



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



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

Newsletter dated  
 February 8, 2024



Sunday we welcome Larry Rohrer to Maple Grove. Larry is the Interim Regional Pastor for the eastern part of the Ohio Mennonite 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.

Transfiguration Sunday  
 February 11, 2024



**Message:** Larry Rohrer  
**Worship Leader:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Song Leader:** Renee Koshmider  
**Greeters:** Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

**GATHERING**

Prelude  
 Opening Song  
 Welcome & Announcements  
 Call to Worship & Prayer

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs  
 Offering – General Fund

*Living Waters  
 Peace in Christ*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture  
 Message

Mark 9:2-9 (NRSVUE)

***A Voice from the Cloud***

**RESPONDING**

Song of Response  
 Congregational Sharing/Prayer

HWB #260 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**SENDING**

Sending Song  
 Benediction/Blessing  
 Postlude

STJ #96 *I'm Pressing on the Upward Way*

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 Donnie Wagler as he continues to recover from injuries from a highway crash in November. Donnie is grandfather to Gavin, Jacob & Jackson Sommers and Sylvia Miller's brother-in-law.

- ✝ 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.



- Sunday – February 11 - 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 - 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



Thanks for Your Support!

**Offering last Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**Attendance: 63**

General Fund	\$ 5,950.00
Alexi Deuzoumbé Mission	100.00
100-Year Books	20.00
Youth Group	616.00
<b>Total Offering</b>	<b><u>\$ 6,686.00</u></b>



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.



*The Youth Group would like to thank you for your support of the fundraiser lunch held before the Annual Meeting. We were able to raise \$616.00 to go toward Youth Group activities. We feel blessed by your offering and continued support!*



## Church News

**FISH Collection this Sunday:** 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."



Brown bags were not distributed for this collection - just bring in your donations to the church by Sunday. As always, thanks for your support of FISH!

**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 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

**Acme Community Cash Back Program ends soon - February 15<sup>th</sup>**

Please bring your receipts to the church and place in the collection box by 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.

**Rejoice! Devotional Magazines have been placed in the mailboxes for the spring quarter.**

*Rejoice!* is a quarterly devotional magazine published by MennoMedia. If you would like to be added to the list to receive this quarterly magazine, or if you currently receive and no longer want to receive it, please contact either Kim Weaver or Ruth Yoder with Ministry of Education or Cindy in the church office.

**Click [here](#) for a copy of the bi-monthly newsletter from Ohio Mennonite Conference.**

Paper copies are available on the literature rack at the church.



**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.” The Lenten Guided Prayer booklet has been made available to you by either email or placed in your mailbox. Then each Sunday, paper copies of the prayer guide for that week will be available with the newsletters.

- Along with the weekly guided prayer, 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.

Ministry of Worship is looking forward to this time of fellowship and sharing. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Worship:

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” 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The featured speaker, Meghan Larissa Good from Trinity Mennonite Church in Arizona, 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***. Click [here](#) for more information and to register online. Paper copies of the registration form are available on the literature rack. Annual Conference Assembly is intended for all members of Ohio Conference churches, not just delegates. If you would like to be a prayer partner during ACA, click [here](#) to sign up or contact Alysa Short at [alysashort@gmail.com](mailto:alysashort@gmail.com) or 419-572-1348

### **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](http://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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:pastornathanael@maplegrovemennonite.org))

**- Office Hours: Monday 9am-1pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-8am-noon; Friday-Sabbath**

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary ([Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org](mailto: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-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Rooms 7-8  
Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4  
Youth (Grades 9-12): Youth Room-Basement