WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
*of Champaign-Urbana*

*Following Christ. Nurturing Community. Seeking Peace with Justice.*

# Celebration of Worship

October 18, 2026




**Centering chimes** *(Lighting of the Christ candle)*
**Prelude**
**Call to Worship** *(by Jan Lugibihl, a member of Chicago Community Mennonite Church)*

One: We come today wondering how we can go on.
**Many: Our hearts and lives are filled with a desire for justice and an end to suffering.**
One: We take off our shoes and step before you like Moses before the burning bush.
**Many: Full of awe and wonder and afraid to draw closer.**
One: And yet, yet we are drawn to your voice and your promise to be with us.
**Many: Deliver us, be with us, show us the way.**

***Gathering Hymn #10** "Here in This Place"
**Welcome & Prayer**
***Praising Hymn #716** "God of Grace and God of Glory"
**Children's story and children's offering** *(for the FMC Tanzania College Scholarship Fund)*
Congregation sings as children come forward. (Voices Together #512)
**Scripture** Psalm 27:7-14 and Exodus 3:1-12
**Sermon**
***Response Hymn #152** "God, Whose Purpose Is to Kindle"
**Congregational Sharing & Prayer** *(use the mic or text prayers to Pastor Michael)*
**Offering & Offertory** (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 #830** "Go, My Children"
***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 1 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 – Deadline for signing up to help bring a main item for our Taco Tuesday meal at FMC this Tuesday, October 20th at 5:30 pm.**

**This Friday, October 23 – Submission deadline for our November 1 Annual Service of Remembrance during worship.** We will recognize loved ones close to us who have died since our November 2025 Service of Remembrance. If you wish to include someone close to you, please email the office (office@fmc-cu.org) with the person's full name, relationship to you, date of birth and death, and picture (if possible).

**Next Sunday, October 25 – FMC Discernment Circles, immediately after Sunday school.** These are small group discussions lasting 20-30 minutes to 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 or over Zoom. Childcare will be provided.

**Next Sunday, October 25 – Deadline to submit items for the November Vine.**

**Saturday, October 31 from 8a-4p - Menno Haven Fall Work Day.** Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information and to rsvp, visit: www.mennohaven.com/work-day. Questions? Talk to Keith Springer, our FMC Menno Haven Representative.

**Saturday, October 31 – Set your clocks back one hour in the evening.** Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am on Sunday, November 1.

**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. Rain date: Saturday, November 21.

| FMC Quarterly Financial Update from our Council | |
|---|---|
| 2025 Approved spending plan (income & expenses) | $351,958 |
| Year-to-Date Income | $226,083 |
| Year-to-Date Expenses | $233,476 |
| Needed by end of year to meet our spending plan | $125,875 |

**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

**Monday**
- Assoc. Pastor Search Committee-hybrid (7p)

**Tuesday**
- FMC reserved (9a-12n)
- Taco Tuesday meal at FMCt (5:30p)
- Worship Committee-Zoom (7p)

**Wednesday**
- Zoom Bible Study (8a)

**Thursday**
- Thurs. AM Bible Study (9:30a)

**Friday**
- Submission deadline for Service of Remembrance

**NEXT SUNDAY (October 25)**
- Worship 9:15a, then fellowship & Sun. school
- Discernment circles after Sunday school
- Vine submissions due to Cindi Schieber

## THANKS TODAY TO:

**Greeters:** Bev Hertle & Greg Sancken
**Worship Leader:** Tim Clink
**Song Leader:** Rudy Moyer-Litwiller
**Piano:** Janet MacLean
**Children's Story:** Phil Martens
**Scripture Reader:** Sam Cox
**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael
**Zoom:** Rachel Miller-Haughton
**Audio:** Laurence Koehn
**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Mary Biddle
**Stewards:** Mark Evans & Thom Moore
**Visuals:** Lynne Sancken/Donna Nelson Evans
**Refreshments:** Bruce Miller & Sarah Little

## NEXT WEEK (October 25) AT FMC:

***Rise Up! Take Courage! Healing & Hope Arrive.***

**Greeters:** Norma Nelson & Keith Springer
**Worship Leader:** Sam Cox
**Song Leader:** Geoffrey Herman
**Piano:** Kathy Springer
**Children's Story:** Tammie Bouseman
**Scripture Reader:** Mark Jaeger (Luke 6:1-11 & John 16:25-33)
**Sermon & Congregational Sharing:** Pastor Michael
**Zoom:** Hannah Needham
**Audio:** Phil Martens
**Worship Nursery:** Skylar U'Ren & Megan Cox
**Stewards:** Mark Evans & Thom Moore
**Visuals:** Lynne Sancken/Donna Nelson Evans
**Refreshments:** Dianna Black & Christine, Ariana & Caleb Herman