



Please join us Saturday for our Christmas Eve service;
a service of singing and celebrating Jesus' birth.
The service begins at 6:00 p.m. and will be livestreamed.

December 25, 2022 – 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.



GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #249 Angels We Have Heard on High

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing and shout; how great is our God!

The heavens praise Your name; the earth proclaims Your glory!

People: *How beautiful are the feet on the mountain of those who bring Good News.*

Leader: Great is Your peace, and great are Your promises.

People: *Your Good News brings comfort to my soul. In my heart a new song cries out.*

Leader: Sing hallelujah!

ALL: *Our God reigns!*

PRAISING

Praise Song

VT #240 Joy to the World

Offering – General Fund

Carol of the Bells

HEARING GOD'S WORD

A Shepherd Remembers

Scripture

Isaiah 52:7-10 (NRSV)

Message

Sing for Joy: Your God Reigns

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #259 *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude



Message: Pastor Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Myron Weaver
Song Leader: Lois Bontrager

A Shepherd Remembers: Michael Yoder
Offertory: James Yoder

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)

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.

The Ministry of Worship would like to thank Vee Miller and Sheryl Weaver for taking care of the visuals we have appreciated through the Advent season and Christmas morning.

Holiday Schedule

- There will not be Sunday School classes on December 25 and January 1. The Worship Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. as usual. Coffee & donuts will not be available on Christmas morning.
- Pastor Nathanael will be on vacation December 26-December 31st. Please contact a member of Ministry of Congregational Care for any pastoral needs in his absence.
- The church office will be closed on Monday the week of Christmas & New Year's – December 26 and January 2. Cindy will be working Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.



- ✚ *Pray for the family of Tom Graber, Kevin Graber's brother. Tom died unexpectedly on Wednesday. Pray for his wife, Frankie, and their children, Michael & Jen, and their families.*
- ✚ *Pray for those with health concerns: Paul Bontrager's brother Elmer who has cancer; Sue Steiner, Julie Yoder's friend, hospitalized with pneumonia; Rachel Weaver's brother, John Yoder, recovering from a car accident; Tom Johnson's sister, Brenda Richardson, recovering from a liver transplant.*
- ✚ *Praise for Sam Miller's doctor report showing no trace of cancer anymore.*
- ✚ *Pray for safe travels for those who are traveling over the holidays; and pray for those who are away from their families or alone for Christmas.*
- ✚ *Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence and hate.*



*Dear friends at Maple Grove:
We want to thank all of you who brought meals to us as we were caring for mom. It was a huge help and blessing to us as her caregiving became more involved. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. Laverne & Leona Sommers*



Offering Last Sunday, December 18-Education Sunday		Attendance: 82
General Fund	\$ 12,739.00	
Education Fund	1,663.00	
100-Year Book	3,699.00	
Total Offering	<u>\$ 18,101.00</u>	

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

DON'T FORGET: 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 and Apple Crisp. 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



The December edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service.

In our current issue: find out why some disaster survivors may think it's absurd for MDS volunteers to help rebuild and restore; celebrate six home dedications in time for the holidays in Crisfield, MD; and get more details on how to register for the MDS annual celebration in Pennsylvania in February. Click [here](#) to read more. A paper copy is posted on the bulletin board 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

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