



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 7, 2024



Lent 4 – March 10, 2024
Christ Among us: The Way of Mercy

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Renee Koshmider
Greeters: Tom & Kathy Johnson

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: We may make careless choices and lose our way.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: God rescues us from our anxieties and fears.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: God's word sets us free to walk in newness of life.

People: **God's love endures forever.**

Leader: God gathers us in, from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

All: ***For God's unfailing love, we give thanks to the Creator of all that is good.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

Holy Forever

One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Ephesians 2:1–10 (NRSVUE)

Message

Christ Among us: The Way of Mercy

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #156 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Merciful God, we forget that You are the light of the world.

People: Forgive us for our short memories.

Leader: Remind us that You are rich in mercy

People: when we wander away from You.

Leader: Loving God, convict us of Your immense love

People: that shines brightly on us.

All: Merciful God, light of the world, we come seeking new life in You.

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

STJ #44 *The Love of God*

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)

✝ *Pray for Bob Brown, a friend of Myron & Sheryl Weaver's, who has cancer.*

✝ *Pray for those with health concerns: Margaret Miller; 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 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*



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10th.



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- Sunday – March 10 - Youth/Youth Mentor Mystery Dinner – 5pm
 - Wed. – March 13 & 20 - Wednesday Meal – 6pm
- Lenten Guided Prayer Time Sharing– 7pm
 - Sunday – March 17 - Bible Memory Sunday for children to recite verses (John 3:16-17)
 - Sunday – March 24 - Palm Sunday
 - 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.
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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 10th “Embodying Reconciliation” 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.

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.
- The Sewing Committee has on display in the church foyer the quilt that will be donated to the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale in July for MCC (Mennonite Central Committee). The quilt fits a king size bed and was hand-appliqued and hand-quilted.
- 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.



Offering last Sunday, March 3, 2024

Attendance: 74

General Fund	\$ 5,875.25
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	100.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 5,975.25</u>



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.

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!

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