WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
of Champaign-Urbana

Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.

Celebration of Worship

November 1, 2026



Centering chimes *(Lighting of the Christ candle)*
Prelude
Call to Worship *(#184 in Sing the Journey)*
Leader: For those who walked with us, this is a prayer.
Congregation: For those who have gone ahead, this is a blessing.
Leader: For those who touched and tended us, who lingered with us while they lived, this is thanksgiving.
All: For those who journey still with us in the shadows of awareness,
in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams, this is a benediction.
***Gathering Hymn #76** "Holy, Holy, Holy"
Welcome & Prayer
***Praising Hymn #666** "In Thee Is Gladness"
Children's story and children's offering *(for the FMC Tanzania College Scholarship Fund)*
Congregation sings as children come forward. (Voices Together #512)
Scripture Revelation 7:9-17 and Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon
***Response Hymn #653** "Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God"
Remembering Our Loved Ones *(booklet)*
Voices Together #655
Congregational Sharing & Prayer *(use the mic or text prayers to Sarah Zabel)*
Offering & Offertory *Resting in God's Arms by Mark Hayes*
Ushers will pass the offering plates down rows
Introduction of visitors
Work of the church *(come forward to the podium mic to make an announcement)*
***Sending Hymn #671** "The Hand of God Shall Hold You"
***Benediction**

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*Stand in body or in spirit. Children are invited to wave 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: 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 one year through Grade School. Parents, please assist your children during snack time.

Education opportunities for all ages from 11:15am-12pm.

ADULT CLASSES-upstairs/downstairs (Sep - Nov)

So We and Our Children May Live - Sanctuary
Sacred Parenthood – FMC Library
Coffee & Conversation: Room 13 (downstairs)



CHILDREN – YOUTH CLASSES (downstairs)
Nursery (birth – 2 years): Nursery
Preschool & Kindergarten (ages 3-5 years): Room 3
Grades 1 - 5: Room 10/11
Middle & High school (grades 6-12): Room 7

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

Today immediately after worship – Council chair Stephanie Thurston will hold a final FMC Discernment Circle for those who were unable to attend last Sunday. The small group discussion will last about 20 minutes and will help discern FMC Council leadership for 2027. Active participants high school age or older who have attended for at least six months are invited to participate in person. Meet in the library immediately after worship.

Tomorrow, Monday, November 2 – Deadline for giving input as we approach the start of 2027, when our congregation will make a final decision about our current dual conference status within Mennonite Church USA: whether to maintain membership in two area conferences or to shift our membership to just one. Either way, we remain full and committed members of our denomination, Mennonite Church USA. Written copies of the information and survey link are available on the table near the church office.

Thursday, November 12, 5:30pm in the FMC fellowship Hall - Two Powerful Speakers. Two Different Faiths. Both engaging with the difficult questions of how to respond to what is happening in Palestine Israel. Join us for a video presentation, originating from the 2026 Church at the Crossroads Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. We will hear from Rev. Munther Isaac, Palestinian pastor, public theologian and author of *Christ in the Rubble* and Peter Beinart, American columnist, political commentator and author of *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza. A* complimentary pizza dinner with salad and dessert will be served; both vegetarian and meat pizzas will be available. RSVP is required.

Saturday, November 14 from 8a-12n at FMC – Fall Workday. Children, youth and adults are invited to help spruce up the church building and grounds. Coffee, donuts and bagels are provided. A signup sheet is available downstairs in the fellowship hall. Tasks can be done on workday or at your convenience. Workday Rain Date: Saturday, November 21.

SAVE THE DATE - Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6. Sarah Augustine will visit FMC and the CU community. Sarah's visit will include a workshop, worship and Sunday school, and a public talk. Sarah is the co-author of the book, *So We and Our Children May Live: Follow*Workday signup *Confronting the Climate Crisis,* used this Fall in one of our Sunday school classes.

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
- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sun. school
- Final Discernment Circle, in library (10:45a)
- Library Committee, in library (12:15p)
- FMC sanctuary reserved (1-3:30p)

Tuesday
- Racial Justice Working Group-hybrid (1p)

Wednesday
- Zoom Bible Study (8a)
- Discernment Committee, in library (5:30p)

Thursday
- Thurs. AM Bible Study (9:30a)
- Christian Ed Cmte (1:15p)

NEXT SUNDAY (November 8)
- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sunday school
- Hospitality & Fellowship Comte, room 5 (12p)
- FMC sanctuary reserved (3-7p)

THANKS TODAY TO:

Greeters: Mark Jaeger & Janet Elaine Guthrie
Worship Leader: Marcia E. Nelson
Song Leader: Cindy Breeze
Piano: Jan Kellogg
Children's Story: Cindi Schieber
Scripture Reader: Rosalee Otto
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Sarah Zabel
Zoom: Timothy Herman
Audio: Chuck Gibson
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Dianna Black
Stewards: Bruce Miller & Randy Nelson
Visuals: Lynne Sancken/Donna Nelson Evans
Refreshments: Thom & Martha Moore

NEXT WEEK (November 8) AT FMC:

Rise Up! Take Courage! Partner with God's Beloved

Greeters: Mark Jaeger & Janet Elaine Guthrie
Worship Leader: Martha Moore
Song Leader: Melissa Shungu
Music: Worship Band
Children's Story: Courtney Malcolm
Scripture Reader: Geoffrey Herman (Wisdom 8:5-7; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a; 16:13-14)
Sermon & Congregational Sharing: Pastor Michael
Zoom: Rachel Miller Haughton
Audio: Emerson Nafziger
Worship Nursery: Skylar U'Ren & Mary Hines
Stewards: Bruce Miller & Randy Nelson
Visuals: Lynne Sancken/Donna Nelson Evans
Refreshments: Rebecca Bare & Laurence Koehn