



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  
 March 23, 2023



Sunday is Nathanael's ordination and Maple Grove welcomes Dick Barrett, Ohio Mennonite Conference Minister, to be a part of the service. Zack Babb, a long-time friend of Nathanael's, will bring the message and we also welcome Zack and his wife Celesta to Maple Grove. Zack has spent most of the last five years as a minister of the Gospel in the interior of Alaska together with his wife Celesta. He is currently finishing his Master of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He has been friends with Pastor Nathanael for the last 20 years, and looks forward to many more years of friendship and brotherhood in Christ.



**Lent 5 – March 26, 2023**  
**Called to Life – John 3:26-30 (ESV)**

**Message:** Zack Babb  
**Worship Leader:** Jill Liechty  
**Song Leader:** Lois Bontrager

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

STJ #4 *You've Got a Place*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Out of the depths we cry to You.

Leader: If You kept a record of sins,  
 who would stand a chance?

**People:** Voices Together #685  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**When we call, answer us**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**Come and listen to us**

**People:** Voices Together #685  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**When we call, answer us**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**O LORD, hear our prayers**  
**Come and listen to us**

Leader: But with You there is forgiveness.

**ALL:** ***We wait for You, O Lord. We hope in Your word.  
 Blessed be Your name.***

## **PRAISING**

Praise Songs

HWB #46 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

STJ #5 *Come and Be Light for our Eyes*

Offering – General Fund

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading

John 3:26-30 (ESV)

Message

***Called to Life***

## **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

HWB #614 *In the Bulb there is a Flower*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord, our lives are dry bones. We are cruel in our words and indifferent in our actions. We confess to the Lord . . .

***(Silent Prayer)***

Leader: Breathe on us, Lord. Put Your Spirit within us and make us alive.

**ALL: *We place our hope in You. Amen.***

Pastor Nathanael's Ordination

Dick Barrett

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## **SENDING**

Sending Song

STJ#73 *The Lord Lift You Up*

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)



**There will be a carry-in fellowship meal after the service.**

*All are welcome to stay for lunch!*



✝ Pray for those with health concerns: *Sylvia Miller recovering from knee surgery; Sara Mae Miller at St. Joseph's Senior Living Facility; Twila Miller; Lura Bowin; Barbara Volk and her family with health issues; Harold & Nancy Beachy's daughter Kim and Harold Beachy's sister Shirley with some health issues; Arrie Ledsome's brother-in-law Wendl Kandel who is recovering from heart surgery; Rob Richardson, Tom Johnson's brother-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer.*

✝ Pray for those affected by violence and hate everywhere on a daily basis. Pray for peace and justice for everyone throughout the world.

✝ Pray for those affected by natural disasters all over the world and pray for those involved with the relief and recovery efforts.



To My Church Family,  
 Thank you for the flowers, visits and phone calls during my recent knee surgery.  
 I am doing very well. Blessings, Sylvia Miller



- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Sunday – April 2            | - Palm Sunday                         |
| • Tuesday – April 4 @ 3:30pm  | - Ministry of Education Meeting       |
| • Tuesday – April 4 @ 4pm     | - Ministry of Worship Meeting         |
| • Wednesday – April 5         | - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knitting |
| • Thursday – April 6 @ 6:30pm | - Maundy Thursday Meal & Service      |
| • Friday – April 7            | - Good Friday Devotions               |
| • Sunday – April 9 – Easter!  | - 8:30 am - Easter Breakfast          |
| (No Sunday School classes)    | - 10am - Easter Service               |

### 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!



**Palm Sunday:** Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Palm Sunday observes Jesus's triumphant and joyful entrance into Jerusalem, marked by jubilant crowds waving palm branches, which symbolize victory over sin, peace, and eternal life.

**Maundy Thursday Service:** On Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.***



**Easter Sunday Celebration:** On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 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, March 19

General Fund	\$ 950.00
Special Designation	500.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 1,450.00</b>

**Attendance: 50**

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



### Receiving the offering

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

### Missional Workshop: “Outward Church: Mobilizing the Church Wherever You Are”

#### Saturday, April 15 @ St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin

Pastor Nathanael is attending the workshop – if you are planning to attend, please contact Cindy in the church office **by Monday, March 27**, so registration can be done as a group. Registration fees are based on the number attending from a congregation. Click [here](#) for the Ohio Conference website for more information on the workshop, or pick up a brochure from the literature rack at the church.

### Ministry of Outreach kicks off “My Coins Count” collection!



My Coins Count offering will go to MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale – **please note the sale will be July 7 & 8 at the Mt. Hope Event Center.**

My Coins Count raises money for water projects sponsored by MCC to help provide clean drinking water and new wells for communities all over the world. Water is Life!

➤ ***A person can survive for weeks without food, but will die in a few days without water. Yet for many families around the world, this basic need is out of reach.***

***Share the love of Jesus with a thirsty world!***

You may mark your offering envelope “My Coins Count” or drop your change in the wishing well.

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

Harold Beachy, Holly Miller & Savannah Hofstetter Ressler

**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 – 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