



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

August 17, 2025

Centering chimes

Prelude

Call to Worship (unison)

With all your saints across the generations we gather, Holy God,
to approach your mystery and hear your judgment.

We come seeking the faith of those who have gone before us in righteousness and truth.

Lead us by your Word to walk in your ways and observe your commandments.

*Gathering hymn #49 "All Who Are Thirsty"

Welcome & Prayer

*Praising Hymn #365 "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Children's story and offering for Immigrant Services of CU

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

Back to School Blessing

Scripture Jeremiah 32:1-25

Sermon

*Response hymn #789 "Be a Sower"

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.

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

Introduction of visitors

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

*Sending hymn #777 "Seeds"

*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.

There is no Sunday school during the month of August.

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

TODAY, August 17:

- During worship – Backpack blessing for the start of the new year.
- Final collection day for our MCC school kit supply drive.
- Kids/Youth Sunday school teachers' appreciation lunch and room clean up (11a, downstairs)
- Signup deadline to help with main items for the Aug. 19 Taco Tuesday meal.
- Deadline to let Pastor Deb know that you are interested in being part of a spiritual direction group. The groups begin anew each September and meet twice a month for about 90 minutes. During this time, we pray together, take a little time for 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. You are welcome to join one of the groups, regardless of whether or not you have been in a group before.

This Tuesday, August 19:

- At 5:30 pm at FMC – Taco Tuesday meal. Come and eat, no signup needed. Bring a topping or side to share if you wish.
- At 6:15 pm after the meal - The Service and Outreach Committee invites you to listen to Dr. Drew Strait's audio on "Mennonite Public Faith and the Rise of Religious Nationalism". Dr. Strait is the author of the recent book, *Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism* which will be the text for a Sunday school class this fall.

This Friday, August 22 & Saturday, August 23 at the Otto Center in Arthur, IL - 63rd Annual Arthur Mennonite MCC Relief Sale. Visit the website for details: www.arthurreliefale.org/.

Next Sunday, August 24 – Deadline to submit articles for the Sept. Vine. Email submissions to: Cindi Schieber.

Sunday, August 31 – No Sunday morning worship or Sunday school at FMC, due to the all-church retreat.

Sunday, September 7, 4-6pm, Crystal Lake Park, Urbana – Annual Summer Picnic hosted by the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County. We will be in the large pavilion, accessible from Park Street. Join us for some relaxed fellowship and fun. Grilled items (meat and vegetarian) and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able.

September 13, 4 pm at the Urbana Free Library – FMC Service & Outreach Committee invites us to a discussion of the book "Detained: A Boy's Journal of Survival and Resilience" by D. Esperanza and Gerardo Ivan Morales. Janet Elaine Guthrie is helping to plan the event. Morales will join the book discussion by Zoom and Greg Springer will share personal stories from CU immigrant community. Two copies have been donated to FMC library and can be checked out.

Friday, Sept. 19 - Sunday Sept. 21 at Camp Friedenswald (Cassapolis, MI) - Annual Women's Retreat. This year's theme is: Rooted in Love: When trees talk. The speaker is Dr. Rev Rosalind Young, ordained minister and MCC Great Lakes Program Coordinator. Visit <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/> for details and to register.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY (Sunday, August 17)

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship
- Kids/Youth Sunday school teachers' meeting and room clean up (11a)
- Sun. Spiritual Direction Group (3:15p)
- Deadline to help with Taco Tue. meal

TUESDAY

- Taco Tuesday meal (5:30p)
- Drew Strait audio on Christian Nationalism (6:15p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wed. Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- Service & Outreach Cmte-Hybrid (3p)

THURSDAY

- Christian Education Cmte. (1:15p)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

- MCC Relief Sale, Otto Center, Arthur, IL (4:30-9p on Friday & 6a-3p on Saturday)

NEXT SUNDAY, August 24

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship
- Deadline for September Vine submissions

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Kate Falk, Keith Springer & Naima Shungu (youth assistant)
Worship Leader: Marcia E. Nelson
Music: Worship Band
Children's Story: Sharon Monday
Scripture Reader: Dianna Black
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: John MacLean
Audio: Randy Nelson
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Mary Hines
Stewards: Clark Breeze & Jan Sabey
Visuals: Lynne Sancken
Refreshments: Sheryl Dyck, Tim Clink & Malia Shungu (youth assistant)

NEXT SUNDAY, Aug. 24 AT FMC:

Greeters: Karen McKenzie & Keith Springer
Worship Leader: Sam Cox
Christ Candle Lighter: Hannah Needham
Song Leader: Bev Birkey Potts
Piano: Janet MacLean
Children's Story: John MacLean
Scripture Reader: Nancy Seaman
Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-18; 31:31-34 & John 17:1-8
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Chuck Gibson
Audio: Randy Nelson
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Cindi Schieber
Stewards: Cynthia Nafziger & Jan Sabey
Visuals: Lynne Sancken
Refreshments: Janet Liechty & Rhonda Gibson

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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Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: office@fmc-cu.org