



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

Newsletter dated  
April 1, 2022

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))



Lent 5 – April 3, 2022

John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

**Seeking God’s Ways: From Scarcity to Abundance**

*As we seek God’s way, we move from the fear that there is not enough to the freedom of living within God’s abundance.*

**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Myron Weaver

**Song Leader:** Ruth Yoder  
**Children’s Time:** Kami Sommers

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

*The River is Here*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People: *who makes a way in the sea and provides rivers in the desert.***

Leader: God fills our lives with love and beauty as sweet fragrance fills the air.

**People: *We live within the abundance of God,***

Leader: so let us laugh and shout for joy

**ALL: *as we worship God together.***

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs

*Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

VT #323 (Verses 1-3) & VT #324

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/The Wonderful Cross*

Offering – General Fund

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

Children’s Time

Scripture Reading

John 12:1-8 (NRSV)

Message

***Seeking God’s Ways: From Scarcity to Abundance***

## RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #467 *Taste and See*

### 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 scarcity mentality into Your abundant life.***

### 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 believing the myth of scarcity. Help us live into Your abundance.***

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

*Living Hope*

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 our homebound church family: Mabel Weaver and Nelson Schlabach.

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

✠ Pray for Mary Hilmer who fell and broke her shoulder and is very sore. At this time she does not need to have surgery. Please pray for her comfort and quick healing.

✠ Pray for Lesli Miller who had hip surgery on Thursday and now at home facing a long recovery.

✠ Pray for healing for others with health concerns: Heidi Miller's father for health issues; Marv & Leroy Sommers' mother Judy recovering from a fall; Margaret Miller, Betty Miller's sister and Sheryl Weaver's sister-in-law, for treatment for cancer; Tom Johnson's mother Donna for health concerns; 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 27**

**Attendance: 56**

General Fund	\$ 3,310.00
Special Designation-MCC-Ukraine	100.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 3,410.00</u>

**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://signupgenius.com)

**The Derby Car Race & Church Social is Sunday, April 3, at the church starting at 4:00 p.m.**



The children, youth, and some adults have made derby cars and the Derby Race is on Sunday. Family Ministry is asking everyone to bring a snack/finger food to share with the group. **Everyone is welcome to come watch the race and enjoy some fellowship time!** If you have any questions, please contact one of the Kids Club/Jr Youth Leaders – AJ & Jen Geiser and Adam & Kim Weaver

**The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, April 6**



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we knot comforters and quilt in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch and spend the day, or come for just a bit. We enjoy each other's friendship while we work! Please contact Twila Miller or Sheryl Weaver if you have any questions.

**There will also be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, April 6, starting at 2:00 p.m.**

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.

*Mark Your*  
**CALENDAR**



***Visioning Process Sunday – May 1***

**“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!



**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.

**Mauddy 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.

**Adriel 2022 Virtual Benefit Auction:** Celebrate National Foster Care Month with an auction to benefit foster families and foster youth in your community. Register NOW at <https://www.biddingforgood.com/AdrielBenefit>! Then join us on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm to begin bidding on your favorite items! Visit [www.adriel.org](http://www.adriel.org) for more information.

### **Announcements & Prayers for April 2022 from Ohio Conference:**

*(Copies of all are posted on the Conference bulletin board in the hallway at the church.)*

- Mennonite Education Agency has compiled [Prayers for Mennonite Education](#) for April.
- [Prayer Vine](#), a publication of Mennonite Mission Network, lists daily prayer requests for mission workers serving in locations around the world.
- MC USA announcements for the month of April are available [here](#).

**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)

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

Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4

Youth (Grades 9-12): Basement