



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  
 April 11, 2024

Sunday  
 April 14, 2024



**Message:** Dr. Maurice Stutzman  
**Worship Leader:** Paul Bontrager  
**Song Leader:** Ruth Yoder  
**Offertory:** James Yoder  
**Greeters:** Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

**GATHERING**

Prelude

Opening Song

*STJ #2 Come, Walk with Us*

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: Mighty Lord, as you guided the Israelites, through the wilderness,

**People: be a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day for refugees in search of new hope and new life.**

Leader: Wipe away their tears of sorrow

**People: that their mourning may give way to joyous hope.**

Leader: Put an end to warfare and tyranny

**People: that some may return home without fear of violence.**

Leader: Stir the hearts of people in safer nations

**People: to be welcoming so that some may find new homes in new lands.**

Leader: Revive their hope so that they might face a future with promise.

**People: Empower us to be instruments through which they are able to sustain their families in safety and prosperity.**

Leader: Surround all refugees with your heavenly host,

**People: that they might know your protecting power.**

Leader: Sustain them with your love and the love of God's people

**People: so that they might feel the warm embrace of welcome.**

Leader: Strengthen their bonds of friendship and those of caring communities,

**People: that we might serve one another with encouraging love.**

Leader: And inspire your churches to welcome the stranger,

**All: that together we might build communities of hope where strangers become neighbors and friends, and brothers and sisters. Amen.**

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs

*Beautiful Things  
 HWB #614 In the Bulb there is a Flower*

Offering – General Fund

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture

Matthew 25:37-40 (CEV)

Message

*All You have to do is Listen*

## **RESPONDING**

Song of Response  
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

*Speak, O Lord*

## **SENDING**

Sending Song  
Benediction/Blessing  
Postlude

*Hear the Call of the Kingdom*

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)



**Maple Grove welcomes Dr. Maurice Stutzman on Sunday for our worship service and Sunday School time.** Maurice is a retired physician living in Holmes County with a passion for restoring hope. He is married (Carla) and has five adult children, one of whom was welcomed into their family as a homeless teenager. He is a member of the Walnut Creek Mennonite Church and currently serves as the secretary/treasurer for MDS (Mennonite Disaster Service) Region 2. Hobbies include making furniture for the Ohio MCC relief sale and volunteering for Saturday breakfast duty in the same venue. He has assisted in the relocation of six Ukrainian families.

There will be a joint Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall with Maurice. His presentation during Sunday School will include information about MDS and their mission of hope and restoration, and he will illustrate what a process looks like for a church to bring a family to America. There will be a time for questions and answers. During the worship service, he will show videos of refugees and how churches can respond, as well as share a story of a family sponsored to America by Berlin Mennonite Church.

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✝ *Pray for Sheryl Weaver who is having open-heart surgery on May 6 for an aortic valve replacement and double-bypass surgery. Pray for Myron and Sheryl as they prepare for her surgery.*

✝ *Pray for others with health concerns: Ruth Yoder and Margaret Miller recovering from surgery; 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 as they continue to work at the immigration process. Pray for the process to move forward quickly.*

✝ *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.*

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- Sunday – April 28 - Donations due for collection for Lake Township FISH
- Sunday – May 5 - Prayer Chain Invitation replies due back to the church office
- Wed. – May 8 - Communion Sunday & Bible Memory Recognition
- Sunday – May 12 - Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night @ Church – 6pm
- Sunday – May 19 - Mother’s Day & Parent-Child Dedication
- Fri.-Sat. – July 12-13 - Pentecost & Graduation Sunday
- Mon.-Fri. – July 15-19 - OH Mennonite Relief Sale @ Mt. Hope Event Center
- Mon.-Fri. – July 15-19 - VBS with Evermore Community Church



### Offering last Sunday, April 7, 2024

General Fund	\$ 4,450.50
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	500.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 4,950.50</u>

Attendance: 73



## Church News

### 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.
- Lura Bowin has a sofa bed she would like to see if anyone is interested in. She is having someone move in with her to help her out, and she is clearing out a room to prepare for her guest. She has a Lazy Boy sofa bed that is in good condition and green in color. She would like to get rid of it before April 18 when her guest arrives. She is having a garage sale in about a month and the sofa could be moved out for the garage sale, but she thought to see if anyone in the congregation is interested. Please contact Lura if you would like more information.
- Starting this Thursday, April 11, there will be an ultimate frisbee pickup game each week at the church at 5pm. Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring friends! If you have any questions, contact Savannah Hofstetter Ressler.

**Prayer Chain Update:** Maple Grove’s prayer chain is being updated. The purpose of the Prayer Chain is to bring before God the needs, concerns and praises of our congregation, families and community. These requests may come from anyone within the congregation and given to Kami Sommers, Jen Geiser, or Cindy in the church office to be shared. The Prayer Chain is distributed through an email distribution list and a phone messaging system. An invitation to join or update your name on this list has either been emailed out to you or placed in your mailbox. We are asking you reply back to Cindy in the church office by April 28 to make any changes to this list. Extra copies of the form are available on the literature rack at the church. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Geiser or Kami Sommers, the Prayer Chain Coordinators.

## **Lake Township FISH is hosting a Letter Match Food Drive the whole month of April!**



The Letter Match Food Drive is a fun and engaging way to collect essential non-perishable items for those in need. Each participant donates items that start with the same letter as their last name.

For example, last name Smith: “S” – could bring soup, sugar, spaghetti. Please bring your donations in to the church by the last Sunday in April, April 28. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Outreach: Harold Beachy, Savannah Hofstetter Ressler, Sheryl Weaver.

## **Ministry of Outreach has kicked off “My Coins Count” Collection**



My Coins Count offering will go to MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale on July 12-13 @ the Mt. Hope Event Center. My Coins Count raises money for water projects sponsored by MCC to help provide clean drinking water and new wells for communities all over the world. ***Last year Maple Grove donated \$59,930.64 (which includes a \$20,000 match). Let's see what we can do this year!***

**From Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board:** *After all expenses, in 2023 the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale transferred \$480,000 to MCC, an all-time record, \$80,000 more than 2022. My Coins Count has become the primary contributor of funds. In 2021 My Coins Count raised \$89,825; in 2022 we raised \$230,697; in 2023 we raised \$260,702. As you can see, My Coins Count continues to be the highest contributor for the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale.*

### **Share the love of Jesus with a thirsty world! Ways to give:**

- Mark your offering envelope “My Coins Count”
- Drop your change in the coin vortex at the church
- Take a mission bank home and start collecting your change  
- the banks are on a table in the foyer.



**The Hartville Thrift Shoppe is looking for a family to host an IVEPer this year starting in late August.** IVEP stands for International Volunteer Program through MCC. You can learn more about being a host family at [International Volunteer Exchange Program \(IVEP\) | Mennonite Central Committee \(mcc.org\)](https://www.mcc.org). A family can host for the full year (end of August 2024-July 2025) or half the year (August-February or February-July). Families receive a \$450.00 per month stipend to help offset costs. We are looking for families who can provide a private room within the home and serve as a bridge to church, community, activities, and places of interest. The best families are ones who are looking to include the IVEPer in the family versus simply providing food and boarding. If you are interested in being a host family or would like more information about the IVEPer, please contact Phil Stauffer ([pstauffer@hartvillethriftshoppe.org](mailto:pstauffer@hartvillethriftshoppe.org)) or Julie Yoder ([jyoder@hartvillethriftshoppe.org](mailto:jyoder@hartvillethriftshoppe.org)) at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe. You can also call them at 330-877-2769. There is also a flyer with information about the IVEPer on the bulletin board at the church.

**Registration for Camp Luz Summer Camp Programs is now available at [www.campluz.com](http://www.campluz.com).**

Camp Luz has programs for ages 4-18. Rates increase April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please note they do have Campership Request forms available for those who need financial assistance.

**Love Our Community is holding a fundraiser on Thursday, April 25, at Smoke on the Water at Portage Lakes.** A portion of all the food proceeds between 3pm and 10pm will be donated back to Love our Community. Smoke on the Water is located at 562 Portage Lakes Drive, Akron 44319.

**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.

**Lighthouse Ministries' Annual Fundraising Banquet – May 2**

Join us on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30pm at the Hartville Kitchen for our Annual Fundraising Banquet! It will be a fun-filled evening celebrating the work of the Lighthouse and, of course, celebrating the students we work with! Thanks to our sponsors there is no cost to attend but there will be an invitation to give at the end of the evening. Our fiscal year ends May 31 so our goal is to raise \$60,000 to meet our budget. The banquet will also mark the grand opening of nine of our student-run businesses! Come ready to meet our entrepreneurs and to do some shopping at the end of the evening! Doors open at 5:45. Register today at [www.cantonlighthouse.org/banquet](http://www.cantonlighthouse.org/banquet). If you are unable to make it but still want to help us reach our goal? Visit [www.cantonlighthouse.org/give](http://www.cantonlighthouse.org/give) to make your donation. We are still looking for a few individuals willing to host a table of 10 for the banquet. If you are interested, reach out to Darin Nissley at [director@cantonlighthouse.org](mailto:director@cantonlighthouse.org) for more info.

**Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry invites you to join them on Tuesday, May 7, at the Hartville Kitchen for their Annual Banquet.** The doors open at 6pm and event starts at 6:30 p.m. Music will be provided by the Gospel Echoes Teams. A freewill offering will be received for the ministry. For reservations, contact Nate Miller at 330-313-5542. Tickets are \$28/person with an option to sponsor a table for \$250 which includes 8 tickets.

**Lake Township FISH Annual Golf Classic – June 22**

Registration and hole sponsorships are now available for the 2024 FISH Golf Classic on Saturday, June 22. The outing will be at Paradise Lake Country Club with a shotgun start at 2pm. Go to [2024 Golf Outing | Lake Township FISH](#) for more information and to register and sponsor a hole.

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at [secretary@maplegrovennonoite.org](mailto:secretary@maplegrovennonoite.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 - 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](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