



Informal Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday School Classes - 9:30a.m.
 Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
 (Online at www.mgmennonite.org)



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

Newsletter dated
 December 13, 2024

Sunday
 December 15, 2024
 3rd Sunday of Advent



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Julie Yoder
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

STS #7 Come, Come Emmanuel

Call to Worship

Leader: Merciful One: You anoint us for justice, You call us to You.

People: **Your Spirit is poured out upon us.**

Leader: Yours is the way of release and restoration.

People: **May Your love flow through us to heal the brokenhearted.
 May we declare Your good news to bring hope to the poor.**

Leader: You anoint us; we are Yours.

People: **We delight and rejoice in You.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1: Like a cloth with frayed edges, our world leaves people on the fringes;

Reader 2: Those who aren't accepted, who don't belong;

Reader 1: The poor, the brokenhearted, the prisoners, the oppressed.

Reader 2: But God's kingdom shows us another way.

Candlelighting

All: ***Give us eyes to notice those on the fringes and arms to extend our boundaries, inviting all to become woven into our communities.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*VT #218 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus
 VT #267 & 268 Helpless and Hungry-What Child is This Medley*

Offering – *Education Fund*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Scripture

Luke 4:16–21 (NRSVUE)

Message

Anointing for Justice: Who Belongs?

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

HWB #395 *Here I Am, Lord*

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

STS #16 *Peace Before Us*

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY
*Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy and adapt 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-Voices Together (purple)*



- ✝ *Pray for Nancy Beachy’s friend Mary Ann who is recovering at home from her second open heart surgery.*
- ✝ *Pray for those with health concerns: Rachel Weaver; Herm Weaver going through chemotherapy treatments; Twila Miller’s sister Elnora Yoder with cancer.*
- ✝ *Pray for the Mykhaylyuchenko family - Vlad, Krystyna, Vlad and Emilia.*
- ✝ *Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé and his wife Gloria & their family that they may soon be reunited.*
- ✝ *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.*

Don't forget your Secret Prayer Sister over the holidays!



- Thursday – Dec. 19 - Shared Service with St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church
- “A Quiet Christmas Service” at St. Jacob’s – 7:00pm
- Tuesday – Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm
- Wednesday – Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!



Offering last Sunday, December 8

Attendance: 88

General Fund	\$ 8,001.50
Education Fund	10.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	150.00
Total Offering	\$ 8,161.50

We are displaying a “Remembrance Tree” for the holiday season this year. If you would like to include a loved one who has passed on that tree, please put their name in the basket by the mailboxes. The name will then be written on a decorative paper and placed on the tree, and also remembered at the shared service at St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church on December 19 - “A Quiet Christmas Service.” Talk to Sylvia Miller if you have any questions.

“A Quiet Christmas Service”: On Thursday, December 19, there will be a shared service between Maple Grove Mennonite Church and St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. This will be a quiet worship service for those dealing with complications of loss or sorrow during the holiday season. It will be held at St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church (1460 State Street NE, North Canton, Ohio 44721). Please see Pastor Nathanael if you have any questions.

From Ministry of Gifts Discernment

*The following members have agreed to serve on committees beginning January 1, 2025.
Many agreed to serve another term on their committee – thank you!*

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Expires end of year</u>
Building & Grounds (3-year term)	Jordan Miller	2027
Family Ministry (2-year term)	Betty Miller	2026
	Marsha Miller	2026
Food Committee (2-year term)	Ruth Hills	2026
	Kami Sommers	2026
Ushers (2-year term)	Mitch Mann (finishing Mike Sommers’ term)	2025
	Jim Miller	2026
	Leroy Sommers	2026

Thank you to those coming off committees at the end of this year: AJ Geiser who served on Building & Grounds Committee, and Becky Lubbers who has served on the Food Committee for the last 6 years!

The Ministry of Gifts Discernment appreciates everyone’s willingness to serve!

Vee Miller, Charla Sommers, Vernon Sommers, Michael Yoder

An updated list of the ministry and committee members for January 1, 2025, will be emailed out to the church email distribution list and paper copies have been placed in the mailboxes.

Lighthouse Ministries – Matching gift opportunity till end of the year

Thanks to the generosity of some incredible friends of the Lighthouse, we have a matching gift opportunity! From now until December 31, donations to the Lighthouse will be matched dollar-for-dollar (up to \$18,000), doubling your impact! Please prayerfully consider making a gift to help us continue to offer safe, high-quality, and holistic opportunities to youth living in our SE Canton neighborhood. We deeply appreciate your partnership and investment in our work! You can give a gift easily at www.cantonlighthouse.org/give/ or by mailing a check to the Lighthouse at 1931 3rd St SE, Canton, OH 44707.

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. 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.

As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to save your Acme grocery receipts.

Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH. The program runs through February 15, 2025. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project!

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**

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary (Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org)

- **Office Hours:** **Friday – 8-11am**

Ministry of Congregational Care: Dan Dutcher, Paul Bontrager, Harold Beachy, Jill Liechty

Prayer Chain Contacts: Jen Geiser and Kami Sommers

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE

Adult Classes

Women's Class	Room 1-Education Side
Men's Class	Room 9-Hallway
Mixed Intergenerational Class	Room 2-Education Side
Mixed 30's-40's Class	Basement

Children/Youth/Young Adult Classes

PreK-5 th Grade	Rooms 7-8
Jr. Youth (Grades 6-8):	Rooms 3-4
Youth (Grades 9-12) & Post-High	
Youth Room in Basement	