



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 4, 2024

Sunday
 January 7, 2024



Message: Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader: Myron Weaver
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude
 Opening Song
 Welcome & Announcements
 Call to Worship & Prayer

Here I am to Worship (Light of the World)

PRAISING

Praise Songs
 Offering – General Fund

*STJ #54 Longing for Light
 Wonderful, Merciful Savior*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture
 Message

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSVUE)

A Light to the Nations

RESPONDING

Song of Response
 Congregational Sharing/Prayer

STJ #97 The Lord is My Light

SENDING

Sending Song
 Benediction/Blessing
 Postlude

STS #32 Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

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)

PLEASE NOTE: Pastor Nathanael is attending a leadership class at Eastern Mennonite University Monday-Wednesday (Jan. 8-10). 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.



✝ *Pray for those with health concerns: Sam Miller recovering from hip replacement surgery; 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.*



- Wednesday – January 17 - Return reports for Annual Meeting to the church office
 - Sunday – January 21 - Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday
- Communion Sunday
 - Sunday – January 28 - Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:16)
 - Sunday – February 4 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting after Youth Lunch
 - Tuesday – February 13 - "Be The Love" 1st Annual Love Our Community Men Who Cook!
6pm-9pm @ Hartville Marketplace & Flea Market
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Church News

Bible Memory is about to begin! 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 – the first Sunday is January 28th. 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. A letter about the Bible Memory Program has been emailed out to parents with more details. 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. An email has been sent to the chairperson of each committee and ministry requesting an updated report for 2023. **We are asking that you please turn in your reports to Cindy in the church office by Wednesday, January 17 – thank you!**

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.

Ministry of Worship is looking for Greeters for Sunday mornings

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.



Ohio Conference Women in Leadership Retreat – February 2-3

“Finding Your Voice” is the theme of the 2024 Women in Leadership Retreat sponsored by the Ohio Conference. This overnight retreat will take place Feb. 2-3 at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio. It is intended for women who want to explore possibilities for using their gifts in church leadership, as well as for women who are already currently serving in congregational roles. Cost of the retreat is \$85 per person, which covers three meals, lodging and retreat fees. **Registration is due by Jan. 12.** For more information and to register, please visit the Ohio Conference website [Women in Leadership Retreat - Ohio Mennonite Conference](#) or contact a member of Ministry of Congregational Care. Paper copies of the brochure are available on the literature rack at the church.

“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. **Presale tickets are available now until January 13, afterwards price slightly increases.** Click [here](#) for more information.

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