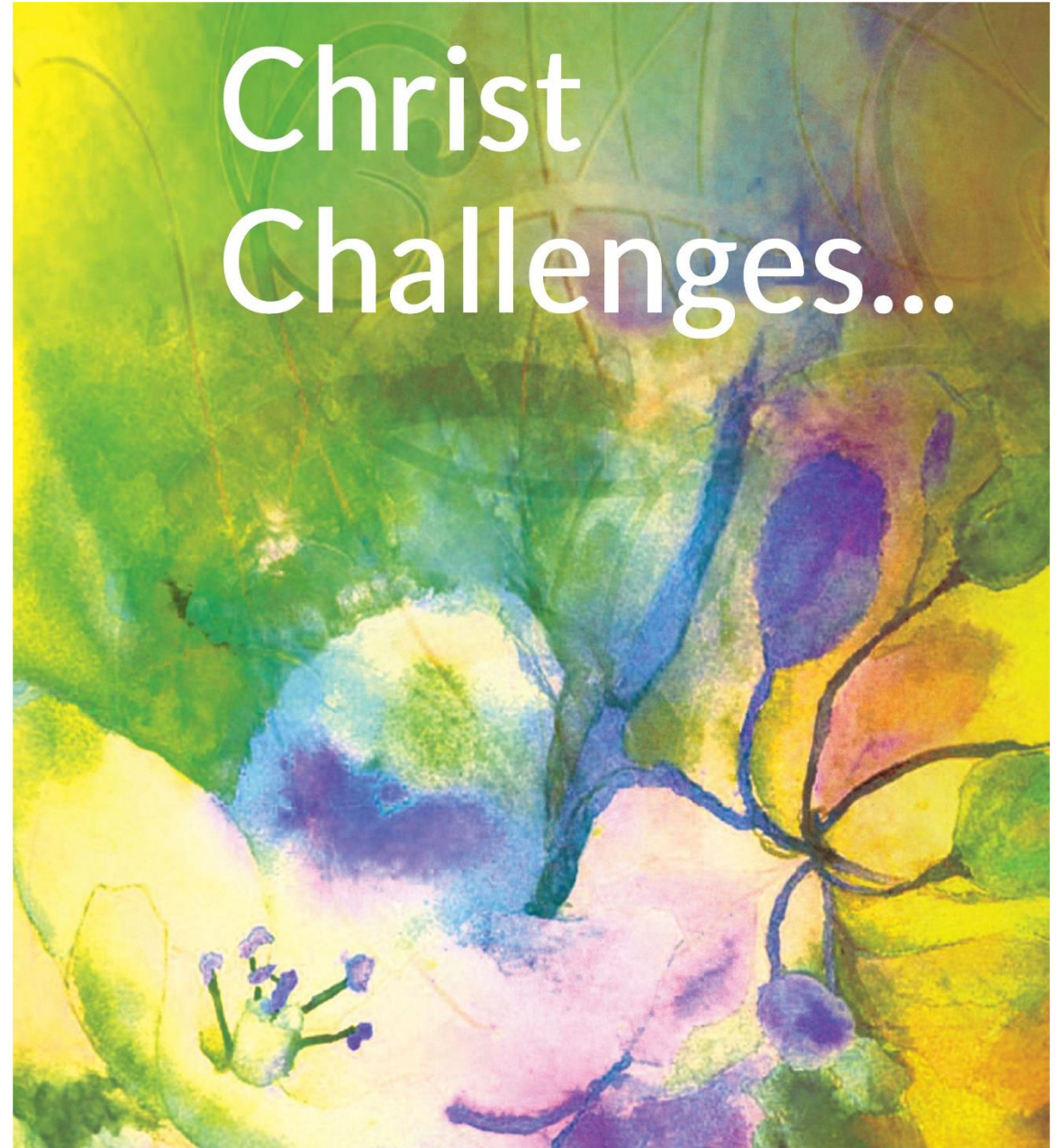




WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Christ Challenges...



Celebration *of* Worship

March 9, 2025

*Lent 1:
Christ Challenges Our Bias*

Centering chimes

Prelude

*Call to worship

One: Come! Let us worship the Lord our God!

Many: It's the first Sunday of our journey called "Lent".

One: Led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Jesus wrestled with temptation; he fasted, prayed, and responded with scripture to what was offered in the wilderness.

Many: As we begin this season of Lent, we want to grow more like Jesus, so we pray for a new or a renewed passion in our faith.

One: Through all the days ahead

Many: let us follow the One who resolutely turned to God with body, mind, heart and soul.

Welcome & prayer

*Gathering Hymn #809 "Sing A New World into Being"

Confession & Assurance

ALL: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you.

Leader: We have not loved you with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

Congregation: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

Leader: We have not fully accepted your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Congregation: We cling to our assumptions and insist that our point of view is the correct one.

ALL: We repent before each other and before you, our loving God. Please help us to open our hearts to your love. Help us to shake free from our biases and assumptions so we may better share your peace in your world, rejoicing in your name. Amen.

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other.

In this, we know that God will never break our relationship.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Hymn #131 "Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Scripture Luke 10:25-42

Sermon

*Response Hymn #790 "How Can We Be Silent"

Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. The bread is gluten-free. The juice is grape juice (water is also available). Come and partake as the Spirit leads.

Note: We will not pass the offering plates this morning. Offerings can be placed in the plate when you come forward for communion or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary after the service. Prayer cards can also be brought forward.

Communion hymn #461 "Come to the Table of Grace"

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

Introduction of visitors

Work of the church

*Sending Hymn #568 "Christ Has No Body Here but Ours"

*Benediction

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

Note: The artwork hanging at the front of the sanctuary was created by Donna Evans.

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.