



Lent 4 – March 27, 2022

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

**Seeking God's Ways: From Exceptionalism to Inclusion**

*As we seek God's way, we move from a sense that "we" and "ours" have special standing to the knowledge that all are equally part of God's Kingdom.*

**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler

**Song Leader:** Ruth Yoder

**Worship Leader:** Kami Sommers

**Children's Time:** Kami Sommers

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #49 *All Who Are Thirsty*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People:** *rejoicing that we are new creations in Christ.*

Leader: From a human point of view, we demand what is ours,

**People:** *but through Jesus we learn that all share in God's inheritance.*

Leader: Let us join God's feast,

**People:** *where all celebrate together.*

**ALL:** *Let us live out God's way of inclusion.*

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs

*How Great is Our God  
Beautiful Things*

Offering – General Fund

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

Message

***Seeking God's Ways: From Exceptionalism to Inclusion***

## RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #390 *In Christ There is No East or West*

### 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 our tribal thinking to Your radical inclusion.***

### 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 thinking we deserve special treatment. Lead us to radical inclusion.***

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

VT #387 *We Are One in the Spirit*

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 Marv & Leroy Sommers' mother Judy who is recovering from a broken hip from a fall.

✚ Pray for Heidi Miller's father who is experiencing some health issues.

✚ 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 20-Education Sunday**

**Attendance: 64**

General Fund	\$ 15,520.00
Education Fund	160.00
Special Designation-New Piano	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Offering	<u>\$ 16,680.00</u>

*Mark Your*  
**CALENDAR**

**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!

**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 – thank you!



**Palm Sunday:** Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Palm Sunday observes Jesus's triumphant and joyful entrance into Jerusalem, marked by jubilant crowds waving palm branches, which symbolize victory over sin, peace, and eternal life.

**Maundy Thursday Service:** On Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate communion together as well as demonstrate our commitment to a servant’s life by washing feet. A light meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the service following immediately after the meal. We invite all believers to come to this service, giving thanks for Christ’s life, death, resurrection and the gift of Salvation. We encourage you to prepare your hearts for this time.



**Easter Sunday Celebration:** On April 17<sup>th</sup>, our Easter Sunday Celebration will begin with sharing breakfast together at 8:30 followed by worshipping together at 10:00 a.m.

There will not be Sunday School classes. If you are planning to join us for Easter Sunday breakfast, please sign up and note how many are attending from your family. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the church or let Cindy know in the church office. This is only for planning purposes – all are welcome to join us for breakfast Easter Sunday whether you are signed up or not! The Food Committee has also posted sign-up sheets for breakfast items if you would like to bring something to share. Please let a member of Ministry of Congregational Care know if you have any questions.

## Derby Car Race & Church Social – April 3 @ 4:00 p.m.

The children and youth are making derby cars and having a race next 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!***



### **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.

## **The March-April 2022 issue of [Ohio Mennonite Evangel](#) from Ohio Conference is now available.**

Paper copies are available on the literature rack at the church.

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

Church Information: 2121 Smith Kramer St. NE, Hartsville, 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