



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
December 2, 2022

On Sunday, we welcome Jeremy & Michele Patterson to Maple Grove. Jeremy is an elder at Sonnenberg Mennonite Church in Kidron and will bring the message for the second Sunday of Advent.



Advent 2 – December 4, 2022

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #218 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: A branch shall come forth from the stump of Jesse; its root shall bear fruit.

People: *May we be ready, O Lord, ready to be fruit bearers of Your harvest, bringing forth the fruit of dwelling, longing, unity, and peace.*

Leader: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.

People: *Renew our spirit, stand as a banner before us, bright as morning glory.*

Leader: Prepare the way for new life that emerges in and through You,
life that ripples out to Your people, into all nations.

ALL: *In You there is glorious rest.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Candle Lighting Song

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

Candle Litany

Leader: John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near."

People: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make God's paths straight.*

Leader: As we prepare, we light this candle as a sign of peace.

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

PRAISING

Praise Song

Hope of the Nations

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

A Shepherd Remembers

Scripture

Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV)

Message

Prepare the Way of the Lord

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

VT #219 *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

VT #793 *We Are Marching*



Message: Jeremy Patterson
Worship Leader: Myron Weaver
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder

A Shepherd Remembers: Michael Yoder
Candle Lighting: Barb Dutcher

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-Voces Together (purple)

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.

Upcoming Services:

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*

(No Sunday School) 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.



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 in our congregation recovering from surgeries: Becky Lubbers, Carol Sommers, Kami Sommers, and Sheryl Weaver.

✝ Pray for Sami Miller's father Dave Golias.

✝ 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.





We would like to thank our church family for the outpouring of love and prayers that we received over the past few weeks. The food, flowers, visits, cards, calls and texts, brought peace and JOY to us as we continue to Thank God for his protection and healing.

Shalom—Sheryl & Myron

Thank you from Kelsey Wood, Director of Lake Township FISH:

I just wanted to report back that we served 182 families, including 588 people, through our Thanksgiving bag giveaway on Tuesday! THANK YOU ALL so much for championing this event each year at your churches and getting the community involved to help so many families. We were able to take the remaining food back to the FISH Food Pantry and we are working on a plan to get that additional food to families throughout the month of December so that families' pantries stay stocked for Christmas. The community was also incredibly blessed by both Lake Local Schools and the Hartville Police Department for their Thanksgiving food drive & Fill-A-Cruiser collections that they used to bless additional families beyond the 182; all together we were able to serve over 200 families this Thanksgiving week! Both the Lake Local and Hartville PD food drives had plenty of donations and all of their extra food has been brought to the FISH Food Pantry to help us serve families every week. Again, thank you for your help to make this a huge success.



Offering Last Sunday, November 27

Attendance: 92

General Fund	\$ 2,983.00
100-Year Book Sales	670.00
Special Designations	1,000.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 4,653.00</u>

Coffee Time & Informal Fellowship @ Church

Join us Sunday mornings before Sunday School – Everyone is welcome!



If you would like to help with supplying donuts and/or baked goods, please get in touch with Barb Dutcher (for baked goods) or Perry Miller (for donuts). Two dozen donuts and homemade or store-bought baked goods are needed at the church by 9am on Sunday mornings. Thanks for your help!



The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, December 7

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, Margaret Miller or Sheryl Weaver if you have any questions.



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 18th. There will be two choir practices at 9:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, the 4th and the 11th. All ages are welcome to join! If you have any questions, please talk to Ruth Yoder or Renee Koshmider.



The Ministry of Outreach would like to thank the congregation for your support of the two Christmas-giving projects Maple Grove participated in the last few weeks. The gifts and gift cards for Lighthouse Ministries in Canton and Love our Community in Lake Township are greatly appreciated. God bless!

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*

Family Ministry has freezer meals available for those in need.

These can be taken to someone in the church or a neighbor or a friend who could use some help. The meals are in the freezer in the church kitchen and labeled with heating instructions. There is frozen Rigatoni, Sausage & Potato Soup, Apple Crisp, and there are fruit slushes left as well. Please let Cindy in the church office know what you are taking and who it is going to.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of Family Ministry

– Barb Dutcher, Marsha Miller, Vee Miller, Sheryl Weaver

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

Facebook – Maple Grove Mennonite Church Group

(send updates to Pastor Nathanael, Jill Liechty or Julie Yoder)

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-4 th Grade:	Rooms 7-8
Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8):	Rooms 3-4
Youth (Grades 9-12):	Youth Room-Basement