



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

September 7, 2025

Season of Creation: Sky

Centering chimes

Prelude

Call to Worship (*from Season of Creation worship resources*)

Leader: We invite the skies to worship with us:

People: the subtle orange skies at dawn and the bold red skies at sunset.

Leader: We join the heavens in praising God:

People: proclaiming God's glory across the globe and hailing God's name with the evening stars.

Leader: We join with the atmosphere in worship.

People: the air, the moisture, the oxygen, the wind, and all the expressions of God's Spirit.

Leader: We call the clouds to celebrate with storms:

People: to carry the life-giving drops of rain that give hope and healing to Earth.

Leader: We invite the winds to join our petitions:

People: to carry our prayers to God above and breathe our hopes to Christ.

Leader: We celebrate the song of the skies!

People: Sing! Skies! Sing!

Leader: We invite you to name sky creatures to join us in worship; We celebrate to song of the skies!

People: Sing! Skies! Sing!

***Gathering hymn #180**

"This is God's Wondrous World"

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #181**

"Creation Is a Song/Ho'é enemeohe"

Children's story and NEW children's offering for Mennonite Central Committee's (MCC) crisis response in Gaza

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

Bible Presentation for 3rd -5th Graders

Scripture

Jeremiah 4:23-28 and Mark 15:33-39

Sermon

***Response hymn #529**

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

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 Michael*)

Introduction of visitors

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

***Sending hymn #806**

"Called by Earth and Sky" (*refrain only*)

***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 (September - November) (upstairs/downstairs)

Footsteps of Faith: A Global Anabaptist Devotional - Sanctuary
Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism - Library
Coffee & Conversation: Room 13 (downstairs)

CHILDREN – YOUTH CLASSES (downstairs)

Nursery (birth – 2 years): Nursery
Ages 3-5 years: Room 6
Kindergarten – Grade 3: Room 3
Grades 4 – 6: Room 10/11
Grades 7-12: Room 7

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

TODAY:

- **Our new fall/winter children's offering will assist MCC's crisis response in Gaza.**
- **FMC Fall Sunday school classes for preschool - adult begin.** There will nursery care for children birth – 2 years and classes for preschoolers (ages 3-5), grades K-3, 4-6, and 7-12. Read the printed handouts placed on sanctuary chairs for details.
- **There are new key fobs for FMC back door access.** Traditional metal keys will be phased out later this fall. If you need access to the church building outside of office hours or church events, get an electronic fob. Today and next Sunday during fellowship time, see Pastor Michael at the back door or come to the church during office hours.
- **At Crystal Lake Park in Urbana, 4-6pm – Annual Summer Picnic hosted by the Interfaith Alliance of Champaign County.** We'll be in the large pavilion. Grilled items (meat and vegetarian) and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish/dessert to share.

This Thursday, September 11, 9:30 am in the FMC library - Fall session of the Thursday Morning Bible Study begins. The group meets weekly for study, prayer and sharing. The fall study is "Expecting Emmanuel: Eight Women Who Prepared the Way." All are welcome.

The FMC library is reserved this Thursday (1-5p), Friday (9-3p) and Saturday (9a-12n).

This Saturday, September 13, 4 pm at the Urbana Free Library – Book discussion of "Detained: A Boy's Journal of Survival and Resilience" by D. Esperanza and Gerardo Ivan Morales.

Next Sunday, September 14 - Work of the Church Sunday, featuring a fellowship time "information fair" about committee roles and other volunteer opportunities.

Tuesday, September 16 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. Help with the main items for the meal is appreciated. Signup by September 14 to see what main items are needed and the quantities needed. **At 6:15 pm, we will hold our annual FMC Safe Church Training.** The focus will be on accessibility.

September 29-30 – Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit, sponsored by Faith in Place. FMC will host a watch party on September 30 at 5:45 pm. This year's theme is "Strong and Supported," with keynote speaker Robin Wall Kimmerer. Flyers are on the table near the office or visit aes-summit.org for details and to register.

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday
217.367.5353 | www.fmc-cu.org

Contact Us:

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MORE ABOUT FMC



New to FMC?

Scan the QR code to learn more about us or to let us know how you want to become more connected.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY (Sunday, September 7)

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship & Sunday school
- FMC Sunday Spiritual Direction Group (12n)
- Interfaith Picnic at Crystal Lake Park (4p)

TUESDAY

- FMC library reserved for Courage School (7p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wed. Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- FMC library reserved for reparations mtg (12n)
- FMC Council, in the library (6p)

THURSDAY

- Thursday Bible Study (9:30a)

FRIDAY

- PCRC-downstairs (10:30a)

NEXT SUNDAY (September 14)

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship & Sunday school
- Work of the Church & Information Fair during fellowship time

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Greg Sancken, Cindi Schieber & Daneil Needham (youth assistant)

Worship Leader: Martha Moore

Song Leader: Cindy Breeze

Piano: Pam Peña-Martin

Children's Story: Phil Martens

Scripture Reader: Michelle Moyer-Litwiller

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Megan Cox

Audio: Laurence Koehn

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Rebecca Bare

Stewards: Kate Falk & Bruce Miller

Visuals: Mary Krick

Refreshments: Sam Cox & Clark Breeze

NEXT WEEK (SEP. 14) AT FMC:

*Theme is Season of Creation – Humanity
Work of the Church Sunday*

Greeters: Greg Sancken & Cindi Schieber

Worship Leader: Sheryl Dyck

Song Leader: Danielle Beard

Piano: Ruth Stoltzfus

Children's Story: Cindy Breeze

Scripture Reader: Bev Hertle

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-8 and Mark 10:41-45

Embodied Scripture: Rebecca Bare (Gen. 1:26-28)

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: John MacLean

Audio: Randy Nelson

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Marcia E. Nelson

Stewards: Kate Falk & Bruce Miller

Visuals: Mary Krick

Refreshments: Mark Evans & Wilmer Otto