



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

May 18, 2025

Centering chimes

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us rejoice in the Lord! This day is a time of celebration, of recognition, and of stepping forward into a new chapter.

ALL: Yes, let us rejoice in the Lord: We gather to honor the graduates, to celebrate their achievements, and to acknowledge the grace that has led them to this moment.

Leader: As we look to the future, let us remember that we are not alone on this journey.

ALL: No, we are not alone, We are connected to the Lord and to one another, a family of faith bound together by love and purpose.

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts to worship the God who guides our steps, who empowers us to grow, and who call us to serve.

ALL: Yes, let us prepare our hearts to worship. May our voices be filled with gratitude, our minds open to God's Word and our spirits ready to receive God's blessings.

*Gathering hymn #638

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Welcome & Prayer

*Praising Hymn #416

"Beyond a Dying Sun"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Scripture

Revelation 21:1-6 and John 13:31-35

Sermon

Healing from War

*Response hymn #705

"For the Healing of the Nations"

Prayer & Offertory

Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows; "sharing" index cards may be placed in the plates. Blank index cards are available on the greeter stand and in holders on the back of chairs throughout the sanctuary.

Blessing of Our Graduates (*handout*)

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 #844

"May the Face of God Shine on You"

*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)

Thanks to our guest preacher, Rev. Bill Cork, a credentialed minister of the Western District Conference, MC USA, and a member of Houston Mennonite Church. Bill is a chaplain at the Houston VA. Bill served as a chaplain in the Army Reserve and National Guard for 20 years, including a deployment to Kuwait. He spent 12 years in campus ministry in California and Texas. He's active in local and statewide suicide prevention organizations. Bill graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary. His daughter, Aimee-Joy Hearn, graduates May 16 from UIUC College of Veterinary Medicine with her D.V.M.

Today:

- During fellowship time, we will have special refreshment in celebration of our graduates.
- Deadline to sign up to help with main items for our May 20th Taco Tuesday meal at 5:30 pm. No signup needed to attend. Bring a topping to share if you wish. Help providing main items for the meal is appreciated; signup to see what main items are still needed and how much to make.

Thanks to all who helped out at our FMC Spring Work Day yesterday!

This Wednesday, May 21 - 10:30a-2:30p - Climate Action Lobby Day at the Illinois State Capitol (401 S 2nd Street Springfield, IL). [Registration is required \(click to signup\)](#). Need help getting to Springfield? Sign up to join the bus leaving from our FMC parking lot!

This Friday, May 23 – Sunday May 25 – Pastor Michael will be away. Contact Pastor Deb with pastoral care needs.

Next Sunday, May 25 – Deadline to submit articles for the June Vine. Email submissions to Cindi Schieber..

Monday, May 26, 9:30 am - 4 pm, Camp Menno Haven (9301 1575 E. St., Tiskilwa, IL) - Rally Day Open House. Come to Menno Haven and enjoy activities all day, a potluck lunch (BBQ chicken & drinks provided) and learn what is planned for the summer. Learn more and RSVP: <https://www.mennohaven.com/rallyday.html>.

Saturday, May 31:

- Graduation party for David Black, 2-4 pm, 2011 N. Foxberry Dr., Urbana. No RSVP needed.
- Graduation party for Sophie Green & her friend Kara, 5-7:30 pm, 2108 O-Donnel Dr., Champaign (2 houses down from Sophie's house). RSVP not required but appreciated.

June & July Sunday School will once again feature intergenerational activities and sharing led by you!

What passion, gift, interest, or skill has God given you to share with others? This year's theme is caregiving: What acts of care have you received that have been meaningful? What creative ways have you cared for others? Watch for a flyer with more information and find the sign-up sheet in the downstairs fellowship hall.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY (Sunday, May 18)

- Special refreshments in honor of our graduates
- Deadline to sign up to help with Taco Tuesday
- Sunday Spiritual Direction Group (3p)

TUESDAY

- Hospitality & Fellowship Committee (4:30p)
- FMC Taco Tuesday meal (5:30p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wednesday AM Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- Pastor Congregation Relations Cmte (1p)

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Leadership Team (1p)
- Service & Outreach Cmte - Zoom (3:30p)

FRIDAY

- Pastor Michael away Fri, May 23 – Sun, May 25

NEXT SUNDAY, May 25

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship and final spring Sunday school session.
- Deadline for June Vine submissions

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Bev Hertle & Rosalee Otto

Worship Leader: Martha Moore

Song Leader: Rudy Moyer-Litwiller

Piano: Ruth Stoltzfus

Cello: Geoffrey Herman

Children's Story: Lesley Deem

Scripture Reader: Geoffrey Herman

Sermon: Rev. Bill Cork

Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Chuck Gibson

Audio: Laurence Koehn

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Joe Crawford

Stewards: Mary Krick & Greg Sancken

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Refreshments: Cynthia & Emerson Nafziger

NEXT SUNDAY, May 25 AT FMC:

Greeters: Bev Hertle & Rosalee Otto

Worship Leader: TBD

Music: Worship Band

Children's Story: Laura Lasater

Scripture Reader: Kathy Springer

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15; John 5:1-9

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Deb

Zoom: Phil Martens

Audio: Randy Nelson

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Cindi Schieber

Stewards: Mary Krick & Greg Sancken

Visuals: Tammie Bouseman

Refreshments: Janet & John MacLean, Alexandra Pooh (youth assistant)

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

902 W Springfield Ave | Urbana, IL 61801-3021 | 217.367.5353 | www.fmc-cu.org

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

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