



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
 May 2, 2024



Sunday we 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.

Sunday
 May 5, 2024



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Opening Song

The River Is Here

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: We are people of God, created to love.

People: We will love the Lord our God with heart, soul, mind and strength.

Leader: We are people of God determined to love.

People: We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would be treated.

Leader: We love neither from a sense of obligation nor to gain popularity or favor.

People: We choose to love both the lovely and the unlovable because love imitates God's nature.

**All: For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
 You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Jesus Take All of Me
 Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

Offering – General Fund

Bible Memory Recognition

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Mark 12:28-34 (NRSVUE)

Message

Heart, Soul, MIND, and Strength

RESPONDING

Communion

Song of Response

VT #388 How Can I Say

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

Hymn of Heaven

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 Sam Miller who is having hip replacement surgery.
- ✝ Pray for Carol Sommers who is recovering from gallbladder removal surgery.
- ✝ Pray for others with health concerns: Marty Miller who was hospitalized this week; Margaret Miller recovering from surgery; Lura Bowin; Rachel Weaver; Alta Bates' nephew Ray Miller; Myron & Sheryl Weaver's friend Bob Brown.
- ✝ 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 – 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
- Return items for Migrant Center Welcome Bags
- 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

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.



Ministry of Outreach thanks you for your donation of items for the recent Lake Township FISH collection and a total of \$650 that was collected. Appreciate your continued support of FISH!



Offering last Sunday, April 28

Attendance: 60

General Fund	\$ 2,185.00
Education Fund	1,646.00
Lake Township FISH	650.00
Migrant Center Welcome Bags	200.00
My Coins Count	150.00
Total Offering	<u>\$ 4,831.00</u>



Bible Memory Recognition Sunday – May 5

On Sunday, we will recognize the children who participated in the Bible Memory program this past school year. Both the 1st-4th grade children's Sunday School class and the Jr. Youth Sunday School class participated this year. The children will be reciting John 3:16-17 and are excited to share with the congregation. **Thank you to the children who participated in this program!**

<i>Brooklyn Geiser</i>	<i>Drew Geiser</i>	<i>Ayden Miller</i>	<i>Emma Miller</i>	<i>Kiley Miller</i>
<i>Mason Miller</i>	<i>Lexi O'Neill</i>	<i>Taylor O'Neill</i>	<i>Paige Sommers</i>	<i>Kennedy Weaver</i>
<i>Shane Weaver</i>	<i>Miles Yoder</i>			



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

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.

Summer Sunday School Class for Post-High and Youth Students:



Starting this Sunday, May 5, the Post-High students and Youth Students are invited to join in fellowship and discussion with a Sunday School class that will meet in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning starting at 9:30am. Vee Miller will be leading the class. This will begin this Sunday, May 5, and will continue through the summer. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ministry of Education members Ruth Yoder, Kim Weaver, or Sunday School teacher Vee Miller.

Ministry of Worship is looking for Greeters for Sunday mornings

Greeters are at the main doors in the foyer to greet the congregation and hand out welcome packets to new attendees. Greeters should be at least 2 persons or a family unit and sign up for a month at a time. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Greeters are asked to be in the foyer from 9:15 - 9:35 and 10:15 - 10:30 am. If you are willing to be a greeter, please write your name down on the month you are available to serve. Any questions, please contact Lois Bontrager.

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.

- *Every two minutes, a child under five dies from a preventable waterborne illness.*
- *Without safe drinking water, families rely on contaminated water that makes them sick, and they cannot wash their hands like they should.*
- *Access to safe water & sanitation reduces the spread of disease, saving lives in the process.*

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://www.internationalvolunteerexchange.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.

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!

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@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

Children/Youth/Young Adult Classes

PreK-4th Grade: Rooms 7-8
Jr. Youth (Grades 5-8): Rooms 3-4
Mixed Post-High & Youth
(Grades 9-12) Fellowship Hall