



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))



Maple Grove  
*Newsletter*

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

Newsletter dated  
 February 23, 2023

*Lent is the season of the church year when we focus particular attention on foundational questions of our existence and ask, "What does it mean for us to be the created and re-created images of God? How may we become authentically human?" We are surrounded by a host of pressures that would squeeze and contort us into less-than-human, even inhuman, shapes and disfigurements. Lent is a season to release that pressure, to repent of (turn from) all that would distort and reduce our humanity. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection call us and transform us into a new way of being human. We become human, indeed we are reborn, as the Spirit breathes life into us, a life that bursts forth from deep within like a stream of living water. We become truly human only as we welcome and claim this redeeming work of love in and for us.*

*"Created in the Image of God, Shaped by Jesus" is the theme of our Lenten journey this year. Let us open ourselves to a deep repentance that will move us in greater faithfulness toward God.*

*In Christ,  
 Pastor Nathanael*



**Lent 1 – February 26, 2023**  
**Shaped by Testing – Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)**

**Message:** Pastor Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Michael Yoder  
**Song Leader:** Lois Bontrager  
**Children's Time:** Jim & Marty Miller

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

STS #34 *You Are Holy*

Welcome & Announcements

Song of Reflection

VT #736 *Hold Us in Your Mercy*

Call to Worship & Prayer

**Leader:** Sing together! Celebrate God!

**People:** *God protects us from all our trouble.*

**Leader:** God forgives us and covers our sins.

**People:** *God surrounds us with songs of deliverance.*

**All:** *Therefore, let all God's people pray with thanksgiving and worship God.*

## **PRAISING**

Praise Songs

STS #64 *There is a Well*  
HWB #553 *I am Weak and I Need Thy Strength*

Offering – General Fund

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

Message

***Shaped by Testing***

## **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

STS #62 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord, our desire for control has separated us from You. In our stubborn independence, we have turned from Your love. We hide our failure and guilt, yet we feel their weight both day and night. Here and now, we acknowledge our sins before You and reveal our transgressions. We confess to the Lord . . .  
*(Silent Prayer)*

Leader: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven. Our slate is wiped clean. We are free to follow Jesus in obedience and experience love in every test. Amen.

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## **SENDING**

Sending Song

STJ #97 *The Lord is My Light*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

### *PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY*

*Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy, adapt, and project the Lenten 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)*

**“Created in the Image of God, Shaped by Jesus” is the theme of the Lent-at-Home worship guide from the Mennonite Education Agency (MEA).** The worship guide can be downloaded from the MEA website: [Lent at Home 2023 \(mennoniteeducation.org\)](http://Lent at Home 2023 (mennoniteeducation.org)). Printed copies of the worship guide along with “Stations of the Cross” coloring pages are available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary and on the literature rack at the church – please help yourself.



✝ Pray for others with concerns: *Barbara Volk and her family with health issues; Harold & Nancy Beachy's daughter Kim and Harold Beachy's sister Shirley with some health issues; Pastor Nathanael's Spanish teacher Adriana and her husband who has been diagnosed with cancer.*

- ✝ Continue to pray for the thousands affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
- ✝ Pray for those affected by natural disasters all over the world and pray for those involved with the relief and recovery efforts due to these natural disasters.
- ✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence and hate everywhere on a daily basis.

**Offering last Sunday, February 19 – Education Sunday**

**Attendance: 75**



Thanks for Your Support!

General Fund	\$ 2,030.00
Education Fund	1,648.00
Lake Township FISH	50.00
100-Year Book Sales	110.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,838.00</u></b>

Online giving thru PayPal available on website or via this QR code



**Please note the change in the taking of the offering.**

An offering basket will be available at the back of the sanctuary for you to drop your offering envelope before the service begins. The basket will be brought to the front of the sanctuary during the offertory music to be blessed during the offertory prayer. You may also place your offering in the basket after the service.



**Church News**

**Coffee Time & Informal Fellowship @ Church**

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

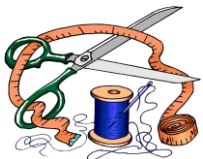


If you would like to help with supplying donuts and/or baked goods, please get in touch with Barb Dutcher (for baked goods) or Perry Miller (for donuts). Two dozen donuts and homemade or store-bought baked goods are needed at the church by 9am on Sunday mornings. Thanks for your help!

*Mark Your*  
**CALENDAR**

**Congregational Discernment Meeting is this Sunday,  
February 26 @ 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

### The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, March 1



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.

**Sunday School materials have been placed in the classrooms for the spring quarter which begins March 5<sup>th</sup>.** Sunday School quarterlies for the summer quarter will be ordered the end of March. Please let Rhoda Sommers know how many quarterlies your class will need. And if you would like to be added to the list to receive the daily devotional magazine *Rejoice*, or no longer wish to receive it, please let Rhoda know that as well. Thank you – Ministry of Education



### **Open Arms Hispanic Ministry TACO TUESDAY – March 14 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry will hold its annual Taco Tuesday fundraising dinner March 14 at 6:00 p.m. at Dutch Kitchen located at 14278 Lincoln Way E, Dalton, OH 44618. Please RSVP by March 10 to [kelsey@openarmshispanicministry.org](mailto:kelsey@openarmshispanicministry.org) or 330-466-7845 (call or text).

Ministry highlights will be shared and a freewill offering will be taken. Invite a friend and join us!

### **Missional Workshop – April 15 @ St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin**

Ohio Conference is offering a Missional Workshop entitled “Outward Church: Mobilizing the church wherever you are,” on Saturday, April 15, at St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin, Ohio. Mauricio Chenlo, Minister for Church Planting at Mennonite Mission Network, will be facilitating this day-long event.

Registration fees are based on the number of people attending together from a congregation.

Click [here](#) for the Conference website for more information on the workshop, or see the brochure posted on the bulletin board at the church. **Pastor Nathanael is planning to attend. If you would like to attend, please let Nathanael or Cindy in the church office know by Monday, March 27, so**

**registration can be done as a group.**

**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.mqmennonite.org](http://www.mqmennonite.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 – 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-Basement