



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
 December 27, 2024

Sunday
December 29, 2024



Message: Myrrl Byler
 Worship Leader: Gary Sommers
 Song Leader: Tom Lubbers

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #9 Come Away from Rush and Hurry

Call to Worship

Leader: As we worship today, God, we ask this of You:

**People: Wipe pride from our hearts, that we might truly love one another.
 Rinse conceit from our eyes that we might see one another as You see.**

Leader: We rest in Your promises and wait for You.

People: Calm and quiet, we trust in You.

Leader: Open our hearts,

All: *That we might let go of all that separates us from You and one another.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader 1: Have you heard the news? Jesus, the promised Messiah has come!

Reader 2: I have heard the Good News! God is with us; Jesus is here!

Candlelighting

**All: *Let us shout it aloud for everyone to hear! Come join us on this journey,
 as we live out the Good News of Christ!***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

HWB #211 *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*
 HWB #189 *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time
Scripture
Message

Luke 2:21-38 (NRSVUE)

Waiting No Longer

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

His Mercy is More

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

VT #838 *The Peace of the Earth Be with You*

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 safe travels for those who are traveling over the holidays; and pray for those who are away from their families or alone over the holidays.

✝ Pray for Lois Bontrager who is having gallbladder surgery on Monday, December 30th.

✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Rachel Weaver; Herm Weaver going through chemotherapy treatments; Twila Miller's sister Elnora Yoder with cancer; Nancy Beachy's friend Mary Ann recovering from open heart surgery; Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew, who will have surgery December 30th to remove a tumor.

✝ Pray for the Mykhaylyuchenko family - Vlad, Krystyna, Vlad and Emilia.

✝ Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé and his wife Gloria & their family.

✝ Pray for Santa Jinaina, the IVEP volunteer from Zambia, who is working at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe for her year-long term and will be moving in with her new host family in January. This has been the plan, and we are grateful for the new host family, and ask for your prayers in this transition and continued cultural adjustments.

✝ 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 – Dec. 29 - Sermon – Myrrl Byler
- Wednesday – Jan. 1, 2025 - Happy New Year!
- Sunday – Jan. 5 - Sermon – Myrrl Byler
- Wednesday – Jan. 8 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Wednesday – Jan. 15 - Annual Reports due back to Church Office
- January 21, 2025 - 500th year Anniversary of Anabaptism
- Sunday – Feb. 2 - Annual Meeting – 1pm

PLEASE NOTE:

Pastor Nathanael is out of the office through January 1st. Please contact a member of the Ministry of Congregational Care for any pastoral needs in his absence.

A “Remembrance Tree” is on display at Maple Grove by the Library.

The “Remembrance Tree” includes names of loved ones who have passed as a way of remembering those who have gone before us. A list of the names from Maple Grove that are included on the tree is available on the literature rack by the mailboxes in the church lobby.



Offering Sunday, December 22

Attendance: 97

General Fund	\$	4,872.09
Education Fund		20.00
Charity Fund		2,000.00
Lake Township FISH		100.00
Refugee Family		75.00
Special Designation		5,000.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission		<u>5,000.00</u>
Total Offering	\$	17,067.09

Annual Congregational Business Meeting – February 2, 2025

The Ministry of Administration has scheduled the Annual Congregational Business Meeting for Sunday, February 2. An email has been sent to the chairperson of each committee and ministry requesting an updated report for 2024. We are asking that you please turn in your reports to Cindy in the church office by Wednesday, January 15 – thank you!

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

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!

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.

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	