



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  
 November 23, 2022

*I am sure many of us have heard the expression “a watched pot never boils.” And while not literally true it does speak to something many of us, perhaps all of us, have experienced in one way or another. These moments of anticipation, whether staring at the clock counting the moments until the school bell rings, constantly checking our phone while expecting a reply, or counting the days until an upcoming trip. The season of Advent is a time of waiting; this waiting is a practice of remembering the time the world waited for the Messiah to be born, as well as embracing the reality that we today presently wait for Jesus' return. What will Jesus' return bring and what does, or should, waiting for this look like?*

*Our theme for Advent this year is Restoration is Near. It is an invitation for us to embrace a kind of waiting that lives and moves rather than passively watching the metaphorical pot. Jesus came as Salvation and salvation is all things being restored. This means for us, that our waiting should look like restoration! This Advent season let us embrace the restoration found in Jesus and live out that restoration in our daily lives so that we might wait in faith and hope!*

*In Christ,  
 Pastor Nathanael*

- November 27: Restoration is Near – Watch: The day is almost here  
 We need restoration, awaiting Christ's coming in our time just as the world waited before the first incarnation. In anticipation, we are to live as restored people.
- December 4: Restoration is Near – Prepare the Way of the Lord  
 In a world where power holds sway, Jesus will judge differently. We are called to prepare the way for this new kind of ruler. This calls for repentance and truth-telling.
- December 11: Restoration is Near – Tell What You Hear and See  
 This is a week of encouragement. We can be strong because the one who can truly restore us is coming. We have hope because of what we have already seen.
- December 18: Restoration is Near – Do Not Be Afraid  
 God has promised to restore us and has acted in Jesus to further God's plan of restoration. Because of God's promise, we can act by asking for what we need and by stepping out in faith.
- December 25: Christmas Day – Sing for Joy: Your God Reigns  
 The long-anticipated restoration is here and now. The same Holy Spirit that birthed Jesus is available to us. This is how a small baby can be good news for today's world.

*The tapestry at the front represents our theme of Restoration as a process of assembling and bringing different pieces together as they should be to create a beautiful whole. Each week we will be adding a ribbon until the tapestry is complete.*

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)  
 VT-Voices Together (purple)

## Advent 1 – November 27, 2022



### **Restoration is Near - Watch: The day is almost here**

*We need restoration, awaiting Christ's coming in our time just as the world waited before the first incarnation. In anticipation, we are to live as restored people.*

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

**Children's Time:** Michael Yoder  
**Candle Lighting:** Sam & Vee Miller

### **GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

*Here I Am to Worship (Light of the World)*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel; You who sit on the mercy seat between the cherubim, we stand in Your presence, seeking Your face.

**People: Shine forth, O Lord, in the sight of Your people, that we may see You clearly. Stir up Your strength in us; come, rescue us**

Leader: The time is near, we are watching; restore us again, O God.

**People: Cause Your face to shine and we shall be saved, made whole by Your gracious love and kindness.**

**ALL: We are watching and waiting for You, O Lord.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Candle Lighting Song

HWB #172 O Come, O Come, Immanuel (Verses 1 & 6)

Candle Litany

Leader: Watch! You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

**People: The night is far gone, the day is near.**

Leader: As we watch, we light this candle as a sign of our hope.

**People: Bring Your restoration to Your people, we pray.**

### **PRAISING**

Praise Song

*Revival*

Offering – General Fund

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

Children's Time

Scripture

Matthew 24:36–44 (NRSV)

Message

***Watch: The day is almost here***

### **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

*Beautiful Things*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

### **SENDING**

Sending Song

*How Firm a Foundation (Verses 1, 2 & 6)*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude





**Please join us on Christmas Eve for a service of singing and celebrating Jesus' birth.**

The service will begin at 6:00 p.m.



- ✝ Pray for those who are traveling over the Thanksgiving holiday; and pray for those who are away from their families or alone over Thanksgiving.
- ✝ Pray for those from our congregation with health concerns: Rachel Weaver at GentleBrook recovering from a fall; Becky Lubbers for hand surgery, Carol Sommers for back surgery, and Kami Sommers for foot surgery.
- ✝ Pray for Sheryl Weaver recovering from a hysterectomy.
- ✝ Pray for Sara Mae Miller as she transitions into living at an assisted living facility.
- ✝ Pray for healing for others with health concerns: Tom Johnson's sister, Brenda Richardson, recovering from a liver transplant; Alta Bates' brother-in-law, Jerry Potter, with esophageal cancer.
- ✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence and hate.

Thank you to the church family for the prayers, calls, texts, visits and meals brought to us during Becky's hand surgery. It was such a blessing and helped us so much. With love, Becky & Tom Lubbers



We would like to thank the church family for the prayers, visits, cards and meals that were provided for mom over the last 3 plus years. This is how the church shares the love of Jesus and we will be forever grateful. The church meant a lot to mom and she watched the service online for as long as she could see and hear well enough. After having mom with us for almost 98 years, life will be different, but the love and caring from this church will be such a blessing.

With gratitude and love, The Mabel Weaver Family

We love our Maple Grove Mennonite Church family and are so thankful for the support you showed our family during the loss of our precious mother. Thank you, too, for the prayers, visits, and meals you shared with her over the last several months as her health began to decline. Thank you, Pastor Nathanael, for assisting our family in finalizing the funeral details. We are grateful to Renee for the gift of her time to play piano for the funeral service. We were blessed with a comforting funeral meal, which was an amazing gift and blessing to our family.

Love and Blessings, Tom & Julie Weaver



**Offering Last Sunday, November 13-Education Sunday      Attendance: 67**

General Fund	\$ 3,550.00
Education Fund	2,708.00
Lake Township FISH	600.00
Special Designations	<u>3,200.00</u>
Total Offering	<u>\$ 10,058.00</u>

**Our Daily Bread devotionals for December 2022-February 2023 are available on the literature rack at the church.** Please help yourself!



### **Join Maple Grove's Christmas Choir!**

All are invited to join Maple Grove's Christmas choir to sing special music for the service on December 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be two choir practices at 9:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>. All ages are welcome to join! If you have any questions, please talk to Ruth Yoder or Renee Koshmider.



### **Sunday is Maple Grove's 100-Year Anniversary Celebration!**

We will be gathering during our Sunday School time beginning at 9:00 a.m. with an informal snack/breakfast time from 8:30-9:00 a.m.

We plan to have the updated history of Maple Grove ready for purchase.

**You are encouraged to invite guests to the celebration!** Extend an invitation to family members, out-of-town guests, former members and interested visitors.

### **A Call for Artifacts:**

It's not too late to bring in historical artifacts and photographs related to the history and the larger church community. There is a display table in the Fellowship Hall. Please fill out a note card to accompany your artifact and explain what it is. Thank you for your participation.

-The 100-year Anniversary Committee:

Michael Yoder, Gary Sommers, Clara Sommers, Rhoda Sommers & Lee Yoder

### **There will be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30.**

Come and work on a puzzle with us or just enjoy the company! Anyone is welcome to come and participate. If you have any questions, contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.



An updated phone directory booklet has been placed in each mailbox and emailed out to the church email distribution list. If there are any changes to your information, or if you would like to be included in the directory, please contact Cindy in the church office at [secretary@maplegrovenonite.org](mailto:secretary@maplegrovenonite.org) or 330-877-2400.



*Thank you to everyone who helped with the collection for the Community Thanksgiving Food Drive. We collected close to 200 boxes of stuffing mix as well as gift cards and cash donations. The Ministry of Outreach would like to thank you for your generosity. What a blessing for FISH and our community!*

### **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 24, 2022. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project! *Ministry of Outreach*



### **It's time for LOC Christmas 2022!**

This event is a time dedicated for our local schools, businesses, churches, and individuals to partner together to

alleviate some of the burden that the holiday season can bring upon so many families. This year, we will be offering a combination of gift cards and items at a fraction of the cost to local families in need, including necessities like new blankets, socks, toiletries, and gently used winter weather gear. Families will also have the opportunity to shop the LOC Warehouse!

### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

- Purchase gift cards for \$10, \$20, \$40 or \$60 – see the Christmas giving tree in the church lobby, and take a tag for the amount you would like to spend. Suggestions of where to purchase gift cards are printed on the back of the tag.
  - Label gift card(s) with gift amount and return to the church – there is a basket to collect the cards by the giving tree.
- If you wish to purchase physical gifts, visit [LOC Christmas website](#) and select one of the stores listed under the Gift Wish Lists. A Charity List of requested items is shown for each store.
  - Return the **UNWRAPPED** gift to the church.

**Please send in all donations to the church by Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

If you have any questions, please contact Holly Miller. For more information about Love Our Community and to sign up to volunteer, visit Love Our Community's website [www.loveourcommunity.net](http://www.loveourcommunity.net).

## **Deck the Halls & Stock the Store**



**Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas program is for families in the southeast neighborhood of Canton surrounding the Lighthouse.** In purchasing presents for kids, the real gift you are offering is dignity that comes with a parent's ability to provide for their children.

- The lists of gifts you see on the board in the church lobby were generated by responses to surveys that were distributed to parents and caregivers of the children who use the Lighthouse services.
- The presents you purchase will be sold at an affordable price in a "store" run by the Lighthouse. Affordable means the gifts will be marked down at least 25% of the purchase price.
- Please make sure that every gift has the purchase price listed somewhere on the packaging.
- Please tape the tag on the gift. If you are purchasing a gift card, there is a basket by the Lighthouse board for gift cards.
- **All gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED by Wednesday, November 30.**

Any questions, please contact Holly Miller.



### **Christmas at Malone – Friday, December 2 & Saturday, December 3**

The Malone University Department of Music is delighted to announce our annual Christmas concert on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Johnson Center for Worship and Fine Arts. This year's concert theme is **Savior of the Nations, Come!** Tickets are available at [Christmas at Malone | Malone University](#) for \$10 & \$15. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15.00.

### **Oak Grove Mennonite Church's 34<sup>th</sup> annual "Search for the Christ Child" – December 4**

Experience the Christmas story as it happened over 2000 years ago! Join fellow searchers on a 45 minute, indoor-outdoor, walk-through experience, as we re-enact the events of the very first Christmas! Come & go between 5-7pm on Sunday, December 4, at Oak Grove Mennonite Church located at 7843 Smucker Road in Smithville – dress warmly! Bring a canned good or toiletry item for People to People Ministries. The tour is handicap accessible.

**The November-December issue of the *Ohio Mennonite Evangel* from Ohio Conference is now available.** Click [here](#) to read the issue on line; paper copies are available on the literature rack at the church.

**To include something in the newsletter, please contact Cindy by 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 – Maple Grove Mennonite Church Group  
(send updates to Pastor Nathanael, Jill Liechty or Julie Yoder)  
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): Youth Room-Basemen