



Informal Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School Classes - 9:30a.m.
 Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
 (Online at www.mgmennonite.org)



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

Newsletter dated
 January 25, 2024

Sunday
 January 28, 2024



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Bountiful God, You have blessed us with so many gifts.

People: *In this time of worship, may we be open to receiving these gifts.*

Leader: Help us claim our gifts.

People: *And use them to bring hope, liberation and justice to a world where there are hurts, frustrations and uncertainty.*

Leader: May the words of our mouths, our actions, the thoughts we think and the meditations of our heart be acceptable to You.

ALL: *Bind us together as Your body, that we may with unity of ministry be Your hands and feet and voice in this, Your world. Amen*

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Cornerstone
 Build My Life*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NRSVUE)

Message

Knowledge and Love, the Strong and the Weak

RESPONDING

Song of Response

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

Still

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

*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 Marilyn Hepler, Barb Dutcher's sister, who was hospitalized with heart issues.
- ✝ Pray for Ray Miller, Alta Bates' nephew, who was hospitalized with a staph infection.
- ✝ Pray for others with health concerns: Rachel Weaver; Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law Don Wagler; Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; 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.



- Sunday – January 28 - Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:16)
- Sunday – February 4 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting after Youth Fundraiser Haystack Lunch
- Wednesday – February 7 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
⇒ Bring a guest – lunch provided!
- Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
- Work on Derby Cars – 6-7:30pm
- Sunday – February 11 - Guest for Worship Service – Larry Rohrer, Interim Regional Pastor with Ohio Conference
- Tuesday – February 13 - "Be The Love" 1st Annual Love Our Community Men Who Cook! 6pm-9pm @ Hartville Marketplace & Flea Market
- Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14 - Self-led Time of Reflection & Imposition of Ashes by Nathanael (available from 11am-6pm)
- Sunday – February 18 - Church Social – Game Night @ the Church from 4:30-7:30pm



The Norman and Leona (Yoder) Slabaugh and the Yoder families wish to express their deepest gratitude for the graciousness of the Maple Grove congregation during Leona's funeral. The beautiful service for our beloved Leona, who was a loving wife, mother to Norman's children, and sibling will be long remembered. The hot meal was greatly appreciated after the cold graveside service and the filling in of the dirt in the grave. May God bless all who had a part. The Slabaugh & Yoder Families

Offering last Sunday, January 21, 2024 – Education Sunday

Attendance: 67



Thanks for Your Support!

General Fund	\$ 4,700.00
Education Fund	<u>1,988.00</u>
Total Offering	<u>\$ 6,688.00</u>



The 2023 year-end giving statements are under the mailboxes in envelopes marked with your offering number. Please pick up your numbered envelope. If you also donated through PayPal, remember to combine PayPal acknowledgements with this statement for total giving to Maple Grove Mennonite Church for the year. If you would like your giving statement mailed to you, please contact Cindy in the church office. Contact John Koshmider if you have any questions.



Bible Memory begins Sunday, January 28. Bible Memory is for children in Kindergarten-8th and the children will be given a chance to recite verses at the beginning of Sunday School classes once a month. All children will be reciting John 3:16-17 (NIV). There will be rewards for those who participate at the end of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.

Annual Congregational Business Meeting – February 4, 2024



The Ministry of Administration has scheduled the Annual Congregational Business Meeting for Sunday, February 4. The meeting will begin after the Youth Group has a fundraiser lunch – a haystack lunch is being planned. MOA invites everyone to stay for lunch and the Annual Meeting afterwards. The Annual Report booklets are being emailed to you or placed in your mailbox if you do not use email. There are extra copies available under the mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Administration: Adam Weaver, John Koshmider, Sam Miller, Brenda Latulippe, Jade Liechty & Scott Sommers

Family Ministry has scheduled a game night at the church for Sunday, February 18,



from 4:30-7:30 p.m. All ages are welcome! We'll have pizza at 5:30. Bring your favorite game to play and come enjoy the fellowship time! Vee Miller will help with jewelry making with beads and making bookmarks. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Family Ministry: Barb Dutcher, Betty Miller, Marsha Miller & Holly Miller

Derby Car Race: Kids' Club/Jr. Youth will be making Derby Cars during the month of February.



If anyone in the congregation is interested in making their own Derby Car and participating in the Race, please let Michael and Ruth Yoder know as soon as possible and they will order one for you. The Race date will be held on Sunday, March 3, at 5pm. The congregation is invited to attend. Work on the derby cars for the Kids' Club/Jr. Youth Group has been scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, February 7 - 6-7:30pm Designing the Derby Car and Valentine Activities
- Wednesday, February 21 - 6-7:30pm Sanding/Base Coat Painting the Derby Car and Making Care Packages for College Students
- Wednesday, February 28 - 6-7:30pm Painting Car Details and Talent Show
- Sunday, March 3 @ 5:00pm Derby Car Race in Church Fellowship Hall

Maple Grove's Child Abuse Awareness Policy – return signed form by February 4th

Maple Grove's policy on Physical & Sexual Abuse of Children states all volunteers who are involved with children and youth are required to receive a copy of this policy and sign a form confirming they have read and understand the policy. This is done on an annual basis. If you received an email from the Ministry of Congregational Care in regards to Maple Grove's policy on Child Abuse Awareness, **please return your signed form to the church office by Sunday, February 4th.** If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Congregational Care. Thank you!

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

This program ends soon – bring your receipts in if you have been collecting them. 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.



“Be The Love” 1st Annual Love Our Community Men Who Cook Fundraiser – February 13

LOC is holding a fun night of raising funds with local community members cooking and competing, silent & live auctions, music and more. After you go all around and taste all the yummy food, you will vote for your favorites! **Our hope is to celebrate 5 years and continue to raise awareness and financial support to come alongside our neighbors who may be suffering in silence.**

The event is Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 6pm-9pm @ Hartville Marketplace.

Click [here](#) for more information.

2024 Annual Conference Assembly for Ohio Mennonite Conference – March 1-2

Sharon Mennonite Church in Plain City will host the Ohio Mennonite Annual Conference Assembly on March 1-2. The theme for this year’s gathering will be “Following Jesus Together with a Common Mission,” based on Philippians 2:5-11. Click [here](#) for more information and to register online. Paper copies of the registration form are available on the literature rack at the church for non-delegates.

Registration price increases after February 9th.

The 2024 Annual Conference Assembly is intended for all members of Ohio Conference churches, not just delegates. This year they will offer some exciting changes as ACA will begin on Friday morning to give more time to hear from our featured speaker, Meghan Larissa Good from Trinity Mennonite Church in Arizona. Meghan is the author of two books and will be sharing with us specifically on her newly published book, ***Divine Gravity: Sparking a Movement to Recover a Better Christian Story.***

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on March 8-9!

A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Fairlawn Mennonite Church to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops (60” x 80”) and backs (65” x 85”) for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be marked for Sarah or MRC and dropped off **by February 1** at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road). For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Dates: Friday, March 8 (9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.); Saturday, March 9 (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

Location: Fairlawn Mennonite Church - 8520 Emerson Rd, Apple Creek, OH 44606

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovemennonite.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 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, Holly Miller, Marsha Miller

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