



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

May 3, 2026

Centering chimes (*Lighting of the Christ candle*)

Prelude

Call to Worship (adapted from *Voices Together* #115, "Praise to God")

Leader: Praise be to God now and evermore

**People: for the greenness of the trees, for the beauty of the flowers,
for the blueness of the sky, for the greatness of the sea!**

Leader: Thanks be to God now and evermore

**People: for the friends in Christ, for the church - our house of faith,
for the gift of wondrous love, for the gift of endless grace!**

Leader: Glory to God now and evermore

**People: for the grace of Christ – the Son,
for the love of parent God,
for the comfort and strength of the Spirit, holy God.**

ALL: Praise, thanks, and glory be to God now and evermore.

***Gathering hymn #39** "As We Rise, O God, to Meet You" (*verses 1, 2, 4, 5*)

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #428** "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

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

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

Scripture Acts 17:16-31

Sermon

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

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 #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 (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)

Thanks to all who helped spruce up our grounds and building at yesterday's church work day. If you weren't able to help but want to do a task at your convenience, contact Clark Breeze.

Now through May 31 - Help MCC to Give Soap Full of Hope. Your donations of NEW, wrapped full-sized laundry or bath bar soap will be distributed to hospitals, orphanages, and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to resource. Specific directions about the soap collection are listed on the flyers on the collection table near the upstairs water fountain.

The Hospitality and Fellowship Committee seeks your input regarding FMC events. Please complete the online survey or fill out a paper copy, available in your FMC mailbox and on the table near the church office.. **Deadline for giving feedback: Monday, May 11.**

The Christian Education Committee is looking for people to volunteer for 1 or more Sundays in June and July to teach or help with the Preschool/PreK Sunday School class. The Path to Peace with Creation materials from Menno Media will be used; all teaching materials are provided. Use the signup sheet in the church foyer near the water fountain. Intergenerational Summer Sunday school for grade school - adults will be offered; details coming soon.

Monday, May 25, 2026 from 9a - 4p at Camp Menno Haven (9301 1575 East St, Tiskilwa, IL) - All ages are invited to join in the camp's Open House/Rally Day. Come experience the grounds and activities, meet the people who tend the camp, eat a delicious meal, and celebrate a new camp season! Visit mennohaven.com/rallyday for more information.

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.

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 grad school, contact the church office (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)

TODAY (May 3)

- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sun. school
- Sun. Spiritual Direction Group 4p
- FMC reserved for a private recital 5-9p

Monday

- Library Committee – 6:30p in library

Tuesday

- Racial Justice Working Group - 1p hybrid
- Worship Committee - 5:30p in library

Wednesday

- Zoom Bible Study 8a

Thursday

- Christian Education Committee 1:15p

NEXT SUNDAY (May 10)

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

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Cynthia Nafziger & Greg Sancken
Worship Leader: Cindy Breeze
Song leader: Pastor Deb
Piano: Cheryl Koranda
Children's Story: Pete Shungu
Scripture Reader: Bev Hertle
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Megan Cox
Audio: Randy Nelson
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Sheryl Dyck
Stewards: Lynne Sancken & Jan Sabey
Visuals: Lynne Sancken
Refreshments: Clark Breeze & Courtney Malcolm

NEXT WEEK (May 10) AT FMC:

Greeters: Bev Hertle & Laurence Koehn
Worship Leader: Tim Clink
Song leader: Danielle Beard
Piano: Pastor Deb
Children's Story: Tammie Bouseman
Scripture Reader: Greg Sancken
(Philippians 1:1-18a)
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Phil Martens
Audio: Laurence Koehn
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Mary Hines
Stewards: Lynne Sancken & Jan Sabey
Visuals: Lynne Sancken
Refreshments: Randy & Marcia E. Nelson

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.