



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



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

Newsletter dated
 April 8, 2022



Palm Sunday – April 10, 2022

Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

Seeking God’s Ways: From Power Over to Power With

As we seek God’s way, we move from an understanding of power that grasps for control over others to an understanding that true power comes from working with and for others in love.

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler **Song Leader:** Renee Koshmider
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager **Children’s Time:** Kami Sommers

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Together we seek the way of God, a way so different from the ways of this world.

People: ***We remind ourselves to loosen our grasp, to trust instead of control.***

Leader: We praise a God we cannot see and celebrate a salvation we do not understand.

People: ***In worship we give of ourselves and we receive the disarming power of God.***

Leader: We cry:

ALL: ***Blessed is the One who comes in the power of God’s name.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Jesus Paid It All
 Jesus Messiah*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Children’s Time

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:5-11 (NRSV)

Message

***Seeking God’s Ways:
 From Power Over to Power With***

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #580 *To Leave the Stones Unthrown*

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 seeking the power to control others to instead using power with them for everyone's healing and wholeness.*

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 seeking power over others and let us instead seek power with and for the most vulnerable.*

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

HWB #307 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

(Verses 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6)

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, Nelson Schlabach, and Marcus Yoder (Lois Bontrager and Ruth Hills' brother).

✝ Pray for those from our congregation with health concerns: Lee Yoder, Mary Hilmer, Lesli Miller, Marsha Miller, Sam Miller, Luke Sommers, Junior Sommers, and Carol Sommers.

✝ Pray for healing for others with health concerns: Heidi Miller's father Dean Kaufman; Marv & Leroy Sommers' mother Judy who is now in rehab recovering from a fall; Margaret Miller, Betty Miller's sister and Sheryl Weaver's sister-in-law; Tom Johnson's mother Donna; and 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.



Maundy Thursday Service: On Thursday, April 14th, 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.

Good Friday: Pastor Nathanael has prepared devotions for Good Friday that will be available in the church lobby. Please help yourself to the devotions as we commemorate Jesus' suffering and death on the cross with prayer and meditation.



Easter Sunday: 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.

Offering Last Sunday, April 3

Attendance: 74

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund | \$ 5,314.00 |
| Education Fund | 2,052.40 |
| Ministry of Outreach | 13,000.00 |
| Special Designation-New Piano | 1,200.00 |
| My Coins Count | 181.00 |
| Total Offering | <u>\$ 21,747.40</u> |





Hartville Migrant Center Collection for Welcome Bags – April 10 & 17

Ministry of Outreach is having a collection of funds for the Hartville Migrant Center that will be used toward purchasing items needed for the welcome bags for the migrants. If you would like to contribute, please mark your giving envelope "Migrant Center" and the funds will be directed to this outreach project. We will be collecting the next two Sundays: April 10 & 17. If you have any questions, please see a member of Ministry of Outreach: Harold Beachy, Holly Miller, Howard Miller

Thank you for your help with this project!



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 1st, 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!

Ladies' Book Study starts April 27 – please sign up by April 17th to participate!

There will be a ladies' book study starting on Wednesday, April 27, with Clara Sommers and Savannah Hofstetter Ressler leading the study. The book is "Relentless – The Unshakeable Presence of a God Who Never Leaves" by Michele Cushatt (<https://michelecushatt.com/relentless/>). The book study will be on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the church in the Women's SS classroom #1. The study will last 6 weeks, but will not meet on the Wednesdays there is Sewing & Comforter Knotting – no study the first Wednesday of May and June. If you would like to join us, please sign up by April 17th on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at the church so books can be ordered. You may also let Cindy know in the church office and she will add your name to the class. Any questions, please see Clara or Savannah.

Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night at Church – May 11 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Building & Grounds Committee is planning spring cleaning & outside work night at the church on Wednesday, May 11th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We'll need everyone's help to be able to clean the entire church as well as spruce up the outside in one evening. So bring your buckets, rags, ladders, wheelbarrows and shovels, and join us for an evening of work and fellowship.



Mark your calendars for VBS this summer – June 27-July 1! It will be held in the mornings and combined with Evermore Community Church again this year. More details will follow. If you have any questions, please see Kim Weaver or Ruth Yoder.



Central Christian School has several new open teaching positions. These teachers will become integral in educating students and growing Christian leaders. Please see the job descriptions included in the link below and share with anyone you think might want to join the Central Christian teaching team. Go to: <https://www.ccscomets.org/about/employment.cfm>.

From MCC-Great Lakes: Join us for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on April 22-23!

A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Kidron Community Park to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Dates Friday, April 22 (11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.); Saturday, April 23 (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Location: Kidron Community Park Recreational Building - 4434 Kidron Road, Kidron OH 44636

Upcoming Events @ Lighthouse Ministries in Canton

- 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 or call Lighthouse Ministries at (330) 915-3013.
- On Saturday, June 4, the Lighthouse will host a Marketplace + Open House for anyone interested in touring the Lighthouse property and supporting our young entrepreneurs in the Lighthouse Business Builders Club. Businesses featured will be selling lip balms, candles, face masks, cake pops, and lemonade! This event will be held both inside and outdoors. Event hours will be 12:00pm-4:00pm. RSVP for the Marketplace + Open House at slotted.co/lhopenhouse22. There is no ticket cost to attend this event, but there will be an opportunity to give a gift and support the Lighthouse both in-person and online. All products purchased from our student business owners should be paid for in cash. Students keep 100% of their profits. (And they are excited!)

Webinar: “Welcoming refugees in your community” on Tuesday, April 12, 2-3 p.m.

Join MCC and Church World Service (CWS) to learn more about welcoming refugees in the United States. During the webinar, Charity Stowell, MCC U.S. Newcomer Connections Coordinator, and Ted Blessing, CWS Community Engagement Organizer, will address questions such as, “Who are refugees and how do they come to the U.S.? What does the refugee resettlement process look like?” Learn about the challenges and opportunities refugees encounter when they settle into their new community, and the ways in which churches can get involved. More information and registration at mcc.org/welcoming-refugees-webinar

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. UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) reports that 6 million people have limited or no safe access to water. They also report that 12 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. The United Nations Refugee Agency reports that more than 4 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.

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

Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler: Pastor (pastornathanael@maplegrovemennonite.org)
- Office Hours: Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-1-3pm; Friday-Sabbath
Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary (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-4th Grade: Rooms 7-8
Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4
Youth (Grades 9-12): Basement