



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

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

## Celebration of Worship

April 19, 2026

**Centering chimes** (*Lighting of the Christ candle*)

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** (*written by Earl Kellogg*)

Leader: Sometimes, out of the blinding light, a voice calls us. Sometimes the voice comes as a nudge in our everyday activities.

**People: Out of our darkness, Christ brings us into the light.**

Leader: We were doing our own thing, going to church, confident and determined.

**People: But God stopped us, turning our lives in new directions.**

Leader: Let us come together to learn how to be faithful to this Christ. Turning conversion into a call.

**All: We worship the One who turns persecutors into preachers, enemies into friends and many individuals into communities. Lord Jesus, open our eyes, ears and hearts for we are here to listen, learn and act!**

**\*Gathering hymn #670** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

**Welcome & Prayer**

**\*Praising Hymn #377** "New Earth, Heavens New"

**Children's story and children's offering** (*for Sola Gratia Farm in Urbana*)

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

**Scripture** Acts 9:1-19a

**Sermon**

**\*Response hymn #809** "Sing a New World into Being"

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

**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 #422** "Called or Not Called, God Is There"

**\*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 (March - May) (upstairs/downstairs)

Artistic Reflections on Scripture, in the library  
Radicals & Reformers book study, in the 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)

**Pastor Deb is out of the office through this Wednesday, April 22.** Contact Pastor Michael with any pastoral care needs.

**Pastor Michael is away next weekend, April 25-26.** Contact Pastor Deb with pastoral care needs.

**Today through next Sunday, April 26, downstairs in the fellowship hall – You are invited to write a note of encouragement for each of our undergraduate students as they prepare for finals.** The Christian Education Committee sends each student a small monetary gift for a treat.

**Today is the deadline for signing up to help bring a main item for our taco meal at FMC this Tuesday, April 21 at 5:30p.** Sign up to bring a main item.

**This Tuesday, April 21, 6:15 - 7p in the, FMC sanctuary – You are invited to watch a short video of Mennonites in the Twin Cities share their experiences during Operation Metro Surge.**

**Sunday, April 26 – Submission deadline for the May Vine.** Email submissions to Cindi Schieber.

**Saturday, May 2 from 8 am - 12 Noon - FMC Spring Work Day.** People of all ages are invited to help spruce up the grounds and building. Coffee, juice, donuts and bagels will be provided. Sign up downstairs.

**Saturday, May 30 from 3-5 pm at FMC – Retirement celebration for Pastor Deb.** Please join us in appreciating Pastor Deb and her 11+ years as associate pastor at FMC. Help us honor Deb and the gifts she has blessed us with as we enjoy a program of reminiscing and music, followed by desserts and drinks. RSVP by Sunday, May 17.

**Sunday, May 31 during worship – We will offer a blessing for all graduates (middle school and older). We will also have special refreshments during fellowship time in honor of our graduates.** If you are graduating from middle school, high school, college, or graduate school, please contact the church office ([office@fmc-cu.org](mailto:office@fmc-cu.org)) by May 15 so that we can include you in our celebration booklet.

## FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

### TODAY (April 19)

- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sun. school
- Signup deadline to help with Taco Tuesday
- FMC reserved for private event 3-6p

### Tuesday

- Taco Tuesday 5:30p
- FMC Library Committee meets in library 6p
- MN Mennonite movie in the sanctuary 6:15p

### Wednesday

- Zoom Bible Study 8a
- Interfaith Alliance meets at FMC 12n

### Thursday

- Thursday AM Bible study 9:30a

### Friday

- Fri. Spiritual Direction Group 10:30a

### NEXT SUNDAY (April 26)

- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sun. school
- Sun. Spiritual Direction Group 3p
- Deadline submission for May Vine

## THANKS TODAY TO:

**Greeters:** Bev Hertle & Laurence Koehn

**Worship Leader:** Earl Kellogg

**Song leader:** Melissa Shungu

**Piano:** Janet MacLean

**Children's Story:** Rebecca Bare

**Scripture Reader:** Norma Nelson (Acts 9:1-19a)

**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael

**Zoom:** David & Hannah Needham

**Audio:** Chuck Gibson

**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Laura Lasater

**Stewards:** Tammie Bouseman & Mary Krick

**Visuals:** Lynne Sancken

**Refreshments:** Mary Hines, Bruce Miller & Daniel Needham (youth assistant)

## NEXT WEEK (April 26) AT FMC:

**Greeters:** Bev Hertle & Laurence Koehn

**Worship Leader:** Tim Clink

**Song leader:** Rudy Moyer Litwiller

**Piano:** Jan Kellogg

**Children's Story:** Mary Biddle

**Scripture Reader:** Emerson Nafziger (Acts 16:16-34)

**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Deb

**Zoom:** Phil Martens

**Audio:** Emerson Nafziger

**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Mary Krick

**Stewards:** Tammie Bouseman & Rebecca Bare

**Visuals:** Lynne Sancken

**Refreshments:** Sam Cox & Tom Sutter

### 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)

Associate Pastor Debra Sutter: [debra.sutter@fmc-cu.org](mailto:debra.sutter@fmc-cu.org)

Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: [office@fmc-cu.org](mailto: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.