



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*

## Celebration of Worship

October 26, 2025



**Centering chimes** (*The white candle is the Christ candle; the red candle is lit in solidarity with Palestinians*)

### Prelude

**Call to Worship** (*based on Isaiah 58:1-9, by Joanna Harader, 2020, CC BY-4.0*)

Leader: God is at work in the world

**Congregation: To bring justice to the oppressed, to share food with the hungry, to provide shelter for the homeless,**

Leader: To set people free.

**Congregation: We come this morning to be reminded of God's justice, to be nourished by God's presence,  
to find home with God's people.**

Leader: To worship in joy and freedom.

**Congregation: When we call, God will answer.**

Leader: For God's light breaks forth and God's healing is in our midst.

**Congregation: Listen to God's voice say, "Here I am."**

**\*Gathering hymn #764** "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues"

### Welcome & Prayer

**\*Praising Hymn #778** "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

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

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

**Scripture** Acts 10:17-23

**Sermon** *Go with Them without Hesitation*

**\*Response hymn #653** "Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God"

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

### \*Benediction

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

*Note: Because worship is participatory and not a performance, instead of applauding please show appreciation for preludes, offertories and special music in other ways, such as ALS, silent applause, saying "Amen" or thanking musicians later.*

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 - Library  
TODAY only: MDS presentation and discussion - Sanctuary  
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)

Many thanks to our guest speaker, Lawrence Matthews from Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), which is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of recruiting and organizing volunteers to repair and rebuild the homes of those impacted by disasters in the United States and Canada. Lawrence is The Volunteer Development Coordinator for our area (Region 2).

### TODAY, October 26

- During Sunday school, in the sanctuary – Lawrence Matthews will present on MDS, followed by a discussion. The Coffee and Conversation, “Footsteps of Faith” and children/youth classes will meet as usual.
- FMC Discernment Circles, immediately after Sunday school. Small group discussions lasting 20-30 minutes will be held immediately following Sunday school to discern FMC Council leadership for 2025. Meet in the sanctuary for instructions. Active participants who have attended for at least six months and are high school age or older are invited to participate in person or over Zoom. There will be child care to allow parents to participate in the circles.
- Submissions for Nov. Vine due to Cindi Schieber.

This Saturday, November 1 – Daylight Savings Time ends early on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please set your clocks back one hour before going to bed.

Next Sunday, November 2 during worship – Our annual Service of Remembrance, where we remember loved ones who have passed away during the past 12 months.

Saturday, November 8 from 8 am - 12noon at FMC - Our Fall Work Day. Children, youth and adults are invited to help spruce up the church building and grounds. Coffee, donuts and bagels are provided. Rain date: Saturday, November 22.

## First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday  
217.367.5353 | [www.fmc-cu.org](http://www.fmc-cu.org)

### Contact Us:

Pastor Michael Crosby: [michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org](mailto:michael.crosby@fmc-cu.org)  
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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](http://www.fmc-cu.org/events))

### TODAY (Sunday, October 26)

- Worship (9:15a), with guest preacher Lawrence Matthews (MDS), then fellowship & Sun. school
- Nov. Vine submissions due to Cindi Schieber

### WEDNESDAY

- Wed. Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- Pastor Congregation Relations Cmte (10:30a)

### THURSDAY

- Thursday Bible Study (9:30a)
- Weekly Vigil for Palestine (11:15a)

### NEXT SUNDAY (November 2)

- Worship (9:15a) – Service of Remembrance, then fellowship & Sun. school

## THANKS TODAY TO:

**Greeters:** Karen McKenzie & Greg Sancken

**Worship Leader:** Randy Nelson

**Song Leader:** Cindy Breeze

**Piano:** Bev Birkey Potts

**Children's Story:** Melissa Shungu

**Scripture Reader:** Mark Jaeger

**Sermon:** Lawrence Matthews from MDS

**Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael

**Zoom:** Joyce Hurd

**Audio:** Phil Martens

**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Chuck Gibson

**Stewards:** Randy Nelson & Perry Biddle

**Visuals:** Tammie Bouseman

**Refreshments:** Marcia Nelson, Christine & Arianna Herman

## NEXT WEEK (November 2) AT FMC:

**Greeters:** Clark Breeze & Keith Springer

**Worship Leader:** Cindy Breeze

**Song Leader:** Pastor Deb

**Piano:** Cheryl Koranda

**Children's Story:** John MacLean

**Scripture Reader:** Laura Lasater

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael

**Zoom:** Megan Cox

**Audio:** Randy Nelson

**Worship Nursery:** Sheryl Dyck & Cindi Schieber

**Stewards:** Tim Clink & Cynthia Nafziger

**Visuals:** Tammie Bouseman

**Refreshments:** Chuck & Rhonda Gibson