



**Sunday's Service – March 21, 2021**

**Lent 5: Deep in the Earth: Called to Deep Growth**

*Like a seed that falls deep into the dark, rich earth, we are called to deep growth,  
releasing our attachments that prevent us from bearing and offering fruit.*

**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler      **Song Leader:** Emily Manchester  
**Worship Leader:** Matthew Manchester      **Children's Time:** Koby Miller

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

*Here I Am to Worship*

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship & Prayer**

**Leader:** The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with Israel.  
I will be their God, and they will be my people.

**People:** ***God, teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. Put a new and right spirit within us.  
Restore to us the joy of salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit.***

**Leader:** We trust You, God, to forgive our iniquities and remember our sin no more.

**People:** ***There is a time for everything, and sometimes, the hour is upon us.***

**Leader:** Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,  
knowing that those who love their life will lose it.

**People:** ***"The hour has come. Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."***

**ALL:** ***We call out to You, as You call us to deeper growth.***

**PRAISING**

Songs of Praise

STS #116 *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside*  
*Speak O Lord*

Prayer for Offering

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Scripture

**John 12:20-33**

Message

***Dying to Grow***

**RESPONDING**

Song of Response

STS #56 *Unless a Grain of Wheat*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

**Confession & Assurance of Pardon**

**People:** ***Deep calls to deep. We call to You from the depths of our hearts.***

**Leader:** We confess our resistance to being planted into Your aching earth, into the way of Your covenant.  
We confess our need for You to plant within us the joy of Your salvation, a willing spirit.  
(*Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep growth.*)

Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of Your love.

**People:** ***Calling us to deep growth. We come to You, God.***

**SENDING**

Sending Song  
Benediction/Blessing  
Postlude

STS #62 Create in me a Clean Heart

Worship Resources taken from the *Leader Magazine Lent-Easter 2021*  
Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314 HWB-Hymnal Worship Book (blue)  
STJ-Sing the Journey (green) STS-Sing the Story (purple)



✝ Pray for healing for Harold & Nancy Beachy and their family.

**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, March 14**

**Attendance: 71**

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| General Fund   | \$ 2,683.02        |
| Education Fund | 2,128.50           |
| Total Offering | <u>\$ 4,811.52</u> |

**March 21<sup>st</sup> is Education Sunday;**

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



Palm Sunday – March 28

*Deep in the Current: Called to Deep Hope*

Good Friday – April 2

*Deep in the Shadows: Called Deep into the Story*

Easter Sunday – April 4

*Deep in the Feast: Called to Deep Living*

**This year, Maple Grove will have a Good Friday service at 7:00 p.m.**

There will not be a Maundy Thursday service this year. Please plan to join us on Good Friday.

Our Easter Sunday service will be at 10:00 a.m.

There will not be Sunday School classes.

Coffee and donuts will be available before the service.





### **Are you interested in exploring membership at Maple Grove?**

If so, we would love to discuss that with you. Please reach out to Pastor Nathanael if you would like to learn more. A new member reception is being planned for Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. *The Ministry of Congregational Care*

### **Higher Education Grants from Maple Grove - Applications due by March 31**

In an effort to encourage our members to pursue a Christian education that emphasizes the Anabaptist vision, Maple Grove has available a grant program for students enrolling in colleges and seminaries maintaining the Mennonite Anabaptist vision. Copies of Maple Grove's policy and the application form are available on the literature rack in the foyer. **Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove's Treasurer, John Koshmider, by March 31, 2021.**



### **Canton Corona Bible Project**

Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton is sponsoring a project aiming to write out all 1,169 chapters of the Bible. Their goal is to write out the words of the Bible, as an act of meditation and worship, in light of our questions and fears, but also our hope and trust as a testimony to this time of crisis. If you are interested in this project or have questions, Clara Sommers will be in the lobby after service this Sunday with materials and instructions. Or you may contact Clara.

### **The FISH Food Pantry is hosting a drive-thru Diaper Drive on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 12-3pm.**

The diapers benefit our partner, the Stark County Diaper Bank. All sizes of diapers are accepted: Newborn - Size 6, and pullups. We also will be accepting wipes. We are also collecting financial donations for the Stark County Diaper Bank as well. Our goal is to collect 2,000 diapers! Drive thru the gate at 1117 Sunnyside Street to drop off your donations.

### **Everence® to hold online Medicare® webinar – April 1**

To help people access important Medicare information without leaving their homes, Everence will hold its popular Medicare educational events online again this April. The next webinar will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1. Topics will include when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare does (and doesn't) cover, and an explanation of parts A, B, C and D – in clear, understandable language. For more webinar dates, visit [www.everence.com/northeastohio](http://www.everence.com/northeastohio). Register soon by contacting Kelly Troyer at 800-986-9988, 330-857-9988 or [kelly.troyer@everence.com](mailto:kelly.troyer@everence.com).

**Ohio Conference is excited to announce upcoming workshops to be held Thursday evenings in March and April from 7 to 8 p.m.** These free online workshops are open to EVERYONE, and we invite you to come and learn more about the Lord's work.

- **On Thursday, March 25, Lydell Steiner and Craig Mast of Connexus, will present "Transforming Conflict: Tools for the Toolbox."** Conflict abounds in our society, our communities, our churches, and our families. But how do you respond to it? Participants will leave the workshop with practical tools for thinking about, approaching, and resolving conflict in ways that lead to restored relationships and restored communities. Please register at <https://bit.ly/OhioConferenceEvents> by **Monday, March 22.**

For more information on all the workshops in this series, please see the Ohio Conference website: <https://bit.ly/2021OnlineWorkshops>.

**You're invited to join MCC Great Lakes for a virtual MCC Alumni & Friends gathering.**

While we won't be gathering in person like most years, we hope you will join us on Sunday, March 21, at 2:00 p.m. Vurayayi Pugini and Thelma Sadzamari, MCC Area Directors for Southern and Central Africa and Nigeria, will share stories about MCC's work in the region including how partners have adapted in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. More information and Zoom registration at: [mcc.org/gl-africa-webinar](http://mcc.org/gl-africa-webinar)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE**

**Adult Classes**

Women's Class: Room 1-Education Side  
 Mixed Intergenerational Class: Room 2-Education Side  
 Sr. Men's Class: Room 9-Hallway  
 Sr. Women's Class: Room10-Hallway  
 Mixed Post-High/20's-40's: Basement

**Children/Youth Classes**

PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Rooms 5-6  
 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rooms 7-8  
 Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4  
 Youth (Grades 9-12): Basement