



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



Maple Grove
Newsletter

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

Newsletter dated
 March 14, 2024



Lent 5 – March 17, 2024
Christ Among us: The New Covenant

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Myron Weaver
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Offertory: James Yoder
Greeters: Tom & Kathy Johnson

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

VT #306 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel. No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord!’ because they will all know Me, from the least to the greatest.”

People: **This new covenant is being offered to us.**

Leader: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

People: **Death must come before resurrection.**

A seed fallen to the soil and broken open can become life for many.

All: ***This new covenant is being offered to us: to lay down our life and follow.***

Leader: The life-giving ways of God placed within our minds and written on our hearts, where we are forgiven and our sins remembered no more, where we are God’s people and God is our God.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #323 & 324 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross/
 The Wonderful Cross*

VT #398 *Thy Word is A Lamp*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD’S WORD

Scripture

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (NRSVUE)

Message

Christ Among us: The New Covenant

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #377 *New Earth, Heavens New*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: O God, we gather before You, seeking Your mercy. Hear us, we pray.

People: **We confess that we sin against You.**

Leader: O God, wash us, make us clean, create in us a new spirit.

People: **Stay close to us, restore us to Your truth.**

All: **So that we can cry out with joy, cleansed in Your abundant mercy.**

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

STS #72 *We are Often Tossed and Driv'n*

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-Voces Together (purple)

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- ✝ Pray for a group from Lake Center Christian School who are going on a week-long mission trip to the Dominican Republic. The youth from Maple Grove are Braidon Miller, Izzie Liechty, Luke Sommers and Sawyer Sommers.
 - ✝ Pray for Terry & Kay Shue and their family on the passing of Kay's mother, Florence Nussbaum.
 - ✝ Pray for Ruth Yoder who will be having surgery on Friday, March 22nd.
 - ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Margaret Miller; Lura Bowin; Rachel Weaver; Kathy Johnson's mother Gale; Nathanael's cousin Trevor Parish; Alta Bates' nephew Ray Miller; Myron & Sheryl Weaver's friend Bob Brown; and Harold Beachy's brother Darold.
 - ✝ Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé and his family that they may soon be reunited. Praise for Alexis being able to continue his education.
 - ✝ 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*





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- Sunday – March 17 - Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:16-17)
 - Wed. – March 20 - Wednesday Meal – 6pm
 - Lenten Guided Prayer Time Sharing– 7pm
 - Sunday – March 24 - Palm Sunday
 - Wed. – March 27 - Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
 - Thursday – March 28 - Maundy Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
 - ✝ Light meal followed with service of Communion & Footwashing
 - Sunday – March 31 - Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m.
 - Easter Service @ 10:00 a.m. (No Sunday School classes)
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Palm Sunday: Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 24th. Palm Sunday observes Jesus's triumphant and joyful entrance into Jerusalem, marked by jubilant crowds waving palm branches, which symbolize victory over sin, peace, and eternal life.

Maundy Thursday Service: On Thursday, March 28th, we will celebrate communion together as well as demonstrate our commitment to a servant's life by washing feet. A light meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the service following immediately after the meal.

We invite all believers to come to this service, giving thanks for Christ's life, death, resurrection and the gift of Salvation. We encourage you to prepare your hearts for this time.

Good Friday: Pastor Nathanael will have devotions available for Good Friday to guide us as we commemorate Jesus' suffering and death on the cross with prayer and meditation.

Easter Sunday Celebration – sign-up sheets available on the bulletin board.



On March 31, our Easter Sunday Celebration will begin with sharing breakfast together at 8:30 followed by worshipping together at 10:00 a.m. There will not be Sunday School classes.

- If you are planning to join us for Easter Sunday breakfast, the Food Committee asks you please sign up and note how many are attending from your family – a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the church or let Cindy know in the church office.
This is only for planning purposes – all are welcome to join us for breakfast Easter Sunday whether you are signed up or not!
- There are also sign-up sheets for breakfast items if you would like to bring something to share.

Lenten Guided Prayer – “Hungering for Hope”

The prayer guide for the week of March 17th “Embodying Openness” 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.



Thanks
for Your
Support!

Offering last Sunday, March 10, 2024

Attendance: 84

General Fund	\$ 4,963.00
My Coins Count	430.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	50.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 5,443.00</u>



Church News

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.

The Way Out Prison Ministry "One Bible Initiative" asks churches in Ohio to donate just ONE Bible (new paperback) to a prison ministry in Ohio. Ministry of Outreach will be sending a Bible for this program. If you would like to contribute a Bible yourself, please bring to the church by April 14th and the Bibles will be sent all at once. Or you can mail the Bible yourself to: The Way Out Prison Ministry, ATTN: Chaplain Wilcox, PO Box 5176, Akron, Ohio 44334. **NOTE: Only Paperback Bibles are permitted in the State Ohio Prisons.**



Thank you for making the 2024 Ohio MCC Comforter Bash a great success!

We surpassed our goal and knotted a total of 308 comforters thanks to the help of more than 400 volunteers on Friday and Saturday. MCC is grateful for your part in providing warmth and hope to people around the world.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry Fundraiser – April 26

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry will be having a family friendly stand-up comedy show at Grace Church in Berlin (5850 Co. Hwy 77, Millersburg). The fundraiser is on Friday, April 26, at 5:00 p.m. and features Brett Hollis & Bob Mortimer, two Christian comedians. This is in place of the annual Taco Tuesday. Bring the whole family – desserts provided. There will be a free-will offering taken for Open Arms Hispanic Ministry.

Lake Center Christian School Annual Benefit Auction – April 27 from 4-8pm

Our mission at Lake Center Christian School is to work together with churches and families to grow God's kingdom and raise disciples in Christ. The auction is the main form of fundraising for our K-12 school and goes towards the operating costs. \$25 event ticket purchase includes dinner and reserved table seating. The Online Auction is available April 17-27. All auction information can be found at [LCCS 38th Annual Benefit Auction \(ejoinme.org\)](https://lccs38thannualbenefitauction.ejoinme.org).

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