



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

October 5, 2025



Centering chimes

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

Prelude

Call to Worship (*handout on chairs*)

***Gathering hymn #387** "We Are One in the Spirit"

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #563** "Come, Thou Fount"

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 Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon

Declaration from Church at the Crossroads

Response hymn #466 "The Bread We Break Is Telling"

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.

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 #36** "Let Us Build a House"

***Benediction**

*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
Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism - 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)

Today

- **Review/update your directory information** (on the table near the church office)
- **Noon potluck (bring a nut-free dish to share), followed by a congregational gathering at 1 pm for a critical component of Pastor Michael's 5-year formal evaluation and our ongoing congregational self-reflection.** We'll meet in focus groups of 6-10 people each, using the process and materials from MC USA's "Appreciative Inquiry" (tinyurl.com/FMC-Pastor-Cong-Inquiry). Paper copies of the "Appreciative Inquiry" process are on the table near the church office.

The back door lock has been changed. If you have a key, it will not work. Contact the church office about getting a fob if you feel a need to have access to FMC outside of Sunday morning and event hours.

Each Thursday through Advent from 11:15-11:45am – A vigil for Palestine will be held in our FMC sanctuary. Join in prayer, song, lament and listening for God in this crisis.

Thursday, Oct 16 from 5:45-8:45pm - Mennonite Action (MA) National Training Tour visits FMC! You are invited to join a potluck meal, worship, a presentation on authoritarianism in Gaza in the U.S., developing an Anabaptist response, and a training on non-cooperation and nonviolent action. It would be helpful to know if you plan to attend, if you can help coordinate logistics, and if you would like childcare options. Please let us know by completing this short form: (<https://tinyurl.com/MA-Tour-FMC>). Questions? Contact Karen McKenzie.

October 13, November 10 and December 8 - Everence is offering a free monthly webinar on "Understanding Medicare", offered at 1 pm or 7 pm CT. For more details and to register, visit www.everence.com/national (scroll down a little on the page to view the events section).

Thursday, October 23, 5-10 pm at Illini Terminal (45 E. University Ave. Champaign) - Celebrate 40 years of Fair Trade in Champaign with a mocktail hour, dinner, silent auction and program including a presentation from fair trade partner Global Mamas. Registration is \$40 at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/40-years-of-fair-trade>.

October 22 & 23 and November 8 - Menno Haven Fall Work Days. There are 3 work day options: two mid-week days (Wed, October 22 & Thurs, October 23) and a Saturday (November 8). Come for whichever day or days works best. Complementary overnight lodging is available upon request. Read details and register at: www.mennohaven.com/work-day.

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:

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

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, October 5)

- Worship with communion (9:15a), followed by fellowship & Sunday school
- Noon potluck followed at 1 pm by focus groups

TUESDAY

- Racial Justice Working Group-hybrid (1p)

WEDNESDAY

- Wed. Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- FMC Council (6p)

THURSDAY

- Thursday Bible Study (9:30a)
- Weekly vigil for Gaza – in sanctuary (11:15a)

NEXT SUNDAY (October 12)

- Worship (9:15a), followed by fellowship & Sunday school

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Rhonda Gibson & Bev Hertle
Worship Leader: Janet Elaine Guthrie
Song Leader: Danielle Beard
Piano: Ruth Stoltzfus
Cello: Geoffrey Herman
Children's Story: Cindi Schieber
Scripture Reader: Keith Springer
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Phil Martens
Audio: Emerson Nafziger
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Dianna Black
Stewards: Mary Krick & Thom Moore
Visuals: Tammie Bouseman
Refreshments: Rebecca Bare & Laurence Koehn

NEXT WEEK (October 12) AT FMC:

Greeters: Rhonda Gibson, Kate Falk, Hannah Needham (youth assistant)
Worship Leader: Janet Liechty
Song Leader: Pastor Deb
Piano: Cheryl Koranda
Children's Story: Lesley Deem
Scripture Reader: Lynne Sancken
Scripture: John 1:1-14 and 1 John 2:27
Sermon: Hans Denck (Doug Malcolm) & Pastor Michael
Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Rachel Miller-Haughton
Audio: Chuck Gibson
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & David Needham
Stewards: Mark Evans & Cynthia Nafziger
Visuals: Tammie Bouseman
Refreshments: Karla Woodson & Lindsey Preston