



*Disciples of Jesus, Revealing His Kingdom  
Through Love, Spiritual Growth,  
and Service Together*

Watch Sunday's service live at 10:30 a.m.

at [www.mgmennonite.org](http://www.mgmennonite.org)

Weekly Newsletter dated May 22, 2020

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The logo for "From the Pastor" features a stylized graphic on the left consisting of overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue and green, with a white heart containing a cross. To the right of the graphic, the words "FROM THE" are stacked above "PASTOR" in a large, gold, serif font.

## FROM THE PASTOR

*This Sunday, May 24, I will be preaching on Biblical stewardship with Matthew 25:14-30 being the text. What does it mean for us as followers of Jesus to be stewards of everything God has entrusted to us? For further reflection, I encourage you to read from "Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective" Article 21.*

*"We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls the church to live in faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us; and to participate now in the rest and justice which God has promised."*

*For a full statement of this article click [here](#).*

*At the initiative of the Ministry of Congregational Care, a committee has been formed from leaders of the various ministries of the church to make a decision and a plan when to come back together for Sunday morning worship services. Howard Miller will be leading this conversation for this important process and decision. This group will be open to your ideas as they prayerfully and responsibly find a way forward. We will however continue to livestream our services as an option for anyone who is not able to attend.*

*One of the highlights of our recent worship services for me has been the sharing time that Gary Sommers has pulled together. Hearing from various individuals is an enjoyable and important part of what it means to be a church together. As long as we need to meet like this, we would like to continue to hear from many of you. If you have something to share, be it an update, an inspiring story or just a word of encouragement for the rest of us, please get in touch with Gary and he will make sure it happens. It is easy to do and he will guide you through each step.*

*May the peace of Christ be yours this week,  
Terry Shue*

## Sunday's Service: *Risk & Responsibility* Matthew 25:14-30

**Message:** Terry Shue  
**Worship Leader:** Jill Liechty  
**Song Leader:** Ruth Yoder

Opening Song – *This is the Day*  
Praise Songs – *The River Is Here*  
– *Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer*  
Song of Response – HWB #226 *You are Salt for the Earth*  
Sending Song – STJ #96 *I'm Pressing On the Upward Way*

Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314  
HWB-Hymnal Worship Book  
STJ-Sing the Journey

### **Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)**

*"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

*The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

*"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

*"The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

*"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'*

*"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.*

*"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

## OPENING SONG: *This is the Day*

This is the day  
This is the day  
That the Lord has made  
That the Lord has made  
We will rejoice  
We will rejoice  
And be glad in it  
And be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made  
We will rejoice and be glad in it  
This is the day  
This is the day  
That the Lord has made

This is the day  
This is the day  
That the Lord has made  
That the Lord has made  
We will rejoice  
We will rejoice  
And be glad in it  
And be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made  
We will rejoice and be glad in it  
This is the day  
This is the day  
That the Lord has made



## PRAISE SONG: *The River is Here*

### **Verse 1**

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here

### **Verse 2**

The river of God is teeming with life  
And all who touch it can be revived  
And those who linger on this river's shore  
Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord

### **Chorus**

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here

### **Verse 3**

Up to the mountain we love to go  
To find the presence of the Lord  
Along the banks of the river we run  
We dance with laughter giving praise to the Son

### **Chorus**

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here

### **Verse 1**

Down the mountain the river flows  
And it brings refreshing wherever it goes  
Through the valleys and over the fields  
The river is rushing and the river is here

### **Chorus**

The river of God sets our feet a-dancing  
The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
And we rejoice for the river is here  
Yes we rejoice for the river is here.

## PRAISE SONG: *Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer*

### **Verse 1**

Jesus draw me ever nearer  
As I labour through the storm  
You have called me to this passage  
And I'll follow though I'm worn

### **Chorus**

May this journey bring a blessing  
May I rise on wings of faith  
And at the end of my heart's testing  
With Your likeness let me wake

### **Verse 2**

Jesus guide me through the tempest  
Keep my spirit staid and sure  
When the midnight meets the morning  
Let me love You even more

### **Chorus**

May this journey bring a blessing  
May I rise on wings of faith  
And at the end of my heart's testing  
With Your likeness let me wake

### **Verse 3**

Let the treasures of the trial  
Form within me as I go  
And at the end of this long passage  
Let me leave them at Your throne

### **Chorus**

May this journey bring a blessing  
May I rise on wings of faith  
And at the end of my heart's testing  
With Your likeness let me wake

## RESPONDING SONG: *You are Salt for the Earth*

### **Verse 1**

You are salt for the earth, O people  
Salt for the kingdom of God  
Share the flavor of life, O people  
Life in the kingdom of God

### **Chorus**

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy  
Bring forth the kingdom of peace  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice  
Bring forth the city of God

### **Verse 2**

You are a light on the hill, O people  
Light for the city of God  
Shine so holy and bright, O people  
Shine for the kingdom of God

### **Chorus**

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy  
Bring forth the kingdom of peace  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice  
Bring forth the city of God

### **Verse 3**

You are a seed of the word, O people  
Bring forth the kingdom of God  
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice  
Grow in the kingdom of God

### **Chorus**

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy  
Bring forth the kingdom of peace  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice  
Bring forth the city of God

### **Verse 4**

We are a bless'd and a pilgrim people  
Bound for the kingdom of God  
Love our journey and love our homeland  
Love is the kingdom of God

### **Chorus**

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy  
Bring forth the kingdom of peace  
Bring forth the kingdom of justice  
Bring forth the city of God

## SENDING SONG: *I'm Pressing on the Upward Way*

### **Verse 1**

I'm pressing on the upward way  
New heights I'm gaining every day  
Still praying as I'm onward bound  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

### **Chorus**

Lord lift me up and let me stand  
By faith on Heaven's tableland  
A higher plain than I have found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

### **Verse 2**

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay  
Tho' some may dwell where these abound  
My prayer my aim is higher ground

### **Chorus**

Lord lift me up and let me stand  
By faith on Heaven's tableland  
A higher plain than I have found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground

### **Verse 4**

I want to scale the utmost height  
And catch a gleam of glory bright  
But still I pray 'til heaven I've found  
Lord lead me on to higher ground

### **Chorus**

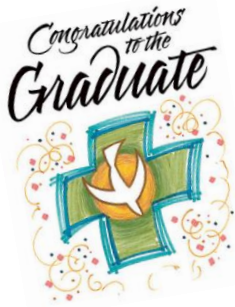
Lord lift me up and let me stand  
By faith on Heaven's tableland  
A higher plain than I have found  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground



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- ✝ Pray for Lois Bontrager who is having hip replacement surgery on Friday.
  - ✝ Pray for Carol Sommers who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
  - ✝ Pray for the Pastor Search Committee: Paul Bontrager, Jen Geiser, Jill Liechty, Perry Miller and Scott Sommers.
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# Church News



*Congratulations to Blake Sommers for graduating from Lake Center Christian School. Blake is planning to go to Indiana Wesleyan University in the fall to study Accounting & Finance.*



**Mennonite Disaster Service has launched *On the Level*, a monthly online newsletter to inform and inspire you!** In the current issue, you'll read how MDS volunteers helped a victim of multiple disasters return home even after closing down the project. You can also learn how special funds are helping Mennonite churches in the U.S. and Canada keep their doors open. **Click on this link to read more:** <https://conta.cc/2LGvidw>.

**If you would like to include something in the newsletter, please contact Cindy by noon on Wednesday each week – thank you!**

Church Information: 2121 Smith Kramer St. NE, Hartville, OH 44632 Phone: 330-877-2400  
Website: [www.mgmennonite.org](http://www.mgmennonite.org) Facebook @MapleGroveMC

Terry Shue: Bridge Pastor

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary ([Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org](mailto:Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org))

Ministry of Congregational Care: Dan Dutcher, Paul Bontrager, Marty Miller, Gary Sommers

Prayer Chain Contacts: Kami Sommers and Jen Geiser

Congregational Care Contacts: Harold Beachy, Dan Dutcher, Matthew Manchester, Dorothy Shrock, Clara Sommers, Rhoda Sommers