



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 29, 2024



Lent 3 – March 3, 2024
Christ Among us: Showing Us Justice

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeters: Tom & Kathy Johnson

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

HWB #20 *Come and See*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

All: *May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You, O God.*

Leader: We speak because You spoke first, bringing voice to the brightness of the sun and singing the airy darkness of the sky. You spoke this earth from end to end, and speaking must have given You pleasure, for You said, "It was good."

People: *May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You, O God.*

Leader: Year after year You have poured forth speech: passing stories and statutes down through hands and lips. From You we learned to speak, and speaking, we spoke to You—singing songs of consolation that would become Your psalms to us; writing poems our children’s children would hear as the voice of God.

People: *May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You, O God.*

Leader: Your law, O Lord, is perfect. Your Word is the one that endures. We seek the grammar of Your justice in the words that You spoke before. Speak here now; speak here once more.

All: *And may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You, O God. Amen.*

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior
 VT #332 In Christ Alone*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Exodus 20:1-17 (NRSVUE)

Message

Christ Among us: Showing Us Justice

RESPONDING

Song of Response

Ancient Words

Prayer of Confession

Leader: We often miss the beauty in Your work, God.

People: Forgive our distracted hearts.

Leader: When we put our trust in other things,

People: remind us of Your love and care.

All: Bring joy to us once again.

Leader: May the meditations of our hearts

People: be pleasing on Your sight,

All: our Rock and our Redeemer.

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

STJ #109 *There is More Love Somewhere*

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 Margaret Miller who is recovering from knee surgery.

✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Ruth Yoder; Lura Bowin; Rachel Weaver; Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; Nathanael's cousin Trevor Parish; Alta Bates' nephew Ray Miller; and Harold Beachy's brother Darold.

✝ 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.

Are you interested in exploring baptism and/or membership at Maple Grove?

If so, we would love to discuss that with you. Classes will be offered soon. Please reach out to Pastor Nathanael if you would like to learn more. *Ministry of Congregational Care*





- Sunday – March 3
 - Wed. – March 6
 - Sunday – March 10
- Derby Car Race – 5pm
 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
 - Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
 - Wednesday Meal – 6pm
 - Lenten Guided Prayer Time Sharing– 7pm
 - Daylight Saving Time begins – Spring forward!
 - Youth/Youth Mentor Mystery Dinner – 5pm



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 10th.



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”

The prayer guide for the week of March 3rd “Embodying Beauty” has been emailed to the church distribution list 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.

LOST & FOUND – An earring was lost a couple weeks ago (a tear drop pearl earring). It was found and placed on the round table in the foyer, but somehow it turned up missing from there. If anyone knows what happened to it, please notify Nancy Beachy. It is sentimental to her as it was her mother’s. Thank you.



Offering last Sunday, February 25, 2024

Attendance: 65

General Fund	\$ 3,570.00
Education Fund	1,748.00
Alexi Deuzoumbé Mission	200.00
Total Offering	\$ 5,518.00



Derby Car Race this Sunday at 5:00 p.m.



The Kids' Club/Jr. Youth Group have been working on derby cars the month of February. They would like to invite the congregation to the Derby Race - it is Sunday, March 3, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Light snacks will be served. All are invited to come watch the race!

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, March 6.



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we work on the comforters and quilt in the fellowship hall. 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, March 6.

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.



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.

Higher Education Grants from Maple Grove for 2024-2025 School Year

In an effort to encourage our members to pursue a Christian education that emphasizes the Anabaptist vision, Maple Grove has available a grant program for students enrolling in colleges and seminaries maintaining the Mennonite Anabaptist vision. Copies of Maple Grove's policy and the application form are available on the literature rack in the foyer or contact Cindy in the church office. **Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove's Treasurer, John Koshmider, by March 31, 2024.**



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

From Hartville Thrift Shoppe – Volunteers Needed!

The Hartville Thrift Shoppe is so fortunate to have all of our great volunteers and they are a joy to work alongside each week! We are looking to increase our volunteer numbers especially in the following areas: Books, Electronics, Shoes, and Videos/Music. Of course we welcome volunteers in other areas as well. You can go to our website at www.HartvilleThriftShoppe.org and submit a Volunteer Information Form there, or come into the store and fill one out in person. We couldn't do what we do without our volunteers. Come and join our wonderful team!

- 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.

 **LAKE CENTER**
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
38TH ANNUAL BENEFIT

Online Auction *Live Event*
APRIL 17-27, 2024 **APRIL 27, 2024**
4PM - 8PM

Auction **\$25 Event Ticket Purchase Includes Dinner and Reserved Table Seating**

4 PM **Fellowship Hour**
Remember our Roots & Honor the Past with a low priced **Silent Auction** & LCCS history display. We are also excited to announce that **HOMEMADE SOFT PRETZELS ARE BACK!**

5 PM **Dinner & Testimony**
Enjoy a **Buffet Meal**, view **Online Auction** items, show appreciation for those that make up our body, & listen to **LCCS Testimonials** about how many have grown in faith by being part of the LCCS family.

6 PM **Live Auction**
Take part in the LCCS tradition of the **Live Auction**. Enjoy bidding on amazing items while hearing about future growth & how to support building the Kingdom of God while walking together in Christ.

ROOTED IN TRUTH - GROWING IN FAITH - WALKING IN CHRIST - COL 2:6-7

Visit [LCCS 38th Annual Benefit Auction \(ejoinme.org\)](http://LCCS38thAnnualBenefitAuction.ejoinme.org) for more information

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 - there is Tater Tot Casserole, Chili, Broccoli Cheese Soup and homemade bread . 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