



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

August 9, 2026

Ten Commandments
LOVE GOD • LOVE OTHERS

Centering chimes (*Lighting of the Christ candle*)

Prelude

Call to Worship (*from Words for Worship 2 by Diane Zaerr Brenneman*)

Leader: Creator and still creating God,

People: your creation sings of your greatness.

Leader: Mighty One most high and yet hidden in the human heart,

People: your presence is our shield and our home.

Leader: Merciful and gracious Lord,

People: your forgiveness, means we too can forgive.

Leader: Friend of the poor, Caller of the rich,

People: your justice frees those bound and liberates the imprisoned.

Leader: Peace for the frightened, Healing for the wounded,

People: you are Lord of laughter, Lord of tears.

Leader: Trustworthy and true, hope of the world,

People: you are Lord of the struggle, source of our strength.

Leader: Perfectly love, eternally light,

People: you hold us like a mother and guide us like a father.

ALL: May we know your law of liberty and live your law of love, that your will may be done and your glory may be known. Amen.

***Gathering hymn #717**

"Renew Your Church"

Welcome & Prayer

***Praising Hymn #131**

"Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"

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

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

Back to School Blessing

Scripture

Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 & Matthew 22:34-40

Sermon

***Response hymn #162**

"The Love of God"

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 #813**

"Heart with Loving Heart United"

***Benediction**

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

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:

- Back to School Blessing during worship.
- Fellowship following worship, but no Sunday school in August.

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.

If you would like to support Cynthia and Emerson with a meal delivery during the next few weeks, sign up using the link provided.

This Tuesday, August 11 – Deadline for letting Sarah Zabel know of your interest in participating in some kind of regular craft gathering.

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. Attendance is required for all Sunday school teachers and nursery/childcare volunteers.** All FMCers age 13+ are strongly encouraged to attend; child care will be provided. If you need Safe Church clearance can't attend, please contact Pastor Michael for alternative options.
- **Sunday, August 30 – Interfaith Alliance Picnic at the large pavilion at Crystal Lake Park, 4-6p.** This is a relaxed time of fellowship and games across local faith communities. Grilled food is provided; bring a side to share if you can, or just bring yourself. All ages are welcome.

August 30 – Deadline for September Vine submissions. Email items to Cindi Schieber.

New on the information tables near the church office – A new "greeting card sharing" stand.

A number of people at FMC send cards. We've created a card stand with a variety of categories (e.g. birthday, sympathy). If you need a card and see one you like, feel free to take the card. If you have a few extra unused cards to share, add them to the corresponding categories on the stand. If the stand is full, leave cards in the labeled basket on the office desk; the cards will be added as space allows.

Friday & Saturday, August 28-29 at the Otto Center (1/2 miles south of Arthur) – 64th Annual Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale to benefit the work of MCC and also local nonprofits. Visit www.arthurreliefale.org for details about the sale.

September 18-20 at Camp Friedenswald (Cassopolis, MI) – Annual Women's Retreat, featuring speaker Amanda K Gross. This annual retreat, planned by women from across Central District Conference of MC USA, is open to all women. Visit www.friedenswald.org/retreats/ for details or pick up a flyer from the table near the church office. Friedenswald and First Mennonite offer some financial assistance to attend the retreat. Talk with Pastor Michael for more information about FMC assistance.

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



New to FMC?

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

FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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

Today

- Backpack Blessing during worship
- Fellowship after worship, but no Sunday school
- Christian Education Committee 11:15a

Wednesday

- Zoom Bible Study 8a
- FMC Council 6p

Thursday

- Worship Committee-Zoom 7p

Friday

- Library reserved for small group 10:30a

NEXT SUNDAY (Aug 16)

- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship; No Sun. school
- Hospitality & Fellowship Committee 11:15a
- Deadline to sign up to help bring a main Taco Tue meal item

THANKS TODAY TO:

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

NEXT WEEK (August 16) AT FMC:

Greeters: Tim Clink & Cindi Schieber
Worship Leader: Earl Kellogg
Music: Worship Band
Children's Story: Annie Crawford
Scripture Reader: Sam Cox (Scripture: Exodus 20:3-11 & Matthew 22:34-40)
Sermon: Sarah Zabel
Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Megan Cox
Audio: Laurence Koehn
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Joe Crawford
Stewards: Kate Falk & Tammie Bouseman
Visuals: Lynne Sancken

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.