



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
 March 21, 2024



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. 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.

On Maundy Thursday, 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.

For Good Friday, Pastor Nathanael has made devotions available as a guide to commemorate Jesus' suffering and death on the cross with prayer and meditation. The devotions are available on the round table in the church lobby.

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.



Palm Sunday – March 24, 2024
Christ Among us: The Way of a Servant

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers
Offertory: Worship Team
Greeters: Tom & Kathy Johnson

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

Hosanna (Praise is Rising)

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

All: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Christ among us, humble and riding on a donkey.

People: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Christ among us, God's light shining on us!

People: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Leader: Christ among us, showing the way of a servant.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Blessed Be Your Name
Jesus Messiah*

Offering – General Fund

Lead Me to the Cross

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSVUE)

Message

Christ Among us: The Way of a Servant

RESPONDING

Song of Response

HWB #307 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: When we get caught up in embracing the world's power,

People: forgive us.

Leader: When we lose sight of the humble donkey and put our trust in horses of war,

People: remind us of this Palm Sunday.

Leader: When we begin to get sucked into the darkness of the "now,"

People: bring us once again the peace of looking toward the "not yet."

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

Hope of the Nations

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)



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” for Week 6

The prayer guide for the week of March 24th “Embodying Release & Surrender” has been emailed to the church distribution list and paper copies are available on the table in the church lobby with the newsletters. There will not be a Wednesday meal and gathering this week, but you are encouraged to use the guide this week. Some of the themes will be used in the Maundy Thursday Service.



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*



- ✝ Pray for Ruth Yoder who is having surgery on Friday, March 22, to remove her thyroid and a cancer nodule on the thyroid.
- ✝ Pray for Sheryl Weaver who is dealing with heart issues and will be meeting with a cardiologist to schedule open-heart surgery.
- ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Margaret Miller; Lura Bowin; Rachel Weaver; 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.
- ✝ 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.



- 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)
- Wed. – April 3 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Sunday – April 14 - Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
- Sermon Guest Speaker Dr. Maurice Stutzman, United for Ukraine (U4U) Program
- Bring in Bibles for The Way Out Prison Ministry
- Sunday – May 5 - Communion Sunday & Bible Memory Recognition
- Wed. – May 8 - Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night @ Church – 6pm
- Sunday – May 12 - Mother's Day & Parent-Child Dedication
- Sunday – May 19 - Pentecost & Graduation Sunday



Offering last Sunday, March 17, 2024

Attendance: 58

General Fund	\$ 1,525.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	200.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 1,725.00</u>

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org by Wednesday each week – thank you!

Please Note:

- Erin Cartner is looking for an apartment or mobile home to rent in the near future. If you know of a place that will accept a small dog, please let her know.
- Lake High School is performing the musical, *The Little Mermaid*, on April 11-13 (Thursday-Saturday) at 7pm and Sunday April 14, at 2pm in their Performing Arts Hall. James Yoder is playing violin for the pit orchestra during the performances. If you are interested in watching a fabulous show, please let James Yoder know and he can help get you tickets.
The show will sell-out, so reserve your seats early!



Church News

The Way Out Prison Ministry “One Bible Initiative” asks churches in Ohio to donate just ONE Bible (new or gently used paperback) to a prison ministry in Ohio.



The 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. There is a basket to collect the Bibles by the mailboxes. 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.**

There will be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27.

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.



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 \(ejoinme.org\)](http://LCCS38thAnnualBenefitAuction(ejoinme.org)).

The March edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service.

In our current issue: Kevin King explores where we would see Jesus in disaster responses, get the latest on the damage left by the Midwest tornadoes, and learn how a remote electrician is adding a spark to an MDS project. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. Click [here](#) to read more. A paper copy is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

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