

Sunday's Service – December 13, 2020

Advent 3: On the Road to Restoration (From the Leader Magazine Worship Resources)

The gift offered to the repentant is restoration. The road to restoration is a journey toward wholeness in body, soul, and spirit.

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler

Song Leader: Renee Koshmider

Worship Leader: Jill Liechty

Children's Time: Sophia Sommers



GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

STS #3 *Come, Light of the World*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

People: *Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.*

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

People: *Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.*

ALL: *The Lord has done great things for us— we rejoice!*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

PRAISING

Songs of Praise

STS #6 *Save Us, Oh Lord
We Have a Saviour*

Prayer for Offering

Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

People: *We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.*

ALL: *Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Message

A Non-Optional Aspect

RESPONDING

Song of Response

STS #26 *Helpless and Hungry*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

HWB #178 *Come Thou Long-expected Jesus*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude



- ✝ Pray for Lois Bontrager who had knee surgery.
- ✝ Pray for Lesli Miller and her three children, Korey, Emma & Ayden, who are dealing with illnesses.
- ✝ Pray for Henry Sommers, Jr. who is dealing with cancer.
- ✝ Pray for Henry Sommers Jr's. brother Archie and his roommate who are both ill.
- ✝ Pray for John Hilmer (Mary Hilmer's son) who is dealing with cancer.

If you have a prayer request you would like included in Sunday's service, you may text Pastor Nathanael to have it included – please see the recent Maple Grove News that was emailed or mailed to you for the number.



Offering Last Sunday, December 6		Attendance: 44
General Fund	2,501.89	
Education Fund	400.00	
Total Offering	<u>\$ 2,901.89</u>	

Dear Friends at Maple Grove Mennonite Church,

This past weekend the Lighthouse held its ninth Annual Christmas Store for parents and guardians in our neighborhood. Our staff had a wonderful time connecting with caregivers as they shopped for their children. On Saturday, our shoppers purchased **gifts for 97 children!** Incredible!

Especially this year, with the additional stress that COVID-19 has brought to many of our Lighthouse families and students, it was critical for us to provide the Christmas Store. We did everything we could to make the store as safe as possible, with parents limited to a specific shopping time and group, cleanings between groups, and all shoppers wearing latex gloves and face masks.

We believe that the Christmas “store” model provides the gift of dignity to our parents, allowing them to provide for their children. We’d like to thank all of our friends at Maple Grove Mennonite Church for helping to make this program both a possibility and a success. Your partnership and year-round support of the Lighthouse is a blessing! Lighthouse Ministries



Child Abuse Awareness Policy

Maple Grove's policy on Physical & Sexual Abuse of Children states all volunteers who are involved with children and youth are required to receive a copy of this policy and sign a form confirming they have read and understand the policy. If you received a letter from the Ministry of Congregational Care in regards to Child Abuse Awareness, please return your signed form to the church office. Thank you!



Ministry of Outreach Project: Hurricane Relief – Please note that this will be highlighted during Sunday’s service.

Most of us may have heard or know that this past month of November two hurricanes hit Central America, but unless you have friends in the area that share on social media, there is very little information in front of us.

Two category 4 hurricanes hit the Nicaraguan coast in 13 days, ETA on November 3, with the most recent Hurricane IOTA making landfall on November 17, just 15 miles south of the first hurricane ETA. Although the direct hit was in Nicaragua, the countries of Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala have been impacted as well. The geographic area is the northeast coast of Nicaragua; from Managua this is approximately 320 miles.

Many of you share in the friendship of Moises and Anna Arauz as they worked with Maple Grove for many years with the children’s home, Fortress of Hope. Moises and Anna are directors for Metanoia Missions and are leading relief efforts in Nicaragua.

They have organized supplies and volunteers and have made 3 trips with relief efforts into the areas that took the direct hit. From Managua, each trip is a 27-hour ordeal with trucks over the mountains and then a 5 to 6-hour boat ride. As clean up continues there soon will be a small airport available to help bring in supplies and lessen the travel time.

The first trip was basics - water, rice and beans, some medical supplies. Moises says they were the first relief group to arrive in this area with supplies, and with each trip they assess what the most significant needs are and plan and stage another trip.

The second trip included clean buckets with pour-through filters as the water wells have been contaminated with salt water. Their current assessment sees the next need as tools, hammers and nails, shovels and machetes, and handsaws as each family begins the process of rebuilding over 400 homes destroyed in one community.

Moises mentions that as they measure their small contribution to such a huge need, they can feel so overwhelmed, yet they commit to continue as resources become available.

There is a group from Maple Grove that has made a commitment to help Moises and Anna in their grassroots approach of putting their faith in action and have shared this opportunity with Ministry of Outreach. Ministry of Outreach is encouraging the congregation to partner with our friends in Nicaragua. There will be a collection for this mission through the month of December. Please mark your offering envelope “Hurricane Relief” if you would like to contribute. What we share can be the best hope for this area that has seen so much devastation in such a short time.

Metanoia Missions is based in Finlay, Ohio and you can follow their work on Facebook.

REMINDER – THERE ARE FREEZER MEALS AVAILABLE: 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

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



The December newsletter from Ohio Conference is now available. Click [here](#) to find information on a free webinar Mennonite Mission Network is hosting on December 15th, Bluffton University's performance of Handel's "Messiah" being livestreamed December 20th, the online dedication launch by MennoMedia of the new *Voices Together* hymnal on December 13th, and information on the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash and Dove's Nest resources.

To include something in the newsletter, please contact Cindy by noon on Wednesday – thank you!

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Ministry of Congregational Care:	Paul Bontrager, Dan Dutcher, Ruth Miller, Gary Sommers	
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Jen Geiser and Kami Sommers	