



## Lent 3 – March 20, 2022

### Psalm 63:1-8 (NRSV)

#### **Seeking God's Ways: From Earning to Receiving**

*As we seek God's way, we move from believing that we must earn our nourishment, our privileges, even our identity as God's children, to an understanding that abundant life is a gift from God to all.*

**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler

**Song Leader:** Lois Bontrager

**Worship Leader:** Jill Liechty

**Children's Time:** Kami Sommers

**Scripture Reader:** Clara Sommers

#### **GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

STJ #13 *My Soul is Filled with Joy*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People:** *whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts are beyond our thoughts.*

Leader: Today we accept God's invitation to the feast,

**People:** *where there is water in the desert and delightful food to share.*

Leader: As we worship, we receive the abundant gifts of God

**People:** *without money and without price.*

**ALL:** *So let us praise God and sing for joy.*

#### **PRAISING**

Praise Songs

STS #116 *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside*

STS #113 *I Will Stand in the Congregation*

Offering – Education Fund

#### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Psalm 63:1-8 (NRSV)

Message

***Seeking God's Ways: From Earning to Receiving***

## RESPONDING

Song of Response

HWB #575 *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

### Congregational Response:

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

**People: *Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.***

Leader: We seek God's ways.

*(Pause)*

**ALL: *Lord, move us from feeling we must earn Your love to receive and give Your grace to ourselves and others.***

### Prayer of Confession

Leader: Holy One, we seek You while You may be found.

**People: *We call upon You while You are near.***

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not Your thoughts and our ways are not Your ways.

**People: *Forgive us for acting as if we must earn Your love. Open us to receiving Your love as a gift.***

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see Your way more clearly,

**ALL: *and follow Your way more faithfully.***

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## SENDING

Sending Song

STS #34 *You Are Holy*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

#### PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

*Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy, adapt, and project "Seeking God's Ways" 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)*

*VT-Voices Together (purple)*

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

✝ Pray for our homebound church family: Mabel Weaver and Nelson Schlabach.

✝ Pray for healing for others with health concerns: Margaret Miller, Betty Miller's sister and Sheryl Weaver's sister-in-law; Tom Johnson's mother Donna; Marcus Yoder, Lois Bontrager and Ruth Hills' brother, who is in a rehab nursing facility; Barb Dutcher's brother-in-law Neal Orndorff on hospice.

✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world; we pray for the situation between Ukraine and Russia. We pray against the spirit of violence and war and pray for peace in the area.





**Offering Last Sunday, March 13**

**Attendance: 66**

General Fund	\$ 5,527.31
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b><u>\$ 5,527.31</u></b>

**The third Sunday of each month is Education Sunday;**  
on March 20<sup>th</sup>, non-designated funds from the offering will go toward the Education Fund.

**Coffee Time & Fellowship @ Church – Sunday mornings**



If you would like to help with supplying donuts and baked goods for coffee time on Sunday mornings, please sign up by clicking on the link below. Two dozen donuts and homemade or store-bought baked goods are needed. Please have at the church by 9am on Sunday morning. If you have any questions with signing up, please contact Jen Geiser. Thanks for your help! Use this link to sign up: [Maple Grove: Coffee Time Sign Up \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

**Attention College Bound Students: Applications for Higher Education Grants from Maple Grove for 2022-2023 school year are due 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 or check with Jill Liechty, Youth Leader. Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove’s Treasurer, John Koshmider, by March 31, 2022.



**Maple Grove Work Day @ Hartville Migrant Center – March 26 from 9am-noon**

The Ministry of Outreach is asking for volunteers to help with the work day planned at the Hartville Migrant Center on Saturday, March 26. Work will begin at 9:00 a.m. Maple Grove has committed a group to help with the indoor and outdoor work that is planned so please put this on your calendar and plan to volunteer if able - sign up on the sheet posted at the church or let Holly Miller or Harold Beachy know if you are able to help out.



**Maple Grove’s leadership has been working on**

**“Who is Maple Grove today and who is God calling us to be in Hartville and beyond!”**

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Terry Shue and Pastor Nathanael will be leading a Visioning Process for Maple Grove. Mark it on your calendars and please make it a priority for you and your family to be present on that Sunday. Child care will be provided. More details to come!

**There will be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

Feel free to bring a puzzle and we will decide which one to start! Anyone is welcome to come and participate. If you have any questions, contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.

**Derby Car Race & Church Social – April 3**

The children and youth are making derby cars and having a race on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We will be having an All-church Social & Derby Race at the church starting at 4:00 p.m.

Family Ministry is asking everyone to bring a snack/finger food to share with the group.



If you have any questions, please contact AJ & Jen Geiser or Adam & Kim Weaver. ***Joins us on race day!***

**Attention Past and Current Hartville Thrift Shoppe volunteers and Board of Directors**



In 2021, the Hartville Thrift Shoppe gave \$1M to MCC. This achievement would not have been possible without the legacy of the Thrift House so we will be having a **Founders Tea: Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1 pm** in the new meeting room off the breakroom. (Park in the back and enter in the back.) This will be a time for anyone who volunteered, served on the Steering or Operating Committees, the Board of Directors, or otherwise helped with the formative years of the Thrift House/Gift and Thrift Shoppe/Hartville Thrift Shoppe to join us for a time of sharing memories with each other. (Light refreshments will be served.) No need to RSVP, just show up.

We have created a banner to commemorate this accomplishment and we are asking those who helped the Thrift Shoppe get to this milestone to sign the banner. If you have photos you'd like to share, please bring those along with you. If Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> doesn't work for you, you can stop by to sign the banner any time after the 22<sup>nd</sup>. **If you are the child or grandchild or other relative of a founding volunteer**, and they are no longer living, you are invited to share on their behalf (we know you have heard many Thrift House/Shoppe stories over the years). Bring pictures and/or a copy of your loved one's signature (we'll transfer a copy to the banner). If you aren't able to physically attend, you can send photos and/or signatures to Brenda Latulippe at [blatuilppe@hartvillethriftshoppe.org](mailto:blatuilppe@hartvillethriftshoppe.org) or text to 330-933-6372. **Signing for current and past volunteers** and staff will be Wednesday & Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Light refreshments will be provided from 10-12 each day.

**On Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Eric Kurtz**, MCC Great Lakes Executive Director, will be given a ceremonial \$1M check by the Board of Directors. The check will be given at the Board of Directors meeting but if you would like to attend the ceremony, please let Brenda Latulippe know so we can accommodate everyone.

### **From MCC: Respond to the crisis in Ukraine**

On February 24, Russian military forces began an invasion of Ukraine by land, sea and air. Active shelling, airstrikes and other active hostilities are targeting cities across the entire country. Casualties continue to grow and the violence is causing serious disruptions to electricity, gas and water systems. Hundreds of thousands of people are without gas and electricity. The United Nations Refugee Agency reports that more than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since February 24.

MCC has worked in Ukraine since our beginnings in 1920, opening soup kitchens to provide relief to thousands of starving families. Our projects in Ukraine prior to the Russian invasion included relief, peace, health and education programs. MCC is in regular contact with our partners who are working to assess immediate needs and are planning ways to scale up their work. MCC has approved several smaller-scale emergency response projects as we make plans for longer-term work. **Please join us as we pray for peace in Ukraine.**

To learn more or to donate, please see <https://mcc.org/stories/crisis-ukraine>. Donation checks can be mailed to: MCC, Attn: Ukraine Crisis, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500.



### **Everence® to hold Medicare and Retirement Income Workshops this April and May**

On April 5<sup>th</sup> & May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Everence will hold Medicare workshops in Hartville at 6:30 p.m. The Medicare workshops will include, when and where to sign up for Medicare, what Medicare covers, plus an explanation of Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D. The Retirement Income Planning & Social Security workshop in Hartville is May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and will include Social Security strategies including when to begin taking benefits, strategies to help your income last throughout retirement, and risks that can impact your retirement savings. To reserve your spot, contact Kelly Troyer at 800-986-9988 or email us at [northeastohio@everence.com](mailto:northeastohio@everence.com).

### **Lighthouse Ministries Annual Banquet – April 30**

On Saturday, April 30, the Lighthouse will host its Annual Banquet at the One Center for Leadership in Canton (901 Tuscarawas Street E.). Guests are invited to join us for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, storytelling, and a live strings performance by Lighthouse students and educators from the Canton Symphony Orchestra. This will be a small gathering limited to 120 people. Doors open at 5:30PM, program begins at 6:00pm. There is no ticket cost to attend the event, but there will be an opportunity to give a gift and support the Lighthouse. RSVP by email at [communications@cantonlighthouse.org](mailto:communications@cantonlighthouse.org) or call Lighthouse Ministries at (330) 915-3013.

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

In the current issue, learn about the partnership between Fraser Valley Church and MDS Canada in response to last year's devastating flood, read about MDS volunteers making a difference for hurricane survivors in Louisiana, and find out how one volunteer went the extra mile to restore a banjo for a flood survivor. Click [here](#) to read more – copies are available on the literature rack at the church as well.

**From Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship:** Attention Graduate Students in Healthcare Disciplines and BSN students. Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) encourages persons studying for healthcare professions at the master's level and above, or the rising junior/senior level in BSN programs, to learn and serve in underserved areas, especially cross-cultural mission/service settings. Apply for a Student Elective Term (SET) grant with MHF to help cover living and travel expenses. For more information, visit our [website](#) or email [info@mennohealth.org](mailto:info@mennohealth.org).

**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  
Men's Class: Room 9-Hallway  
Mixed Post-High/20's-40's: Basement

**Children/Youth Classes**

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