

## FMC EVENTS THIS WEEK

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



### TODAY

Worship 9:15am

### THURSDAY

Early Morning Bible Study (Zoom) 7am

### TUESDAY

The office is closed; Rhonda is away on Tuesday.

### FRIDAY

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 6:30-7:30pm & 7-8pm  
(Read details in Announcement Highlights below)

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

**This Tuesday – FMC office is closed; Rhonda is away for the day.**

**This Tuesday, December 21, 5:30 - 5:45 pm at Douglas Park (512 E Grove St, Champaign) - 15 Minute Candlelight Prayer Vigil for Peace, Justice, Love, Healing and Unity.** In case of the inclement weather, the event will be held at St. Luke CME (809 S 5th St., Champaign).

**This Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Services for all ages:**

- **6:30-7:30p - Christmas Eve service #1 (begins in sanctuary and moves to green space)**
- **7:00-8:00p - Christmas Eve service #2 (begins in green space and moves indoors)**

Both services will be streamed on YouTube and Zoom. For more details, please read the email announcement which will be sent today after worship.

**Next Sunday, December 26 – Our worship service begins at 10 am.**

**Next 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).

**New 2021 FMC budget update - General offerings in 2021 to date have totaled \$267,220, an average of \$5,344 per week.** To meet our budget plan, we need \$5,199 per week throughout the year. Combining offerings with other sources of income, the total received this year is \$270,696. Therefore, to support committee work, church expenses, and our planned missions giving in our spending plan, approximately \$3,059 or \$ 1,530/week is still needed in offerings by the end of December.

**Tuesday, January 4 - Deadline for submitting annual committee reports to the FMC office.**

**Steve Rayburn and Jeri Lake report that the rural areas of Kentucky near their home sustained a great deal of damage from the devastating tornadoes.** They are willing to host and feed any FMCers who come to help with clean-up or restoration work, which will take many months and likely years. You are welcome anytime except between Dec. 22 and early January. Contact them for more information.



WELCOME TO FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
of Champaign-Urbana

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

## Celebration of Worship

December 19, 2021

Advent 4

Dare to imagine God's Feast! (Love)



*Focus Question:*

*Imagine the amazing love that God demonstrated in coming down to us and taking on a human face!*

*With Mary, we rejoice in God, our Savior, by actively participating in God's leveling mercy.*

### Centering chimes

#### Prelude

*We Come (Voices Together #225)*

#### \*Call to worship (unison)

**Come. Come as you are.**

**Come with your needs, your doubts, your dreams, your hopes.**

**Come, expecting God to meet us - here and in the innermost longing of our souls.**

**Watch. Wait. God is present in our worship!**

#### \*Voices Together #255

*"Love Came Down at Christmas"*

#### Welcome & prayer

#### Lighting Advent candles

Leader: We light a candle of love, and imagine

**People: the lowly lifted, fear met with love.**

Leader: We light the candle and pray for God's face to shine on us, to save us, restore us.

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

#### Special Music

*Hope is a Candle (Voices Together #211)*

## Confession and Assurance *(adapted from Luke 1:46-49)*

Leader: We notice, O God, that when you feed people, everyone has enough.

**People: We notice that in our world, when we feed people, some have more than enough, and many are still hungry.**

Leader: Teach us to love.

**People: We notice, O God, that in your social, economic, racial, and gender orders, no one is greater, and no one is left behind.**

Leader: We notice that in our world there are many ladders, and many are climbing.

**People: Reorient us to your vision of equality.**

Leader: God of mercy, lower us, raise us, empty us, and fill us. Like an empty manger, we want to be ready to receive Emmanuel.

*(silence)*

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord; our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. God has looked with favor on our lowliness. The Mighty One has done great things for us and holy is God's name.

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

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

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

**Drama**

**Sermon**

**\*Voices Together #221** "The Angel Gabriel"

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

**Meditation music** *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (Voices Together #237)*

**Congregational sharing and prayer**

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

**Introduction of visitors**

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

**\*Voices Together #238** "Wisdom From on High is Dawning"

**\*Benediction**

*\*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. No Kid's Corner on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

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. 26) AT FMC: Service begins at 10 am

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Judy Nafziger & Nancy Seaman

Worship Leader/Scripture Reader: Martha Moore

Candle Lighter: Lucy Kuo

Song Leader: Andrea Welty Peachey

Piano: Pastor Deb

Special Music Ensemble: Rebecca Bare, Sam Cox, Eliza Crosby, David Horst Lehman, Andrea Welty Peachey & Matt Yoder

Children's Story: Courtney Malcolm

Drama: Doug Malcolm

Sermon: Pastor Michael

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastors Deb & Michael

Sound System & Tech: Randy Nelson/Bharat Patel & Emerson Nafziger

Stewards: Emerson Nafziger & Mary Krick

Christmas Sunday: Dare to Imagine God's Blessing!  
(Christ)

Scripture: Luke 2:21-39

Visuals: Bev Birkey Potts

Greeters: Judy Nafziger & Nancy Seaman

Worship Leader/Scripture Reader: Earl Kellogg

Candle Lighters: Horst Lehman Family

Song Leader: Rafael Luquis

Piano: Pastor Deb

Meditation Music: Rafael Luquis

Children's Story: TBD

Sermon: Pastor Michael

Sharing & Work of the Church: Pastors Deb & Michael

Sound System & Tech: Phil Martens/Bharat Patel & Randy Nelson

Stewards: Emerson Nafziger & Randy Nelson

First Mennonite Church of Champaign Urbana

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### Contact Us:

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