



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

November 23, 2025



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

Prelude

Call to Worship (*Source: United Church of Christ, Reign of Christ Sunday, Year C, 2025*)

Leader: In this present time, no matter what passes before us,

Congregation: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Leader: As earth shakes and nations are in an uproar,

Congregation: God is present with us and is our refuge in times of trouble.

Leader: As the world trembles in fear and worry,

Congregation: May we find stillness and peace, knowing God is God of all.

***Gathering hymn #123** "Come, Ye Thankful People"

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #747** "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

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 Psalm 46 and Luke 23:33-43

Sermon

***Response hymn #323** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Congregational Sharing & Prayer (*use the mic or text prayers to Pastor Michael*)

Prayer & Offertory (*Ushers will pass the offering plates down the rows*)

In addition to our regular offering today, we have a special offering to benefit the Friends of Champaign County Food Pantry. Checks should designate "Thanksgiving offering" in memo line. Cash can be placed in the special offering envelopes. Donate online using the 'donate' button on our website (select "Thanksgiving offering" from dropdown box).

Introduction of visitors

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

***Sending hymn #122** "Sing to the God of Harvest"

***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 ASL, 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:

- **During worship** - In addition to our regular offering, we'll have a **Thanksgiving offering to benefit the Friends of Champaign County Food Pantry**. Donate by check (write "Thanksgiving Offering" in the memo line), cash (can place in special offering envelope), or online using our tith.ly donation button on our website (select Thanksgiving offering from the drop down box).
- **During fellowship time** - the **Worship Committee will decorate for Advent**. Some help would be appreciated. Talk to Tammie Bouseman for information on how to help.
- **At 12 noon** - **After Sunday school, we will have our annual Thanksgiving potluck**. You are invited to bring a nut-free dish to share for the potluck.
- **At Spurlock Museum at 3 pm** – **All are invited to attend the Interfaith Grateful Gathering**.

Pastor Deb is out of the office through this Friday, November 28. Contact Pastor Michael if you have pastoral care needs.

This week – Church office hours are Monday – Wednesday, 9:30a – 2:30p.

Next Sunday, November 30:

- **Communion will be served during worship on this first Sunday of Advent. Theme: Be Amazed!**
- **December Vine submissions are due to Cindi Schieber.**
- **Annual Chrismon service at 6:30 pm.** All ages are invited to join us in decorating the tree with symbols of Christ's life while singing hymns and listening to scripture. A Chrismon offering will be taken to benefit Roca de Refugio, A Mennonite congregation in San Antonio, led by immigrants, for immigrants.

Wednesday, December 3, 5:30 pm at FMC - Our Racial Justice Working Group will screen the film, "Sugarcane" (flyers are on the information table). Pizza and salad served at 5:30pm, film starts at 6pm. **RSVP for pizza by next Sunday, November 30.**

Saturday, December 6, 9:30 am – Noon at FMC – All women are invited to attend "Christmas Quiet: A Morning of Silence. A Season of Peace." Flyers are on the table near the church office. **Register by next Sunday, November 30.**

Saturday, December 13, 6-9pm – FMC Annual Progressive Dinner. Flyers are on the table outside the church office. Sign-up downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Signup deadline: December 3. Questions? Contact Marcia E. Nelson 217-359-0034.

Sunday, December 14 during fellowship time – 2nd Annual MCC Gift Giving fundraiser by grades 4-6. The class will offer sweet treats and an opportunity to donate to raise money to purchase gifts of hope for people around the world through [Mennonite Central Committee's "Christmas Gift" campaign](#).

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 (November 23)

- Worship (9:15a), then fellowship & Sun. school
- Advent decorating during fellowship time
- FMC Thanksgiving potluck (12n)
- Interfaith Grateful Gathering at Spurlock (3p)

THIS WEEK

- Office hours Mon-Wed. 9:30a-2:30p
- Pastor Deb is out of the office through Friday.

NEXT SUNDAY (November 30)

- Advent 1: Be Amazed!
- Communion served during worship (9:15a)
- Embodied scripture rehearsal 12:15p
- Choir chimes rehearsal 1p
- Vine submissions due to Cindi Schieber
- Signup deadlines for Women's Christmas Quiet and pizza dinner for Sugarcane screening.

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Janet E. Guthrie & Mark Jaeger

Worship Leader: Chuck Gibson

Song leader: Bev Birkey Potts

Piano: Kathy Springer

Children's Story: Megan Cox

Scripture Reader: Karen McKenzie

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Phil Martens; **Audio:** Laurence Koehn

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Karla Woodson

Stewards: Clark Breeze & Perry Biddle

Visuals: Tammie Bouseman

Refreshments: John & Janet MacLean

NEXT WEEK (November 30) AT FMC:

Advent 1: Be Amazed!

Communion will be served during worship

Greeters: Maggie Bidner & Rhonda Gibson

Advent Candle Lighters: The Preston family

Worship Leader: Abby & Eliza Crosby

Song leader: Danielle Beard

Piano: Janet MacLean

Flute: Danielle Beard & Mary Krick

Children's Story: Lynne Sancken

Scripture Reader: Mark Evans

Scripture: Daniel 3:1-30; Habakkuk 1:1-5, 12-13;
Habakkuk 3:16-19

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Deb

Zoom: John MacLean; **Audio:** Randy Nelson

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Mary Hines

Stewards: Clark Breeze & Tammie Bouseman

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts & Lynne Sancken

Refreshments: Tim Clink & Mary Hines