



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))



Maple Grove  
*Newsletter*

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

Newsletter dated  
 April 18, 2024

Sunday  
 April 21, 2024



**Message:** Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler  
**Worship Leader:** Julie Yoder  
**Song Leader:** Lois Bontrager  
**Greeters:** Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

**GATHERING**

Prelude  
 Opening Song VT #11 *Mountain of God*  
 Welcome & Announcements  
 Call to Worship & Prayer  
 Leader: The call of Christ is this: **People: Love one another.**  
 Leader: The law and the prophets teach this: **People: Love one another.**  
 Leader: The world calls us to fulfill our own desires;  
**People: Christ commands us to love one another.**  
 Leader: We do this best not in word or speech  
**People: But in truth and action.**  
 Leader: Because we believe we love, and God abides in us and we abide in God.  
**People: Beloved, let us love one another for Christ first loved us.**  
**All: Come, worship God, who IS love.**

**PRAISING**

Praise Songs VT #86 *You Are Exalted*  
 STJ #31 *He Came Down*  
 Offering – *Education Fund*

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**

Scripture 1 John 3:16-24 (NRSVUE)  
 Message *Abiding in Love*

**RESPONDING**

Song of Response VT #158 *I Know God Loves Me*  
 Congregational Sharing/Prayer

**SENDING**

Sending Song STJ #74 *Now Go in Peace*  
 Benediction/Blessing  
 Postlude

*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 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.



- Sunday – April 21 - Baptism Class during SS hour in Classroom #10
- Wed. – April 24 - Puzzle Time in the Fellowship Hall – 1pm
- Sunday – April 28 - Meeting during SS about Sponsoring a Refugee Family
- Moment in Missions with MCC Great Lakes regarding new Material Resource Center being built in Kidron
- Donations due for collection for Lake Township FISH
- Prayer Chain Invitation replies due back to the church office
- 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
- Secret Prayer Sisters Kick-off Dinner – 5pm @ the Church
- Fri.-Sat. – July 12-13 - OH Mennonite Relief Sale @ Mt. Hope Event Center
- Mon.-Fri. – July 15-19 - VBS with Evermore Community Church



Thanks  
for Your  
Support!

**Offering last Sunday, April 14, 2024**

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund             | \$ 3,446.00         |
| My Coins Count           | 250.00              |
| Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission | 1,200.00            |
| Capital Replacement Fund | <u>6,656.00</u>     |
| Total Offering           | <u>\$ 11,552.00</u> |

**Attendance: 68**



**Church News**

- **Baptism classes start this Sunday, April 21, during the Sunday School hour in Classroom #10.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Nathanael.
- **For those that are interested in talking more about sponsoring a refugee family,** there will be a meeting next Sunday, April 28, during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Bontrager or Dan Dutcher.

- **There will be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24.** 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.
- **There is an ultimate frisbee pickup game each Thursday 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.

**A Secret Prayer Sisters Kick-off Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, at 5pm at the church.**



This will be an opportunity to join Maple Grove's Secret Prayer Sisters group and have a prayer sister to care for throughout the year. A revealing banquet will be set up for the following May to find out who your secret prayer sister has been for the year! If you would like to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board at the church by May 12. If you are interested in joining but unable to attend the dinner on May 19, please note that on the sign-up sheet and a form will be given to you to fill out beforehand. Names will be randomly selected for your secret prayer sister the week after the dinner and Cindy in the church office will advise you by either email or through your mailbox of who your prayer sister is. Please see Kami Sommers if have any questions.

**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.



**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.

- ***A person can survive for weeks without food, but will die in a few days without water. Yet for many families around the world, this basic need is out of reach.***

**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.

**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.

**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.

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 - 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 |