



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 15, 2024

Lent is the time in the Church calendar when we turn our attention to the journey toward the Cross, beginning with Ash Wednesday, where we face our mortality, commit ourselves to the Cross of Christ, and repent, and ending on Easter Sunday where we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. This year's theme for Lent, from the Leader Magazine, is "Christ Among Us." As we move along this journey of Lent, we know that we are not alone. Christ has invited us to enter into covenant with God. Throughout the biblical narrative, God continually reaches out to establish, fulfill, sustain, and reestablish relationship with the people of God. We, as imperfect humans, fail again and again to faithfully follow in these covenants; we stray from fullness of relationship with God, we stray from the Way in which we have been called. Amid this reality, we know that Christ came before us, has gone ahead of us, and is, imminently, among us. This season of Lent will be marked by seeking to experience "Christ Among Us" and discerning what this means for our lives of faithfulness to this Way we have been invited to journey along.

In Christ, Pastor Nathanael

***Please notice the banner that will be hanging during our Lenten season.
 Kaydri Sommers painted this along with help from Paige Sommers and Brianna Geiser.
 Thank you ladies for your good work on this!***



Lent 1 – February 18, 2024
Christ Among us: Repent and Believe

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Myron Weaver
Song Leader: Lois Bontrager
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #9 *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Teach us Your pathways, O God—our eyes and our souls are trained on You.

People: **For You are the greatest guide, and Your map is always good.**

Leader: Other paths have left us lost; other ways have left us confused.

People: **You guide us along the trail of Your mercy,
 drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn way.**

All: **All Your paths are love, made smooth by Your faithful walking.
 We are led into Your truth by following the tread of Your feet.**

PRAISING

Praise Songs

HWB #102 *To God Be the Glory*
HWB #338 *I Know Not Why God's Wondrous*

Offering – *Education Fund*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Mark 1:9-15 (NRSVUE)

Message

Christ among Us, Repent and Believe

RESPONDING

Song of Response

STS #63 *God, Fill Me Now*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to You with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

People: Be with us in this wilderness.

Leader: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

People: Forgive our self-focused minds.

Leader: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget Your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

People: May we partner with You and Your church to remember.

All (looking at one another): You are beloved.

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

VT #777 *Seeds*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy, adapt, and project the Lenten 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 Lura Bowin who has been hospitalized and having tests run for some health issues.

✝ Pray for others 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; Don Wagler.

✝ 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 – Feb. 18 - First Sunday of Lent
- Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:17)
- Church Social – Game Night @ the Church from 4:30-7:30pm
- Wed. – Feb. 21 & 28 - Wednesday Meal – 6pm
- Lenten Guided Prayer Time Sharing– 7pm
- Kids’ Club/Jr. Youth work on Derby Cars – 6:45-8pm
- Friday-Sat. – March 1 & 2 - Annual Conference Assembly for Ohio Conference
- @ Sharon Mennonite Church, Plain City
- Sunday – March 3 - Sermon Guest Terry Shue
- Derby Car Race – 5pm
- Sunday – March 10 - Daylight Saving Time begins – Spring forward!
- Youth/Youth Mentor Mystery Dinner – 5pm



March 6, 13 & 20	Wednesday Meal	6:00 p.m.
	Lenten Guided 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.

Lenten Guided Prayer – “Hungering for Hope”

Ministry of Worship is excited to announce the Lenten Guided Prayer we will be using during the Lenten season titled “Hungering for Hope.” The prayer guide for the week of February 18 is “Embodying Trust” – the guide was emailed to you and paper copies are available on the table in the church lobby with the newsletters. Please join us Wednesday to share a meal and share your experiences with the “Hungering for Hope” prayer guide this week. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. and the sharing time afterwards at 7:00 p.m. Monetary donations for the food are welcome. Please note that everyone is welcome whether you come for the meal only or stay for the group experience.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Worship:
Lois Bontrager, Renee Koshmider, Joe Weaver or Pastor Nathanael.



Offering last Sunday, February 11, 2024

Attendance: 72

General Fund	\$ 5,121.50
Alexi Deuzoumbé Mission	100.00
Lake Township FISH	100.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 5,321.50</u>



Ministry of Outreach thanks you for your donation of items for Lake Township FISH last Sunday and monetary donations – appreciate your continued support of FISH!



Church News

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. Work on the derby cars for the Kids' Club/Jr. Youth Group is as follows:

- 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

Youth & Youth Mentor Event – March 10

There will be a “mystery” dinner on Sunday, March 10, for the Youth and the Youth Mentors. This will be at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Geiser.



Volunteer Needed: The Hartville Thrift Shoppe is looking for a volunteer with a truck who would be interested in, willing to, hook up to our trailer and go out into the community to pick up furniture that people are willing to donate but cannot transport. This could be 1, 2, or 3 days a week depending on your availability and how many calls we get. The Thrift Shoppe would pay for gas and provide a helper. Please contact Phil Stauffer at the store at 330-877-2769 or let one of us know if/when you are in the store.

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