



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

August 2, 2026



Centering chimes (*Lighting of the Christ candle*)

Prelude

Call to Worship (*based on Matthew 4:12-17*)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Upon those who lived in the shadow of death, a light has dawned.

Leader: Jesus has stepped into our midst, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.

People: He calls us to turn away from our shadows and step into His grace.

Leader: Repent and believe, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

People: Come, let us worship the True Light, and walk in the presence of our Lord!

***Gathering hymn #205**

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #638**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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

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

Scripture

Matthew 4:12-17 & Colossians 1:15-20; 3:3-4

Sermon

***Response hymn #76**

"Holy, Holy, Holy!"

Congregational Sharing & Prayer (*use the mic or text prayers to Sarah Zabel*)

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 #209**

"We Dream of a Turning"

***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.

There is no Sunday school in August.
Fall Sunday school begins on September 6.



ANNOUNCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS (more announcements in the email sent each Tuesday)

TODAY at 11:15 am - There is no Sunday school in August. For those who are interested, **Jonathan Gibson will present about his recent severe weather trip** (he had technical difficulties on July 5 and wasn't able to share the presentation). Meet in the sanctuary.

This Tuesday, August 4, 5-7:30 pm at the Arthur Community Center (120 E Progress, Arthur) – Annual dinner and ice cream social to benefit the August 28-29 Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale.

Beginning this week – Pastor Michael is back in the office on Tuesday and Sarah Zabel's office hours revert back to her normal hours: 9:30a-2:30p Thursdays and Fridays. Sarah will generally be traveling to Urbana on Wednesday afternoons, and returning to Chicago on Sunday afternoons.. Please don't feel limited by her "official" office hours; while she often will not be sitting in her office at the church on Wednesday afternoons, evenings, and Saturdays, she's around and available and always more than happy to set up a time to chat or share a meal or adventure!

This Friday, August 7, 5:30 pm at the home of Christine Herman (2403 Peppertree Place, Champ.) - Women are invited to Women's Night Out. Come to the circus! There will be food, entertainment, and good cheer. Bring a salad or dessert to share. RSVP to Marcia E. Nelson.

The two adult Sunday school classes for Fall are: "Sacred Parenthood: Spiritual Practices for the Highs and Lows of Parenting" and "So We and Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis." There is a copy of each book downstairs for you to review at FMC through August 16 (please leave the books on the table; do not take home) and a sheet to mark your interest. The office has purchased 12 copies of each, but it would be helpful to know ahead of the start of the Fall Sunday school season whether additional copies need to be ordered.

Next Sunday, August 9:

- **During Worship - Backpack blessing for the start of the new school year.** Teachers and students of all ages are invited to bring their backpack for the blessing.
- **Deadline for collecting specific school kit items for both Urbana Park District and MCC.** A detailed list for both collections is available on the collection table near the office.

Tuesday, August 18 at 5:30pm - Taco Tuesday meal at FMC. To help bring a main item, sign up by August 16.

Looking ahead to Sundays in August:

- Sunday, August 23 – Safe Church training at 11:15a
- Sunday, August 30 – Interfaith Alliance Picnic at the large pavilion at Crystal Lake Park, 4-6p

There were not enough submissions to create an August Vine. You have an opportunity to submit content for the September Vine; the next deadline is August 30.

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Today

- No Sunday school; Jonathan Gibson will present about his recent severe weather trip for those interested in staying.

Tuesday

- Racial Justice Working Group-hybrid 1p
- Arthur Menn. Relief Sale Ice Cream Social in Arthur, IL 5p

Wednesday

- Zoom Bible Study 8a
- Associate Pastor Search Committee 6p

Thursday

- Christian Education Committee 1:15p

Friday

- Women's Night Out at Herman's home 5:30p

NEXT SUNDAY (Aug 9)

- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship; No Sun. school
- Backpack blessing during worship

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Tim Clink & Norma Nelson

Worship Leader: Martha Moore

Song Leader: Danielle Beard

Piano: Jan Kellogg

Children's Story: Randy Nelson

Scripture Reader: Tammie Bouseman (Scripture: Matthew 4:12-17 & Colossians 1:15-20; 3:3-4)

Sermon: Sam Cox

Congregational Sharing: Sarah Zabel

Zoom: Chuck Gibson

Audio: Phil Martens

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Rebecca Bare

Stewards: Mary Krick & Tammie Bouseman

Visuals: Lynne Sancken

Refreshments: Joyce Hurd & Kate Falk

NEXT WEEK (August 9) AT FMC:

Greeters: Sam Cox, Norma Nelson & Silas Crosby

Worship Leader: Eliza Crosby

Song Leader: Cindy Breeze

Piano: Cheryl Koranda

Children's Story: Pete Shungu

Scripture Reader: Laurence Koehn (Scripture: Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 & Matthew 22:34-40)

Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael

Zoom: Rachel Miller-Haughton

Audio: Emerson Nafziger

Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Sheryl Dyck

Stewards: Clark Breeze & Tammie Bouseman

Visuals: Lynne Sancken

Refreshments: Chuck & Rhonda Gibson & Naima Shungu

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
Sarah Zabel, Interim Ministerial Associate: sarah.zabel@fmc-cu.org
Rhonda Gibson, Office Administrator: office@fmc-cu.org

MORE ABOUT FMC



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Scan the QR code to learn more about us or to let us know how you want to become more connected.