



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  
 December 14, 2023

**Please pick up paper and pens when you enter the sanctuary to be used after the message.**

**Advent 3 – December 17, 2023 - *How will we know . . . what's next?***



**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Julie Yoder  
**Song Leader:** Ruth Yoder

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

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

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship**

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Ladies: *For the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

Men: *and Holy is God's name.*

Leader: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.

(Pause)

**ALL: *Together we wonder.***

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs

HWB #212 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VT #267 & 268 *What Child is this/Helpless and Hungry*

Offering – *Education Fund*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Drama

Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 (NRSVUE)

Message

***How will we know . . . what's next?***

**RESPONDING**

Congregational Response

Song of Response

*I Wonder as I Wander*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

**SENDING**

Sending Song

VT #240 *Joy to the World*

## Benediction/Blessing

Pastor: Together we wonder.

**People: *How will we know what's next?***

Pastor: Go and hold fast to what is good, rejoice always,  
make straight the way of the Lord!

Postlude

### 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)



- ✝ *Pray for those with health concerns: Lura Bowin, Rachel Weaver, Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law Don Wagler, Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; Lee Yoder's sister Leona Slabaugh.*
- ✝ *Pray for Alexi Deuzoumbé and his family that they may soon be reunited.*
- ✝ *Pray for those affected by violence and hate all over the world.*
- ✝ *Pray for peace and justice for everyone in the world.*
- ✝ *Pray for those affected by natural disasters, and those involved with the relief & recovery efforts.*

*Thank you to everyone for all the prayers offered up for me while I recovered from the fall I took this summer. It has been a long journey and I appreciate all the kindness shown to me. I plan to return to my regular work schedule the first of the year and be in the office Monday, Tuesday & Thursday each week 8am-1pm. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and blessings on the New Year! Cindy Fleming*



- Sunday – December 24 - Christmas Eve Service – 4:30pm (only 1 service on Christmas Eve)
- Monday – December 25 - Merry Christmas! (Church Office Closed)
- Wednesday – December 27 - Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
- Saturday – Dec. 30 / 2-5pm - Open House Birthday Celebration for LeRoy Yoder's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!
- Monday – January 1, 2024 - Happy New Year! (Church Office Closed)

**Birthday Party for LeRoy Yoder** - LeRoy will be 90 years old soon and his family is celebrating his birthday! A drop-in party is scheduled for everyone on Saturday, December 30, 2023, from 2pm-5pm in the Maple Grove Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. No gifts are necessary but cards would be appreciated. Light food and drink will be provided. Come and celebrate with us!

**Lighthouse Ministries' has a matching gift opportunity of \$18,000!** From now until December 31<sup>st</sup>, every dollar given to the Lighthouse will be matched dollar-for-dollar (up to \$18,000), doubling your impact! Please prayerfully consider giving a gift to help us reach our goal of raising \$40,000. Your partnership in our work and your investment in the children living in our SE Canton neighborhood means the world to us. You can give a gift easily at [www.cantonlighthouse.org/donate](http://www.cantonlighthouse.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the Lighthouse at 1931 3rd St SE, Canton, OH. 44707."

**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 February 15, 2024. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project!

## Ongoing News @ Maple Grove

### Coffee Time & Informal Fellowship @ Church – Sundays @ 9am

*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!

**Encouragement Cards** - There are encouragement cards placed in every pew so that as the Spirit lays someone on your heart, you can share your thoughts and encouraging words with them. You may place the cards in their mailbox or give directly to them.

### Receiving of 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!



### Offering Envelope Numbers

In order to receive a year-end statement of your offerings, you must have an offering number. To obtain an offering number, please contact Kami Sommers. The offering envelopes are designed so you can designate your offering to specific funds. If funds are not designated on the envelope, they are included in the General Fund with the exception of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month which is Education Sunday and non-designated funds go to the Education Fund.

### Family Ministry has freezer meals available to share with 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. 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, Betty Miller, Marsha Miller, Sheryl Weaver

**To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at [secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org](mailto:secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org) by Wednesday each week – 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-1pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-8am-noon; 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, Harold Beachy

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