



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 6, 2024

Sunday
 December 8, 2024
 2nd Sunday of Advent



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
 Worship Leader: Gary Sommers
 Song Leader: Renee Koshmider

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

STS #7 *Come, Come Emmanuel*

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us return to the Lord with all our hearts.

People: With our whole heart?

Leader: The hurting and hurtful part? The bleeding and empty part?

People: The sewn-up-tight-don't-come-in heart part?

All: *With our whole heart, with all our hearts we come to worship the Lord God,*

Leader: whose merciful compassion, abundant patience, and faithful forgiving love meet us in our need.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1: We know God to be merciful and compassionate,

Reader 2: patient and full of faithful love,

Reader 1: ready to forgive.

Reader 2: Created in God's image, we yearn to reflect these same attributes in our hearts and lives.

Candlelighting

All: *We open our hearts to receive the Spirit, to become more like our loving God.*

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #216 *Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming
 Jesus Messiah*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Scripture

Joel 2:12–13, 28–29 (NRSVUE)

Message

Opening Hearts: What Do We Ask For?

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

VT #57 *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

VT #141 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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)

Cindy Fleming thanks Kami Sommers for filling in at the church office for her and the great job she did of taking care of the newsletters each week. Kami is going to continue helping the Worship Team with taking care of their music each week. And thank you to Jade Liechty for taking care of the worship service presentations and agreeing to continue to do so for the time being.



✝ 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.

✝ Pray for Kami Sommers' family. Her mother, Kenna Woodring, passed away on Friday, November 29th, and the arrangements were Saturday, December 7:

Arrangements for Kenna Woodring: Calling hours will be Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 11-12 PM and 1-2 PM at the Chapel in Marlboro (8700 Edison St NE, Louisville). Celebration of Life services will be in the church at 2 PM with Pastor Joel Cochran officiating.



Thank you to those who participated in the Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas program. This program is for families in the southeast neighborhood of Canton surrounding the Lighthouse. More than 30 gifts were donated towards this program from Maple Grove! God is good!

I would like to thank the church for the prayers that have been offered up for me during my recent surgery and illness, the meals that were brought over and for the beautiful mum from the church. I appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness. Cindy Fleming



- Tuesday – Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm
- Wednesday – Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!



Offering last Sunday, December 1

Attendance: 76

General Fund	\$ 2,416.00
My Coins Count	268.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	600.00
Youth Group Fundraiser	<u>830.00</u>
Total Offering	\$ 4,114.00

Youth Group Fundraiser

Please pick up jars you ordered from the youth on Sunday, December 8 after church. Contact Charla Sommers or Ruth Yoder with any questions, or if you're unable to pick up on Sunday.

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. Talk to Sylvia Miller if you have any questions.



NEEDED: IVEP (International Volunteer Exchange Program through MCC) host family from February-July 2025. Hello our Partnering Churches and greetings from the Hartville Thrift Shoppe! We are in need of a host family for our current IVEPer. Our IVEPer's name is Santa Jinaina, and she is 23, from Zambia. Santa is currently working at the thrift shop so if you are interested you could meet her and get to know her some before you decide. Please give this prayerful consideration and contact Phil Stauffer or Julie Yoder at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe at 330-877-2769 if you have interest/questions.

NEEDED: Looking for a ride for 2 to Lancaster PA the weekend between Christmas and New Years for 2 of our area IVEP'ers - Santa and Juliana. They will be returning the following weekend so a ride coming back that first weekend of January will be needed as well. Or if anyone would like to donate to help them out with the cost of transportation that would be another option. Please contact the Hartville Thrift Shoppe at 330-877-2769 and ask for Julie or Phil.

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, Hartsville, 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 – 8am-noon**

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	