



***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

9:30am	Sunday School
10:20am	Adult classes dismissed for worship
10:25am	Children & youth classes dismissed for worship
10:30am	Corporate Worship

Weekly Newsletter dated November 25, 2020

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL ON NOV. 29 & DEC. 6

[Maple Grove Reopening Guidelines](#)

November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. As we enter this season of waiting, let us hold on to what we are waiting for. The Advent season is the practice of anticipating the coming of the Christ child, the Messiah come to reveal to us God. On this road of Advent, let us hold onto Christ in every way we can. Life has an abundance of challenges and we are waiting for these to pass. Know that in all things Christ does not pass away and as we hold to Him neither shall we.

I pray that every one of you experiences a profound sense of Christ present during this season of Advent. That as we wait your souls may be filled with hope and that your minds would overflow with the peace of God.

*In the Spirit of the coming Christ,
Pastor Nathanael*

From the Leader Magazine Worship Resources:

"This year's Advent theme, "On the Road . . .," conveys a sense of movement, of traveling from one point to another. In the story of the magi from the East, they literally took to the road and drew closer to Jesus with each passing step. This rich imagery sets the tone for the Advent season as we seek to move closer to Jesus, wherever we might find ourselves along the road of faith.

Each week, we will embark on a new leg of this journey toward Christ. In Advent 1, we are "on the road to readiness," staying alert for Jesus' second coming. For Advent 2, we are "on the road to repentance," confessing our sins as John the Baptist taught. Advent 3 takes us "on the road to restoration," where we recognize that God will ultimately overturn the injustices of our world. And Advent 4 sends us "on the road to revelation," where we learn that Jesus is the culmination of ancient promises."

Advent 1: On the Road to Readiness

*What does readiness look like? How might we prepare ourselves to receive the One sent to save us?
May our heart's desire be to make space to receive the gift God has sent.*

There will be a children's time during the service each Sunday of Advent!

Sunday's Service – November 29, 2020

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Terry Shue

Song Leader: Emily Manchester
Children's Time: Sophia Sommers



GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

HWB #178 *Come Thou Long-expected Jesus*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: O that You would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at Your presence.

People: *Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

People: *Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Leader: Do not remember our iniquity forever.

ALL: *Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

PRAISING

Songs of Praise

STS #15 *Hope is a Candle
Refiner's Fire*

Prayer for Offering

Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved?

People: *All of us are unclean. Our righteous acts are like filthy rags.*

Leader: Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; Do not remember our sins forever. Look upon us, we pray.

People: *O Lord, You are our Father. We are the clay, and You are our potter. We are all the work of Your hand.*

Leader: Forgive our sins.

ALL: *No ear has heard, no eye has seen a God like You, who works for those who wait for Him. Mold us and make us into vessels You can use. Restore us, O God. Make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Scripture

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:24-37

Message

On your mark, get set...

RESPONDING

Song of Response

HWB #392 *Heart and Mind, Possessions, Lord*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

STS #16 *Peace Before Us* (Verses 1-4)

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

HWB-Hymnal Worship Book (blue) TMH-The Mennonite Hymnal (red)
STJ-Sing the Journey (green) STS-Sing the Story (purple)
Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314



- ✝ Pray for Lesli Miller and her three children, Korey, Emma & Ayden, who are dealing with illnesses.
- ✝ Pray for John Hilmer (Mary Hilmer's son) who was hospitalized with complications from his cancer.
- ✝ Pray for Nelson Schlabach and Henry Sommers, Jr. for health issues.
- ✝ Pray for those who are apart from their families or alone over the Thanksgiving holiday.



I would like to thank the church for your thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. I am feeling better and appreciate the care from my church family. Blessings, Larry Hills



Offering Last Sunday, November 22

Attendance: 23

General Fund	2,489.96
Total Offering	<u>\$ 2,489.96</u>



An updated phone directory booklet has been placed in each mailbox and emailed out to the church email distribution list. If there are any changes to your information, please contact Cindy in the church office. Please note that birthdays and anniversaries have been included for everyone. Also included in the directory is a list of the current members on Maple Grove's ministries and committees.



The Junior Youth (Grades 5-8) will be having a Christmas Party on Sunday December 13, right after church until 2:00pm. Lunch will be provided. Bring a wrapped \$5 gift for a gift exchange game. Contact Jade or Jill Liechty, Junior Youth Leaders, if you have any questions.

REMINDER: Family Ministry has freezer meals available for those in need in the refrigerator at the church. These can be taken to someone in need, whether it's someone in the church, or a neighbor or a friend coming home from the hospital, or a situation where someone could just use some help. The meals are ham & scalloped potatoes and rigatoni. Fruit slush is available for dessert. All are labeled with heating instructions. To take a meal to someone, please let Cindy in the church office know what meal you are taking and who it is going to. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Family Ministry – Sheryl Weaver, Charla Sommers, Kathy Cartner, Marsha Miller

Deck the Halls & Stock the Store



Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas program is for families in the southeast neighborhood of Canton surrounding the Lighthouse. In purchasing presents for kids, the real gift you are offering is dignity for a parent to provide for their children.

- The presents you purchase will be sold at an affordable price in a "store" run by the Lighthouse.
- The purpose is to support and empower neighborhood parents in their roles as provider and caregiver for their children.
- The lists of gifts you see on the board in the church lobby were generated by responses to surveys that were distributed to parents and caregivers of the children who use the Lighthouse services.
- Affordable means the gifts will be marked down so that the most the parent pays is 25% of the purchase price. For some of the higher priced gifts, the maximum the parent pays is less than 25%.

All gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED with the purchase price listed somewhere on the packaging by Wednesday, December 2. Please tape the tag on the gift. Almost all the tags of gift requests are gone – they are 5 tags left on the board!

Any questions, please contact Holly Miller.



In the craziness of 2020 and through this uncertainty of what our winter will look like, LOC is working to ensure that they can still partner with you and meet the needs of our community.

- This year, we will be offering gift cards at a fraction of the cost to our families in lieu of physical gifts.
- In addition to the gift cards, the LOC Warehouse will be open to shop the clothing closet, and shoppers receive a blanket, toiletries, socks and shoes, books, and games for their children.
- We are confident that this change will ensure that we can continue to provide holiday assistance to families in need in our community. For the future, our hope is that we will be able to return to our original LOC Christmas event in years to come.
- For more information, visit Love Our Community's website www.loveourcommunity.net.

If you would like to contribute to LOC Christmas event, you may purchase gift cards and bring to the church – a collection box for the gift cards is on the table at the church. Love Our Community has provided a list of gift card suggestions which is below. You may also make monetary donations through the offering. We will collect through the month of November. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Miller.

GIFT CARD AMOUNTS:	STORES/RESTAURANT IDEAS:
	Burger King, Dairy Queen, Dominoes, Dunkin' Donuts, Front Porch Cafe, McDonald's, Peace, Love & Little Donuts, Pizza BOGO, Pizza Hut, Romeo's Pizza, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell/KFC, Wendy's, other local restaurants, etc.
	Amazon, Dick's Sporting Goods, Front Porch Cafe, Hartville Hardware, Kohl's, Peace, Love & Little Donuts, Sheetz, Starbucks, Target, The Shops at Hartville Kitchen, Ulta, Walmart, other local stores & restaurants, etc.
	Amazon, Baby Sweet Pea's, Beatty's Sports, Best Bib & Tucker, Best Buy, Big Lots, Dick's Sporting Goods, Hallstar Sports, Hartville Hardware, Ritchies Sporting Goods, Kohl's, Target, The Shops at Hartville Kitchen, Two E's In a Pod, Ulta, Walmart, other local stores, etc.
	Amazon, Best Bib & Tucker, Best Buy, Big Lots, Dick's Sporting Goods, Hartville Hardware, Kohl's, Target, The Shops at Hartville Kitchen, Ulta, Walmart, other local stores, etc.



Don't forget to save your Acme receipts to benefit Lake Township FISH! A collection box for the receipts is under the mailboxes at the church. A percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt will be donated to FISH. Thank you – Ministry of Outreach

Mennonite Church USA's (MC USA) 2020 Advent at Home devotional, "We Wait for Jesus," is now available for [free download](#). The annual guide for home-based worship provides daily and weekly scripture readings, prayers and activities for individuals and families observing the season of anticipation leading to the birth of Jesus. Paper copies of the devotional are also on the literature rack at the church.



Prayer Vine, a publication of Mennonite Mission Network, lists daily prayer requests for mission workers serving in locations around the world. The December 2020 issue of [Prayer Vine](#) is now available. A copy of *Prayer Vine* is posted on the bulletin board at the church.

Below is a file with prayer requests for December from the Mennonite Education Agency.

These prayer requests have been gathered from the member schools of Mennonite Schools Council, as well as the colleges, universities, seminaries and educational programs of Mennonite Church USA. A copy is available on the bulletin board at the church. [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#)

MCC asks for support for Central American Hurricane Recovery

Not one hurricane, but two hurricanes within two weeks have caused extensive flooding in Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have destroyed crops and forced people from their homes. MCC is working with churches and community organizations to provide emergency food, hygiene supplies and cleanup support. Join us as we help these communities recover. You can donate online at mcc.org/eta-iota-relief, by phone at (888)563-4676, or by mail at MCC, 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

LIVE ONLINE CONCERT: The Steel Wheels & Girl Named Tom

Join the Pennsylvania Relief Sale on **Sunday, December 6 at 8 p.m.** for a free online concert to support Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)'s work, featuring an opening performance by [Girl Named Tom](#) followed by an hour-long concert from musical group [The Steel Wheels](#). Songs and stories will highlight MCC's work around the world. You can access the concert on December 6 at charityauction.bid/Concert2020. The program will include an intermission with opportunities to financially support the programs and mission of MCC.

Ohio Mennonite Conference: Developing Leaders in the Congregation

When God calls someone to ministry, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey. Perhaps you are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Ohio Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The early application deadline for Winter 2021 is Dec. 15. For more information visit www.ambs.edu/journey or contact Conference Minister Dick Barrett at ohioconferenceminister@gmail.com or at 937-935-2549.

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.mgmennonite.org	Facebook @MapleGroveMC
Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler:	Pastor (pastornathanael@maplegrovemennonite.org)	
Terry Shue:	Associate Pastor	
Cindy Fleming:	Church Secretary (Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org)	
Ministry of Congregational Care:	Paul Bontrager, Dan Dutcher, Ruth Miller, Gary Sommers	
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Jen Geiser and Kami Sommers	

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – adult classes dismissed 10 minutes before worship / children & youth 5 minutes before

Women's Class in Sewing Room-Education Side Sr. Women's Class in Room 9

Mixed Intergenerational Class in Adult SS Room-Education Side Sr. Men's Class in Room 10

Mixed Post-High/20's-40's Class in Basement

Children's Sunday School Classes with rooms and teachers:

PreK-1 st grade in Rms. 1-2	Ruth Yoder	5 th -8 th grade in Rms. 5-6	Matthew Manchester
2 nd -4 th grade in Rms. 3-4	Sheryl Weaver/Lesli Miller	Youth in Basement	Michael Yoder/Myron Weaver