



Tending to Creation Activity

for Sunday, September 6

Theme: Returning to God's Garden

INVITATION:

Take time this week to consider all we have lost through humanity's impact on the world; species gone extinct, ecosystems lost, pollution of clean air and water. Our choices impact Creation on a daily basis. If you can, find a time to sit outside somewhere and observe the human impact you can see. Note the laments that you feel, things we have lost or destroyed. This can be broad or specific. Bring your written lament to worship on Sunday; you may write it in advance, or paper and pencils will be available on Sunday morning. They will be incorporated into the service.

For reflection:

- What are observable signs of how human disruption of natural relationships has negatively impacted your environment? Who or what has suffered from this impact?
- Do you see signs of distress or death caused by visible pollutants?
- Are there plants, animals, birds, or insects that used to live in your area but no longer do?
- Has the built environment disrupted natural systems, like the flow of water through your environment, and what living beings have benefited or suffered due to this?
- Are there signs of historically unusual fire, flood, drought, heat, or cold in your landscape?



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.



Celebration of Worship

August 30, 2026

God’s Shalom for Our Common Home: Living in Relationship

Centering chimes

Prelude

***Call to worship**

One: You are not alone. You are:

**All: a creature within creation, a part of a whole,
with a story to share, and a covenant to keep.**

One: And we do not worship alone. We are:

**All: a community within creation, a part of God’s story,
summoned by God’s faithfulness to be faithful to each other.**

One: Together, let us worship

All: for the sake of our common life — a life that leads to shalom.

***Gathering Hymn #1** “Summoned by the God Who Made Us”

Welcome and Prayer

Children’s story and final children’s offering for Sola Gratia Farm**

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

Scripture Isaiah 55:3–5; Matthew 5:17–20

Tending to Creation Action & Prayer *(based on Ephesians 2:14-22)*

Hymn #806 “Called by Earth and Sky”

Prayer

One: Christ is our peace—the embodiment of reconciliation.

He has taken down the backyard fences,
opened the streets for a neighborhood block party!

**All: We are no longer strangers passing on the sidewalk,
but neighbors working together for the common good.**

One: Look—Christ is already at work, building a community garden!
He has rolled up his sleeves; he’s turning the compost.

**All: People of all ages, all walks of life, are drawn into this place,
a habitat for all in the heart of our neighborhood.**

Sermon

***Response Hymn #145** “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Congregational sharing and prayer *(text prayers to Pastor Michael)*

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

Introduction of visitors

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

***Sending Hymn #797** “We are People of God’s Peace”

***Benediction**

**Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave the worship ribbons during the hymns.*

***Today is the final children’s offering for Sola Gratia Farm. The total offering to date is \$770.*

*On September 6, we begin our Fall/Winter children’s offering to benefit the FMC Tanzania
College Scholarship Fund. Look for more information about this new offering in the September
issue of our FMC Vine newsletter.*

*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 large print hymnals are available from the greeters.
Childcare (birth – preschool) is provided in the nursery downstairs.