



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

Watch Sunday's service live at 10:00 a.m.
at www.mgmennonite.org

Weekly Newsletter dated June 19, 2020

[Maple Grove Reopening Guidelines](#)

Sunday worship service starts at 10:00 a.m. There is no Sunday School or Nursery at this time.
If you are uncomfortable with following the reopening guidelines,
please follow us online until further relaxations are approved.

Sunday's Service - June 21, 2020

Worship Leader: Kami Sommers
Song Leader: Emily Manchester



GATHERING

Prelude
Opening Song
Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship/Prayer

Come, Now Is The Time To Worship

PRAISING

Songs of Praise *As For Me And My House (The Family Prayer Song)*
How Deep The Father's Love For Us

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Honoring Fathers

RESPONDING

Song of Response *The Blessing*
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song *STJ #97 The Lord Is My Light*
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

HWB-Hymnal Worship Book TMH-The Mennonite Hymnal
STJ-Sing the Journey STS-Sing the Story
Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314

To: Ohio Conference of MC USA congregational delegates, members and attenders
From: Conference Minister Dick Barrett
Date: June 15, 2020
Subject: Being Jesus in the Reopening of His Churches

The past several months have certainly been a difficult time in our individual lives and in the lives of our churches throughout Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA. It seems like “a perfect storm” — a pandemic that almost none of us have ever experienced before, an economy that crashed with no one sure of what the long-term effects will be, and finally the coming to a head of racial tensions that have existed in our country since its formation hundreds of years ago.

I’ve heard it said, “Life as we knew it is gone,” and/or “There will be no going back to normal.” I would like to challenge us that just maybe the life that we have had to let go of was not as great as we thought it was, or at least not for all people. Most importantly, we need to ask ourselves the question, “Did it glorify God?” The beloved disciple John wrote in his first letter, “Whoever claims to live in Christ must live as Jesus did” (1 John 2:6). While the four gospel accounts of Jesus’ life help us to know how Jesus lived back during his time here on earth, it becomes more difficult in trying to live as Jesus would want us to live in the situations we face today.

Three months ago our churches closed their doors to help prevent, or at least slow down, the spread of the COVID-19 virus, a virus which can have little or no effect on many, but very drastic and deadly effects on others, especially those who are most physically vulnerable and those age 65 and over. In the big picture, the closing of most businesses, organizations and churches in Ohio and throughout the country has had a very positive effect in preventing the spread of the virus and saving thousands, if not millions of lives.

Over the past several weeks, many of our churches have begun to reopen. I have been impressed by the great thought, discernment, sensitivity, and care both our pastors and church leadership groups have put into their reopening plans. Recently I heard a pastor with more than 25 years of experience say, “Closing was the easy part; reopening is one of the greatest challenges I have experienced in my pastoral ministry.”

My encouragement to delegates, members, and attenders of Ohio Conference congregations is that you see this time of reopening as a special time to Be Jesus to a watching world. Trust that your church leaders have done their best to take into account the vast amount of differences that exist in your congregation and that their number one priority has been and will continue to be the life and safety of those whom they have been entrusted to protect, especially the most vulnerable.

I also want to encourage you to care deeply for your pastors during this time, and to recognize the toll that this time period has taken on them — physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. In a world that seems like it is spinning out of control, where people have so many different thoughts, ideas and opinions, and division and criticism of personhood seem to be the norm, pastoring a congregation has never been more difficult. In the past three months it has become exponentially more difficult.

I also want to remind us that we have hope and new opportunities in Christ. There is no “old normal” with God. In Christ we are called to be new creations to live as Christ would live in the time, place and whatever situations we find ourselves in today. When all is said and done, perhaps our churches will not look exactly like they did before the pandemic. But perhaps we have learned some new things during this time — like the importance of connecting with our people virtually in different ways while also recognizing that communicating with people virtually does not take the place of meeting with people in person. We should be asking ourselves the same question of our churches during and after this pandemic as we did before: “Does whatever we are doing — worship, ministry and mission — bring glory to God through Jesus Christ?”



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- ✝ Pray for Lois Bontrager who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.
 - ✝ Pray for the Pastor Search Committee: Paul Bontrager, Jen Geiser, Jill Liechty, Perry Miller and Scott Sommers.
 - ✝ Pray for Freeman Miller, father to neighbors of Jr. Sommers/Eugene Miller's cabin in Carrollton, who has Covid-19.
 - ✝ Pray for Jan Anderson, Cindy Fleming's mother, who is struggling with several health issues.
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Offering Last Sunday, June 14: Attendance: 55

General Fund	\$ 4,030.00
Education Fund	150.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 4,180.00</u>

June 21st is Education Sunday;

non-designated funds from the offering will go toward the Education Fund.



Vacation Bible School At Home Backpacks will be available June 28 & July 5.



AT HOME

Philippians 1:6

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

In order to keep each person safe and to prevent further spread of the virus, VBS will not gather together as in past years. However, the VBS Committee is putting together backpacks for each child in preschool through children just completing 5th grade. Each VBS At Home backpack will include 6 days of fun activities: a Bible story, game, craft and a verse to learn for the week. These will be distributed during church on two Sundays: June 28 & July 5. If your child will not be in church on those Sundays, please contact Kim Weaver or Ruth Yoder and we will make other arrangements.



My Coins Count raises money for water projects sponsored by MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) to help provide clean drinking water and new wells for communities all over the world. My Coins Count offering is donated at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction, which this year is an online event September 26-October 3. The friendly competition between Maple Grove and Evermore is on again this year to see which church can raise the most money. Let's get the pump back at Maple Grove! To donate, mark your offering envelope "My Coins Count."

Share the love of Jesus with a thirsty world!

*The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none;
their tongues are parched with thirst.
But I the Lord will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. (Isaiah 41:17 NIV)*

We are glad to have an offer of matching funds for up to \$20,000 again this year!

For every dollar donated, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000. So if the church can raise \$20,000 – we'll have \$40,000 to give to MCC at the Relief Sale.



FROM LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES IN CANTON:

Dear Friends at Maple Grove: We can't thank you enough for your generous donations. Your contribution is helping to provide programming year-round that seeks to encourage, inspire, and empower children living in southeast Canton. Your partnership in our work makes it possible for our staff, mentors, and volunteers to connect with over 100 children and their families in meaningful ways every year! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your love is a blessing! Peace, From All of us at Lighthouse

FROM HARTVILLE MIGRANT MINISTRY

Dear Maple Grove: Your support of the Hartville Migrant Ministry is truly appreciated by those who need it most, the migrant families working in our community who otherwise would have found daily life more difficult to navigate had it not been for your generosity.

Thanks to you, we have provided nearly 400 families with convenient access to clinic facilities, with educational opportunities designed for everyone from children to adults, and with a place to simply feel safe and welcome in our community while enjoying a variety of recreational and spiritual opportunities. You can be sure your donation has been a tremendous asset in the fulfillment of this mission.

We would love to keep you in the loop via our website where we have posted more pictures that tell the story of the Migrant Center's activities. Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/hartvillemigrantministry or our website at www.hartvillemigrantministry.org.

Again, thank you for helping the Hartville Migrant Ministry provide our families with the best possible experience here. You are a part of their lives too. With gratitude, Hartville Migrant Ministry



Hartville Thrift Shoppe needs help to fulfill their mission of supporting MCC.

Volunteers: We especially need help in Textile Hang and Tag area; this can be a couple hours a week for the summer, if you have commitments during the school year. (All volunteers do need to wear a mask and follow our other safety guidelines.) Please talk to other volunteers from your church or text Brenda @ 330-933-6372 if you would like to volunteer or have questions.

Hiring - Please send your resume or any questions to pstauffer@hartvillethriftshoppe.org.

- **Temporary Part-Time Processors**

Backroom processors assist our volunteers in production of textiles and housewares.

- **Full or Part-time Donation Assistant**

The donation attendant works with a team of people who are responsible for receiving and processing donations. This job involves lifting heavy furniture, moving it to the sales floor and loading it into customers' cars. The work is physical and fast paced working to facilitate the work of our many volunteers.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) Summer Update from Ohio NE – NW PA Unit

During this time of COVID-19, MDS has shut down its volunteer operations. However, for MDS and DAO (Disaster Aid Ohio), shutting down does not really mean ceasing operations, but rather gives an opportunity to plan for future innovation. An example being considered is called “modular home construction” (MHC). This could become a significant mode of volunteer house construction which while done locally, when completed is shipped to the homeowner’s site in parts for final assembly. This would allow MDS to continue robust disaster relief despite any volunteer limitations imposed by coronavirus mitigation. This summer, MDS in conjunction with DAO plan to construct two modular homes (perhaps 3) that will be shipped by truck to West Virginia. The Eastern Ohio/NW PA unit of MDS will be the sponsoring organization. [Click here for more information.](#)

The June edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service.

MDS shares how it is planning and visioning for an eventual return to projects. Click on this link to read more: [On the Level](#)

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

Church Information: 2121 Smith Kramer St. NE, Hartville, OH 44632 Phone: 330-877-2400
Website: www.mqmennonite.org Facebook @MapleGroveMC

Terry Shue: Bridge Pastor

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary (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