



Informal Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School Classes - 9:30a.m.  
 Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
 (Online at [www.mgmennonite.org](http://www.mgmennonite.org))



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

Newsletter dated  
 December 23, 2021



Please join us Friday for our Christmas Eve service – a service of singing and celebrating Jesus’ birth.  
 The service begins at 5:00 p.m. and will be livestreamed.

### Sunday’s Service – December 26, 2021

**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Paul Bontrager  
**Song Leader:** Tom Lubbers



**Offertory:** Renee Koshmider  
**Children’s Time:** Sophia Sommers  
**Candle Lighting:** Myron & Sheryl Weaver

#### GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

HWB #71 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Welcome & Announcements

#### Call to Worship

Leader: Alleluia! Praise Yahweh from the heavens!  
 Praise God in the heights. Praise God, sun and moon.

**People: Praise God, all you shining stars!**

Leader: Praise God from the earth, sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hail,

**People: snow and mist.**

Leader: Sing praise to God, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,

**People: small animals and flying birds.**

Leader: Let them praise God’s name.

Let all creation praise the name of Yahweh, whose name alone is exalted.

**People: Praise God’s name!**

**All: Alleluia!**

#### Lighting of the Christ Candle

STS #15 *Hope is a Candle*

Leader: We light the Christ candle and we welcome new life.

**People: Hurry, hurry, sing the glory!**

**Imagine that . . . we are God’s wonders, blessed wonders.**

#### PRAISING

Praise Song

*Mighty to Save*

Offering – General Fund

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Prayer of Confession

### **Words of Assurance**

Leader: God forgives you. Forgive others. Forgive yourself.  
(Silence)

Leader: Be at peace.

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-17 (NRSV)

Message

***Dare to Imagine God's Robe!***

## **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

*Lead Us Back*

Testimony of God's Robe

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## **SENDING**

Sending Song

HWB #478 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

### PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy and adapt worship materials

Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314

HWB-Hymnal Worship Book (blue)

TMH-The Mennonite Hymnal (red)

STJ-Sing the Journey (green)

STS-Sing the Story (purple)



✝ Pray for the Sommers family on the passing of Amanda, Junior's mother, and Naomi Hershberger, Junior's sister. Pray that the family may find comfort and peace through Jesus at this time of loss.

✝ Pray for those from our congregation with health concerns: Margaret Miller, Marsha Miller, Sam Miller, Carol Sommers, and Lee Yoder.

✝ Pray for healing for others with health concerns: Savannah Hofstetter Ressler's father Ray Hofstetter recovering from back surgery; Sami Miller's grandparents George & Joanne Golias who are both ill; Barb Volk's brother Jim and his wife Betty for health issues; Harold & Nancy Beachy's granddaughter Raquel recovering from surgery; Lois Bontrager and Ruth Hills' brother Marcus Yoder in a rehab nursing facility; Barb Dutcher's brother-in-law Neal Orndorff on hospice.

✝ Pray for those who are alone over the holidays or away from their loved ones.

✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world.



### Offering Last Sunday, December 19-Education Sunday

Attendance: 90

General Fund	\$ 2,560.00
Education Fund	5,112.90
Total Offering	<u>\$ 7,672.90</u>



### Help is Needed!

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED**

A group is meeting Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, at noon to help move Ruth Miller's belongings that she donated to the Thrift Shoppe. Please meet at her house if you are able to help with moving them to the Hartville Thrift Shoppe. Any questions, contact Steve Miller.

### Church Office Schedule for the Holidays

- Pastor Nathanael will be out of the office December 27<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contact a member of the Ministry of Congregational Care for any pastoral needs in his absence.
- The church office will be closed on Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, and the newsletter will be sent out on Thursday. Items for the newsletter and Sunday's service will be needed by Wednesday next week.



Bringing the message at Maple Grove on the first Sunday in January will be Patrick Helmuth, the CEO of P. Graham Dunn Inc. Patrick lives in North Canton with his wife Amy Glick and their 4 children (Karl 18, Peter 16, Anna 13, Maria 11). They attend Beech Mennonite Church. Patrick has worked at P. Graham Dunn for the past 15 years. Amy is a member of the Akron Symphony Orchestra. Patrick served for 4 years as a bivocational pastor at Bethel Mennonite in Wadsworth from 2009-2013.

### Offering Envelope Numbers

In order to receive a year-end statement of your offerings, you must have an offering number. To obtain an offering number, please contact Kami Sommers. The offering envelopes are designed so you can designate your offering to specific funds. If funds are not designated on the envelope, they are included in the General Fund with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month which is Education Sunday and non-designated funds go to the Education Fund. For accurate recording, please mark the front of your envelope with your offering number as well as designation of funds. If you have any questions, please contact John Koshmider, the church treasurer.

**Ohio Conference will hold a Women in Leadership Retreat February 18-19, 2022, at the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin.** The theme of the retreat is “Empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead like yourself.” The input speaker for this retreat will be Rebecca Slough, academic dean emerita and professor emerita of worship and the arts at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. **Maple Grove will sponsor any congregants that would like to attend – the deadline to register is January 28.** Please let Pastor Nathanael know if you are interested. For more information, please see the [retreat brochure](#). Copies of the brochure are on the literature rack at the church.



**As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to save your Acme grocery receipts.**

Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH. The program runs through December 31, 2021. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project! *Ministry of Outreach*

**Family Ministry has freezer meals available for those in need.**

These can be taken to someone in the church or a neighbor or a friend who could use some help. The meals are in the freezer in the church kitchen and labeled with heating instructions. There is Tater Tot Casserole, Buffalo Chicken Mac-n-cheese, and Apple Crisp. Please let Cindy in the church office know what meal(s) you are taking and who it is going to. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Family Ministry:

- Marsha Miller, Vee Miller, Charla Sommers, Sheryl Weaver

**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](http://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  
 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, Clara Sommers, 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: Room 10-Hallway  
 Mixed Post-High/20's-40's: Basement

**Children/Youth Classes**

PreK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rooms 7-8  
 - Teachers: Lesli Miller & Sheryl Weaver  
 Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4  
 - Teacher: Karen Miller  
 Youth (Grades 9-12): Basement  
 - Teacher: Kami Sommers