



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
 April 25, 2024



On Sunday, Maple Grove welcomes Danae King to our worship service for a Moment in Missions. Danae is the Donor Relations and Church Engagement Associate for Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes.

Sunday
 April 28, 2024



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Michael Yoder
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers
Offertory: Worship Team
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude
 Opening Song
 Welcome & Announcements
 Call to Worship & Prayer

Speak, O Lord

PRAISING

Praise Songs
 Offering – General Fund

*Build My Life
 Jesus Messiah
 His Mercy is More*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture
 Message

Acts 8:26-40 (NRSVUE)

What is to prevent me...?

RESPONDING

Song of Response
 Moment in Missions
 Congregational Sharing/Prayer

*Mighty to Save
 Danae King*

SENDING

Sending Song
 Benediction/Blessing
 Postlude

His Mercy is More

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)



Next Sunday, May 5, we will join together in giving thanks for Christ's life, death, resurrection and the gift of Salvation. We encourage you to take time to prepare your hearts for Communion Sunday.

✝ Pray for Carol Sommers who was hospitalized this week with stomach issues.

✝ 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.

For those that are interested in talking more about sponsoring a refugee family from Ukraine,

there is a meeting during the Sunday School hour this Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Bontrager or Dan Dutcher.



- Sunday – April 28 - Meeting during SS about Sponsoring a Refugee Family
- Baptism Class during SS hour in Youth Sunday School Room
- Donations due for collection for Lake Township FISH
- Prayer Chain Invitation replies due back to the church office
- Wed. – May 1 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting & Puzzle Time @ 1pm
- 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 21, 2024-Education Sunday

Attendance: 67

General Fund	\$ 7,240.00
Education Fund	10.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	1,200.00
My Coins Count	250.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 8,700.00</u>



Church News

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, May 1st



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we knot comforters and quilt in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch and spend the day, or come for just a bit. We enjoy each other's friendship while we work! Please contact Twila Miller, Margaret Miller or Sheryl Weaver if you have any questions.

There will also be puzzle time in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1st.

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.

Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night at Church – May 8 @ 6:00 p.m.



The Building & Grounds Committee is planning a spring cleaning & outside work night at the church on Wednesday, May 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We'll need everyone's help to be able to clean the entire church as well as spruce up the outside in one evening. So bring your buckets, rags, ladders, wheelbarrows and shovels, and join us for an evening of work and fellowship. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Building & Grounds Committee:

AJ Geiser, Larry Hills, Marty Miller & 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.

Rejoice! Devotional Magazines have been placed in the mailboxes for the summer quarter.

Rejoice! is a quarterly devotional magazine published by MennoMedia. If you would like to be added to the list to receive this quarterly magazine, or if you currently receive and no longer wish to receive it, please contact either Kim Weaver or Ruth Yoder with Ministry of Education or Cindy in the church office.

Lake Township FISH is hosting a Letter Match Food Drive – last day is this Sunday!



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. You may also make a monetary donation for FISH by marking your giving envelope FISH. **Please bring your donations in to the church this Sunday, April 28.** If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Outreach: Harold Beachy, Savannah Hofstetter Ressler, Sheryl Weaver.

Welcome Bags - Hartville Migrant Ministry Welcome Bags: Pastor Nathanael and Ministry of Outreach are asking the congregation for help with welcome bags for the migrant workers. Nathanael is asking the congregation to donate at least 5 Married Welcome Bags and 20 Outreach Bags. Below is a list of requested items for each – if you would like to donate items, please bring to the church by Sunday, May 12. To keep track of how many bags are being donated, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the foyer. You may also donate to the project through the offering – a suggested monetary donation for each bag is shown with the requested items, or donate directly through Migrant Ministry at [Hartville Migrant Ministry: Welcome Bags 2024 \(signupgenius.com\)](http://Hartville Migrant Ministry: Welcome Bags 2024 (signupgenius.com)). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Nathanael or a member of Ministry of Outreach.

- **OUTREACH BAGS:** Body wash; Bath sponge or wash cloth; Shampoo/conditioner; Men's deodorant; Men's razors; Shaving cream. Suggested monetary donation in lieu of items: \$30
- **MARRIED WELCOME BAGS:** Set of Full/Queen Sheets; (2) Pillows; (2) Sets Bath Towel; (2) sets of razors (1 man & 1 woman or 2 generic); (2) Deodorants (1 man & 1 woman); Toothpaste; (2) Toothbrushes; Body Wash; Shampoo & Conditioner. Suggested monetary donation in lieu of items: \$65



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.

- **771 million (1 in 10) people do not have access to safe water. Furthermore, about 4 billion people, representing nearly two-thirds of the world population, experience severe water scarcity during at least one month of the year.**

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.



Join MCC in building a new Material Resources Center in Kidron! We have outgrown our current shared warehouse space with MCC Connections, which is limiting our ability to help our global brothers and sisters. We are now in the final fundraising stages for the construction of a new 11,000 square foot material resources building that will allow us to respond to growing needs with increased efficiency, volume, and community engagement. Learn more about our fundraising project and how you can get involved at mcc.org/kidron-mr-building. Donations may be sent to: MCC Connections at P.O. Box 19, Kidron, OH 44636. Checks should be written to: Ohio MCC Activity Center (OMAC), with “MR building project” in the memo line. For online giving option, visit mccconnections.com.

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://InternationalVolunteerExchangeProgram.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) or Julie Yoder (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.

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](https://2024GolfOuting.com) for more information and to register and sponsor a hole.

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

In our current issue: Kevin King shares a truly uplifting story of MDS work in Maryland, volunteers are transforming lives in Mississippi, and long-time project in Jennings, Louisiana comes to a close. Plus, check out the volunteer opportunities for this summer and fall. Click [here](#) to read more.

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