

December 31, 2023 - How will we know . . . who knows?



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Julie Yoder
Song Leader: Renee Koshmider
Greeters: Jim & Marty Miller

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #9 *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,
"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Ladies: *At that moment, Anna, a widow who worshiped at the temple with fasting and prayer night and day,*

Men: *began to praise God and to speak about the child to everyone who was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.*

Leader: The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.
(Pause)

ALL: *Together we rejoice!*

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #178 *God of Wonders*
STS #6 *Save Us, O Lord*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Luke 2:22-38 (NRSVUE)

Message

How will we know . . . who knows?

RESPONDING

Song of Response

HWB #16 *God is Here Among Us*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Benediction/Blessing

Pastor: Together we rejoice.

People: *Our waiting is over!*

Pastor: We've seen the One, the light to all peoples, who grew in strength and is filled with wisdom.
The favor of God is upon him! Go! Rejoice! God is here!

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 safe travels for those who are traveling over the holidays; and pray for those who are away from their families or alone.

✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Rachel Weaver, Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law Don Wagler, Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; Lee Yoder's sister Leona Slabaugh; Nathanael's cousin, Trevor Parish.

✝ Pray for Alexi Deuzoumbé and his family that they may soon be reunited.

✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence and hate.

✝ Pray for those affected by natural disasters, and those involved with the relief & recovery efforts.

Pastor Nathanael would like to thank all those who helped with our Advent Christmas season:



Thank you to the Ministry of Worship members for coordinating the services for Advent: Lois Bontrager, Renee Koshmider and Joe Weaver; as well as the rest of the worship team for sharing their talents throughout the season: Tom Lubbers, Ruth Yoder, Dillon Weaver and James Yoder. Thank you to Julie Yoder and Jill Liechty for being the worship leaders and a big thanks to Julie for playing our beautiful prelude music. I would also like to thank Sheryl Weaver and Vee Miller for taking care of the visuals we have appreciated throughout the season; Kami Sommers & family for sharing the dramas each week; our Ushers Larry Hills, Jim Miller, Leroy Sommers & Mike Sommers; Jen Geiser for working with the children for the Christmas Eve service, and the children and handbell choir for sharing their music on Christmas Eve. Would also like to thank Dan Dutcher and Jade Liechty for coordinating the sound and visuals for our services each week; and thank you to our Greeters for the month of December, Jim & Marty Miller. I appreciate everyone's dedication to Maple Grove!

In Christ, Nathanael



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- Saturday – Dec. 30 / 2-5pm - Open House Birthday Celebration for LeRoy Yoder's 90th birthday!
 - Monday – January 1, 2024 - Happy New Year! (Church Office Closed)
 - Tuesday-Thurs. – Jan. 2-4 - Nathanael on vacation
 - Wednesday – January 3 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
 - Sunday – January 7 - Myrri Byler will bring the message
 - Monday-Wed., Jan. 8-10 - Nathanael attending Shalom Academy @ EMU
 - Sunday – February 4 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting after Youth Lunch
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PLEASE NOTE:

- Pastor Nathanael is out of the office January 1-6, and leaving for Eastern Mennonite University on Sunday, January 7, to attend a leadership class, Shalom Academy, on Monday-Wednesday. He will return to the office on Thursday, January 11th. Please contact a member of Ministry of Congregational Care for any pastoral needs in his absence.
 - The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1. Cindy will be working Tuesday & Thursday.
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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!

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, January 3



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 Sheryll Weaver if you have any questions.

There will also be puzzle time at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 3rd

Come and work on a puzzle with us or just enjoy the company! Anyone is welcome to come and participate. If you have any questions, contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.

Ministry of Worship is looking for Greeters for Sunday mornings

Thank you to Jim & Marty Miller for being Greeters in the month of December!

Arrie Ledsome & Alta Bates will be the Greeters for the month of January - thank you!

If you would like to be a Greeter, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at the church. Greeters will be at the main doors in the foyer to greet the congregation and hand out welcome packets to new attendees from 9:15-9:35 and 10:15-10:30 a.m. Greeters can be 1 to 2 persons or a family unit, and sign up for a month at a time. If you have any questions, please contact Lois Bontrager.

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 3rd 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!

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, Holly Miller

Acme Community Cash Back Program runs through February 15, 2024.

If you shop at Acme, save your receipts and bring them into the church – a collection box is available under the mailboxes. Lake Township FISH can turn these in at the end of the program and Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH.

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at 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

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-1pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-8am-noon; Friday-Sabbath**

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