



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 7, 2023

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

**Advent 2 – December 10, 2023 - *How will we know . . . what now?***



**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Jill Liechty  
**Song Leader:** Renee Koshmider

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

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

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
 that with God one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

*Ladies: God is not slow, as some think of slowness,*

*Men: but is patient with us,*

**People: not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.**

Leader: The word of our God will stand forever.  
 (Pause)

**ALL: Together we wait.**

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs

*O Holy Night (Verses 1 & 3)*  
 VT #213 *Poor of the Earth*

Offering – General Fund

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

Drama

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1–11 (NRSVUE)

Message

***How will we know . . . what now?***

**RESPONDING**

Congregational Response

Song of Response

STS #16 *Peace Before Us*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## **SENDING**

Sending Song

HWB #201 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

## **Benediction/Blessing**

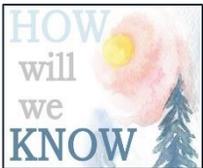
Pastor: Together we wait.

**People: *God is patient with us, but how do we prepare while we're waiting?***

Pastor: Go, beloved, and while you wait for these things, strive to be found by God at peace.  
Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

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)



Advent at Home 2023: *How will we know?* worship guide accompanies individuals and families through the days and weeks of Advent through Epiphany with scriptures, prayers, worship rituals, suggested activities, and contextual information. Click [here](#) for an electronic copy of the guide – printed copies are available on the literature rack at the church.



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- ✝ Pray for Leona (Yoder) Slabaugh, Lee Yoder's sister, who is in the hospital undergoing tests.
  - ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Lura Bowin, Rachel Weaver, Cindy Fleming, Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law Don Wagler, Kathy Johnson's mother, Gale.
  - ✝ 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.



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- Sunday – December 24      -    Christmas Eve Service – 4:30pm (only 1 service on Christmas Eve)
  - Saturday – Dec. 30 / 2-5pm    -    Open House Birthday Celebration for LeRoy Yoder's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

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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!

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at [secretary@maplegrovenennonite.org](mailto:secretary@maplegrovenennonite.org) by Wednesday each week – thank you!

## 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

### 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.

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, 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