



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
 February 1, 2024

Sunday
 February 4, 2024



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Michael Yoder
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude
 Opening Song
 Welcome & Announcements
 Call to Worship & Prayer

STS #50 *Come, Bring Your Burdens to God*

PRAISING

Praise Songs
 Offering – General Fund

*Refiner's Fire
 Jesus Take All of Me*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture
 Message

Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSVUE)

Offerings of Righteousness

RESPONDING

Song of Response
 Congregational Sharing/Prayer

VT #834 *Thuma mina (Send Me Lord)*

SENDING

Sending Song
 Benediction/Blessing
 Postlude

Hear the Call of the Kingdom

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)



This Sunday is the Annual Congregational Business Meeting after the Youth Group haystack fundraiser luncheon. All are welcome to stay for lunch and attend the meeting!

The Annual Report booklets have been emailed to you or placed in your mailbox. There are extra paper copies available by the mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Ministry of Administration - Adam Weaver, John Koshmider, Sam Miller, Brenda Latulippe, Jade Liechty & Scott Sommers.



✝ Pray for Donnie Wagler who has been recovering from injuries from a highway crash in November and had to have his leg amputated. Donnie is grandfather to Gavin, Jacob & Jackson Sommers and Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law. Pray for him and his wife Ellen and their family as they go through this together.

- ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Rachel Weaver; Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; Nathanael's cousin Trevor Parish; Barb Dutcher's sister Marilyn Hepler; and Alta Bates' nephew Ray Miller.
- ✝ 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 – 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
 - Collection for FISH – “Souper Bowl of Caring”
- 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 - Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:17)
 - Church Social – Game Night @ the Church from 4:30-7:30pm

Next Sunday, Larry Rohrer will bring the message at Maple Grove. Larry joined the Ohio Mennonite Conference staff in November 2023 serving as Interim Regional Pastor for the eastern part of the Ohio Conference. A native of Ohio, Larry previously served in ministry for four decades. He was the pastor of Salem Mennonite Church in Elida, Midway Mennonite Church in Columbiana, and Belmont Mennonite Church in Elkhart, Indiana. Following his retirement in 2019, he and his wife, Sharon, returned to Ohio, settling in her home community of Dover. They have two adult children and five grandchildren.



Thanks for Your Support!

Offering last Sunday, January 28, 2024

Attendance: 76

General Fund	\$ 4,080.00
Education Fund	100.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 4,180.00</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.



Church News

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, February 7 – lunch provided & bring a guest!



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship. ***We are asking everyone to bring a guest this month. Lunch will be provided!*** Spend the day or come for just a bit - we enjoy each other's friendship while we work! If you have any questions, please contact Twila Miller, Margaret Miller or Sheryl Weaver.

There will also be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7.

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, please contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.

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. The Race date will be held on Sunday, March 3, at 5pm. The congregation is invited to attend. **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.** 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 Sanding/Base Coat Painting the Derby Car
- 6:45-8:00pm (start after Wed. meal) and Making Care Packages for College Students
- Wednesday, February 28 Painting Car Details and Talent Show
- 6:45-8:00pm (start after Wed. meal)
- Sunday, March 3 @ 5:00pm Derby Car Race in Church Fellowship Hall

FISH Collection –February 11th

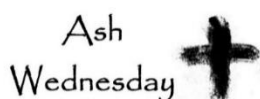


The Ministry of Outreach is having a collection for Lake Township FISH as part of their annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" project to tackle hunger. 100% of the donations received for this event will go to Lake Township FISH to serve our community members in need. Any non-perishable items are welcome, or you may donate financially through the offering – just mark your giving envelope for "FISH." There will not be brown bags distributed for this collection.

Please bring donations to the church by February 11th – Super Bowl Sunday.

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.



Ash Wednesday – February 14: Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and marks 40 days until Easter, excluding Sundays. This first day of Lent reminds us that new life with Christ involves a daily

surrendering of the old life, and the first step on this Lenten journey invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness by the imposition of ashes.

For the practice of Ash Wednesday this year, there will be a guide at the church for a self-led time of reflection, and Pastor Nathanael will be in the Sanctuary for the imposition of ashes.

The church will be unlocked from 11am-6pm on Ash Wednesday for this time of reflection and imposition of ashes. We invite all to participate as we begin our journey through Lent.

Lenten Guided Prayer Program – “Hungering for Hope”

Ministry of Worship is excited to announce a weekly prayer program being offered during the Lenten season titled “Hungering for Hope.” A weekly prayer guide will be made available to you by either email or placed in the mailboxes for everyone, and paper copies will also be available on Sunday mornings. Along with the guided prayer guides, a Wednesday evening meal will be provided starting February 21 through March 20. Following the meal, everyone who is interested may join in sharing together their experiences with the “Hungering for Hope” prayer guides. Everyone is welcome whether you come for the meal only or stay for the group experience. The meals will be at 6:00 p.m. and the sharing time afterwards at 7:00 p.m. Monetary donations for the food are welcome. Please contact a member of Ministry of Worship if you have any questions:

Lois Bontrager, Renee Koshmider, Joe Weaver or Pastor Nathanael.



February 14	Ash Wednesday	11am-6pm
	Self-led Time of Reflection & Imposition of Ashes	
Feb. 21 & 28	Wednesday Meal	6:00 p.m.
	Sharing Prayer Time	7:00 p.m.
March 6, 13 & 20	Wednesday Meal	6:00 p.m.
	Sharing Prayer Time	7:00 p.m.
March 24	Palm Sunday	
March 28	Maundy Thursday	6:30 p.m.
	Light meal followed with service of Communion & Footwashing	
March 29	Good Friday	
March 31	Easter Sunday Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
	Worship	10:00 a.m.



“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! The event is Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 6pm-9pm @ Hartville Marketplace. Click [here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

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. 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