



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

January 25, 2026

Centering chimes (*Lighting of the Christ candle*)

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: Like Nicodemus, we come to Jesus in the nighttime of our lives

Many: Asking, where can we find the wisdom of life?

One: But you speak only in metaphors and conundrums...

Many: How can we be born both of a human parent AND this "Wind" you call the Spirit?

One: Tell us plainly, Are we on the path to Eternal Life?

Many: Shine your light into our lives today, O God. Illuminate the path before us!

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

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #790** "How Can We Be Silent"

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 John 3:1-21

Sermon

***Response hymn #368** "Spirit of Life"

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

Blessing for the 2026 Council and Committees

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

Introduction of visitors

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

***Sending hymn #844** "May the Face of God Shine on You"

***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 (December - February) (upstairs/downstairs)

Practicing Lament: How Do We Pray When Everything Goes Wrong? - Library
Make a Joyful Noise: Hymn Singing - 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 – A blessing for our 2026 Council and committees.**
- **at 12n – FMC potluck. You are invited to bring a nut-free dish to share.**
- **at 1p – FMC annual congregational meeting.** Please join us for this important time of decision-making. Information was sent by email on Friday; printed copies of all documents will be available at the meeting. Child care for the meeting is provided.
- **Submission deadline for February Vine due to Cindi Schieber.**

Friday, February 6 (overnight) - The One Winter Night Outdoor Challenge, to raise funds for the work of CU at Home. Rea Koehn and Rebecca Bare will once again participate in the outdoor challenge and would like to raise \$2,000. Donations can be made at: <https://tinyurl.com/OWN2026-Rea-Rebecca>.

Sunday, February 8, 11:15a-1:45p - Christian Ed is hosting a visioning conversation for all FMC parents of children and youth. Lunch and childcare provided. Contact CE Chair David Needham or Pastor Michael with questions.

Saturday, February 14 and Sunday, February 15 – FMC Fellowship Dinners in homes. These potluck meals are a time for gathering in homes to share a meal. Details and a sign-up are coming soon.

Anabaptist World is a monthly magazine that offers articles and news from an Anabaptist perspective. FMC has a reduced-rate group subscription (\$54 for 12 issues), which is up for renewal this spring. If you would like to join, please contact the church office by Tuesday, February 10th.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

TODAY (January 25)

- Worship (9:15a), then fellowship & Sun. school
- Potluck (12n), followed by our annual FMC meeting (1p)
- Spiritual Direction Group (3p)
- Deadline to submit articles for February Vine

Tuesday

- FMC sanctuary reserved 9a-12n

Wednesday

- Zoom Bible Study 8a
- Interfaith Alliance mtg at Habitat for Humanity (12n)

Thursday

- Thursday AM Bible study (9:30a)

Friday

- Spiritual Leadership Team (10a)
- Pastor Congregation Relations Cmte (12n)

NEXT SUNDAY (February 1)

- Worship (9:15a), then fellowship & Sun. school

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Rosalee Otto & Sam Cox

Worship Leader: Phil Martens

Song leader: Rudy Moyer-Litwiller

Piano: Pastor Deb

Children's Story: Mary Biddle

Scripture Reader: Chuck Gibson (John 3:1-21)

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Rachel Miller-Haughton

Audio: Emerson Nafziger

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Dianna Black

Stewards: Scott Bidner & Kate Falk

Visuals: Worship Committee

Refreshments: Tim Clink & Joyce Hurd

NEXT WEEK (February 1) AT FMC:

Greeters: Mary & Perry Biddle

Worship Leader: Keith Springer

Song leader: Danielle Beard

Piano: Jan Kellogg

Children's Story: Laura Lasater

Scripture Reader: Sam Cox

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Geoffrey Herman/Timothy Herman

Audio: Phil Martens

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

Stewards: Mark Evans & Mary Krick

Visuals: Worship Committee

Refreshments: Janet E. Guthrie & Mark Jaeger

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

Office Hours: 9:30 am – 2:30 pm Tuesday-Friday
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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.