

## FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

### TODAY

Worship 9:15am  
Affirmation ballot for 2022 FMC Council sent via email  
Holiday Fellowship Lunches in homes (by reservation)

### THURSDAY

Early Morning Bible Study (Zoom) 7am  
Thursday AM Bible Study Bruch 9:30am at FMC  
Service & Outreach Cmte (Zoom) 6:30pm

### WEDNESDAY

Deadline for Christmas Eve attendance survey  
Ten Thousand Villages Board mtg, FMC library 6:30pm

Scan or visit [www.fmc-cu.org/events](http://www.fmc-cu.org/events)  
for event details.



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

**TODAY – Final Day for Giving Opportunities for Two Special Offerings.** You can still give to the Thanksgiving offering for [Sola Gratia Farm](#) and the Chrismon offering for the [Developmental Services Center \(DSC\)](#).

**TODAY following worship – An affirmation ballot for 2022 FMC Council will be sent via email.** The vote is open though Noon on Tuesday. FMC Council recommends confirmation of the following slate for FMC Council in 2022.

- Sam Cox - Chair elect
- Rudy Moyer-Litwiller - Elder
- Lesley Deem - Council
- Doug Malcolm - Council

**Pastor Michael will be back in the office on Tuesday.**

**This Wednesday, December 15 – Survey deadline to let the Worship Committee know how many people plan to attend in-person worship on Christmas Eve.** Look for details and the link in this past Friday's priority email.

**Thank you to everyone who helped prepare for, execute, and present at last Sunday's congregational meeting.** 65 people voted in-person and online. The HVAC proposal passed unopposed. The sanctuary carpet and chairs proposal passed with 52 "yes" votes, 10 "no" votes, and 3 abstentions. Council appreciates everyone's careful engagement with the proposals on Sunday and the careful engagement with each other.

**Advent candle lighters needed!** Please contact Pastor Deb if you are willing to light the Advent candles during Sunday worship on December 19, 26, or January 2.

**Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service in-person and online. Time: 6:30 pm, with the possibility of adding a second service at 8 pm if needed.**

**Sunday, December 26 – Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Vine, our FMC newsletter.** Please email submissions to Cindi Schieber at [cindischieber@me.com](mailto:cindischieber@me.com).



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

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

## Celebration of Worship

December 12, 2021

Advent 3

Dare to imagine God's Song (Joy)

*Focus: Singing together causes great joy and jubilation.*

*But, even more, our hearts exult and swell as we imagine God singing over us.*



### Centering chimes

#### Prelude

#### Welcome & prayer

#### \*Voices Together #239

"He Came Down"

#### \*Call to worship

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say: Rejoice!

**People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

Leader: God sings over you. Fear not, for God is in your midst.

**People: Shout for joy, rejoice with all your heart!**

Leader: Sing praises to God - shout aloud and sing for joy.

**People: God is in our midst.**

Leader: We listen.

**People: We strain to grasp the sound of God's song.**

#### Quartet

*Could it be that God is Singing?*

#### Poem

Gifts from God by Ann Weems

#### Special Music

#### Confession & Assurance

#### Voices Together #594

"Over My Head"

## Lighting Advent candles

Leader: We light a candle of joy. And we imagine:

**People: Jubilation! Rejoicing! Do not fear!**

Leader: We light the candle and join in God's song, singing loudly, singing fiercely, singing together.

**People: Imagine that . . . we are God's wonders, blessed wonders.**

## Children's story and offering for the United Front Against River Blindness

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

### Choir Chimes

**Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7**

**\*Voices Together #223**

"Bless'd be the God of Israel" (verse 1)

### Drama

*God promises us Immanuel*

**\*Voices Together #223**

"Bless'd be the God of Israel" (verses 2 & 3)

### Scripture

Isaiah 12:2-6

**Voices Together #113**

"O Sing to the Lord"

### Scripture Drama

### Poem

*Good News by Ruth Naylor*

**\*Voices Together #665**

"Heaven is Singing for Joy"

### Poem

"Before and Beyond" by Ruth Naylor

**Offering prayer** (*offerings can be placed in the offering plates as the ushers come by to collect offerings*)

### Meditation music

### Congregational sharing and prayer

(use a mic or text email prayers and announcements to Pastor Deb)

### Introduction of visitors

**Work of the church** (*Please text or email announcements to Pastor Deb*)

**\*Voices Together #847**

"You Shall Go Out with Joy"

**\*Benediction**

Voices Together #883

*\*Stand if you are able*

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 not currently being provided.

## TODAY AFTER WORSHIP

Fellowship is welcome; please remain masked. Young children and their parents may gather in the nursery and fellowship hall after worship for crafts and to play. Craft materials will be provided, but parents will need to be present to supervise.

In-person Sunday school classes aren't currently being held. We anticipate resuming in-person classes for all ages in February 2022.



## THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED TODAY: NEXT SUNDAY (DEC. 19) AT FMC:

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Judy Nafziger & Nancy Seaman

Worship Leader: Pastor Deb

Song Leader: Cindy Breeze

Accompanist: Kathy Springer

Ribbon Wavers: Eliza Crosby, Mary Biddle, Neta Jackson

Quartet: Clark Breeze, David Horst Lehman, Emerson

Nafziger & Matt Yoder

Readers: Sam Cox & Lynne Sancken

Special Music: Ruth Stoltzfus & Jill Burlingame,  
Kristy Rice

Candle Lighter: Hazel Rempe Malekin

Children's Story: Courtney Malcolm

Choir chime conductor: Cindy Breeze

Scripture Drama: Doug Malcolm

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastor Deb

Sound System & Tech: Phil Martens & Chuck Gibson

Advent 4: Dare to Imagine God's Feast! (Love)

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55; Micah 5:2-5a

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Judy Nafziger & Nancy Seaman

Worship Leader/Scripture Reader: Earl Kellogg

Candle Lighter: TBD

Song Leader: Andrea Welty-Peachey

Piano: Pastor Deb

Music: Vocal Quartet – Rebecca Bare, Sam Cox,

Andrea Welty Peachey & Matt Yoder

Children's Story: Courtney Malcolm

Sermon: Pastor Michael

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastors Michael & Deb

Sound System & Tech: Bharat Patel & Emerson

Nafziger

Stewards: Emerson Nafziger & Mary Krick

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### Contact Us:

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