

Sunday's Service – December 20, 2020

Advent 4: On the Road to Revelation (From the Leader Magazine Worship Resources)

On the road to revelation, if we have faith and a willing spirit, God will show us the way.

God's word to us is "I am with you; do not be afraid."

Message: Terry Shue
Worship Leader: Gary Sommers



Song Leader: Emily Manchester
Children's Time: Nancy Beachy

GATHERING

Prelude

James Yoder

Opening Song

HWB #212 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We will sing of Your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

People: we will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: We declare that Your steadfast love is established forever;

People: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

ALL: You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our salvation!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

PRAISING

Songs of Praise

STS #32 *Oh, Beautiful Star Of Bethlehem
Go Tell It On The Mountain*

Prayer for Offering

Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: God, You come to us with the words "Do not be afraid."

People: Yet we cower and live in anxiety and fear.

Leader: We lack faith and trust in Your ways.

People: We want to respond like Mary, "I am Your servant."

ALL: Give us humble, willing hearts to follow Your call.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Handbell Choir

O Come Little Children and Away in a Manger

Children's Time

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38, 46b-55

Message

Revealed!

RESPONDING

Song of Response

STJ #13 *My Soul Is Filled With Joy*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

HWB #318 *Joy To The World*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude



- ✝ Pray for Lois Bontrager who is recovering from knee surgery.
- ✝ Pray for Henry Sommers, Jr. who is dealing with cancer.
- ✝ 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 13

Attendance: 37

General Fund	1,704.50
Education Fund	760.00
Hurricane Relief	890.00
Total Offering	\$ 3,354.50

December 20th is Education Sunday;

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



Ministry of Congregational Care has decided there will not be a service on Christmas Eve this year. Pastor Nathanael will be sending a brief message and blessing out to the congregation.

Church Office Schedule for the Holidays

For the week of Christmas and New Year's, the church secretary office will be closed on Thursday and Friday both weeks. Cindy will be working Monday-Wednesday the week of Christmas, and on Wednesday the week of New Year's. Both weeks the newsletters will be sent out on Wednesday. Items for the newsletter and Sunday's service will be needed by Tuesday each week.

A Note from Pastor Nathanael on Office Hours

I have set up office hours that I would like to share with the congregation. These are the hours that I plan to be in the church office – please feel free to reach out during this time. And I can always be reached on my cell or via email at pastornathanael@maplegrovemennonite.org.

Monday:	9am-12pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday:	1pm-3pm
Friday:	Sabbath

Annual Reports for 2020 are due January 11th

The Ministry of Administration has scheduled the Annual Congregational Business Meeting for Sunday, January 31st, 2021. An email has been sent to the chairperson of each committee and ministry requesting an updated report for 2020, with a copy of last year's report included for your reference. We are asking that you please turn in your reports to the church office by Monday, January 11th.



Ministry of Outreach Project: Hurricane Relief for Nicaragua *Help for Moises and Anna Arauz*

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. 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.

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, or mail a check into the church and note that it is for Hurricane Relief. 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

The Acme Community Cashback Program ends December 26, 2020.

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



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Lighthouse Ministries in Canton!

As we close out the 2020 year, we are thankful for the support of friends near and far. All through the month of December, every gift given to support the Lighthouse will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$16,000! Please consider an end-of-year gift to help us reach our goal of raising \$30,000 by December 31. Every gift given provides programming that speaks to the dignity, value, and worth of the children living in our SE Canton neighborhood. Give easily at www.cantonlighthouse.org/donate or by sending a check to Lighthouse Ministries 1931 3rd St SE Canton, OH 44707.

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

In our current issue, we offer a timely prayer for 2020, A Prayer Amidst Disaster, written by an MDS staff member; read how volunteers are improving the space for homeless in Idaho; and be sure to save the date for our virtual MDS Annual Celebration. Click [here](#) to read more:

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)	
- Office Hours:	Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-1-3pm; Friday-Sabbath	
Terry Shue:	Associate Pastor	
Cindy Fleming:	Church Secretary (Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org)	
- Office Hours:	Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday – 8am-1pm	
Ministry of Congregational Care:	Paul Bontrager, Dan Dutcher, Ruth Miller, Gary Sommers	
Prayer Chain Contacts:	Jen Geiser and Kami Sommers	