



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
February 21, 2025

**Sunday
February 23, 2025**



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

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

HWB #37 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

Call to Worship

Leader: O God of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in Your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

We pray for our enemies around the world, that they may come to see the vision of Your peaceable Kingdom as the only path to justice and truth and that we may help to light that path.

People: We pray for our enemies internationally and across religions.

Leader: We pray for our enemies within our own country, that You would bring down the dividing walls of hostility between ideological tribes that turn neighbor against neighbor.

People: We pray for peace in our divided nation.

Leader: We pray for our enemies within the Church itself; whether across denominational lines, or those sitting in the row next to us. May our allegiance to You transcend all prejudice and discord.

People: We pray for peace within the Body of Christ.

Leader: We pray for our personal enemies - all who threaten us, whether by their words or actions; or who, by their mere presence, invite us to confront the fact we are not as loving as we would like to think.

People: We pray for our personal enemies.

Leader: Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, we repent of the hatred and conflict in our own hearts. Help us to know when to speak, when to act, when to be still, and give us Your strength to topple tables, or wrap arms of love.

People: Give us eyes to see all people as You do - people to be loved and not threats to overcome.

Leader: We repent of the violence we have perpetrated in the name of retributive justice, whether through thought, word, or deed.

People: We relinquish our desire for revenge, and trust in Your redemption through the cross.

Leader: Grant us courage to live peaceably as far as it is possible, and develop in us the patience necessary to see Your Kingdom revealed in our time.

People: May we not repay evil for evil, but overcome evil with good.

All: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love. So mightily spread abroad Your Spirit, and help us to be a means to that movement, to seek Your voice and wisdom, to lay down our fears, to speak truth to power and love to our enemies, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Everlasting God
Good Good Father*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Luke 6:27-38 (CEB)

Message

Holding Our Enemies with Tenderness

RESPONDING

Song of Response

Love for Enemies

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

TMH #351 *A Charge to Keep I Have*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

*Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314
HWB- Hymnal Worship Book (blue) STJ-Sing the Journey (green)
TMH – The Mennonite Hymnal (red) STS-Sing the Story (purple)
VT-Voices Together (purple)*



✝ *Pray for those recovering from surgery: Sylvia Miller, Becky Lubbers, Herm Weaver, and Jeremy Graber.*

✝ *Pray for others with health concerns: Rachel Weaver, and Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder who has cancer.*

✝ *Pray for Isabelle Liechty and a group from Lake Center who are preparing to go on a mission trip March 1st to the Dominican Republic.*

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

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

✝ *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.*



The Ministry of Outreach would like to thank those who brought in donations for the Lake Township FISH collection. Appreciate your continued support of FISH!



Offering last Sunday, February 16-Education Sunday

Attendance: 64

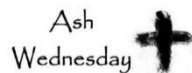
Education Fund	\$ 5,527.00
General Fund	1,300.00
Special Designation	5,100.00
Total Offering	\$ 11,927.00



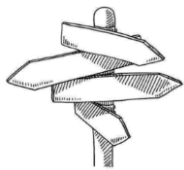
- Thursday – Feb. 27 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #1)
- Wed. – March 5 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm
- Fri. & Sat. – March 7-8 - Annual Conference Assembly of Ohio Conference
@ Berlin Mennonite Church
- Sunday – March 9 - Daylight Saving Time begins (Spring Forward)
- First Sunday of Lent
- Kami Sommers Sharing about MCC Trip during Worship Time
- Church Social – Game Night @ the Church – 4:30pm
- Wed. – March 12 - Wednesday Night Meal – 6pm
- Lenten Guided Prayer Time & Sharing – 7pm
- Thurs. – March 13 - Maple Grove's night to Volunteer @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8 pm



Ash Wednesday Service – March 5 @ 7:00 p.m.



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent and marks 40 days until Easter, excluding Sundays. This first day of Lent reminds us that new life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life and the first step on this Lenten journey invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our need for God by the imposition of ashes. We invite all to participate in the Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 7pm as we begin our journey through Lent.



Lenten Guided Prayer Gatherings & Wednesday Night Meals

Ministry of Worship is excited to announce the Lenten Guided Prayer we will be using during the Lenten season titled "Christ Calls at the Crossroads." The guide will be emailed to you and paper copies will be available on the table in the church lobby with the newsletters. The prayer guide for the first week is "Christ Calls Us to Draw Near."

Please join us Wednesdays to share a meal and share your experiences with the prayer guide each week starting March 12th through April 9th. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. and the sharing time afterwards at 7:00 p.m. Monetary donations for the food are welcome. Please note that everyone is welcome whether you come for the meal only or stay for the group experience.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Worship:

Lois Bontrager, Renee Koshmider, Julie Yoder or Pastor Nathanael

Lenten Banner for 2025 –The Worship Visual Committee is currently working on the new Lenten banner using the *Leader* magazine suggestions. It will be set up in the Fellowship Hall during coffee time if anyone (of any age or skill) would like to help. If you have any questions, please see Vee Miller or Sheryl Weaver.



Sunday School materials have been placed in the adult classrooms for the spring quarter which begins March 2nd. Sunday School quarterlies for the summer quarter will be ordered mid-April. Please let Ruth Yoder know how many quarterlies your class will need the beginning of April. Thank you – Ministry of Education

Morning Scripture Reading and Prayer: Join us on Thursday mornings in the Women's SS class at 8:30am for a time of scripture reading and prayer. We are following the 2-Year Bible Reading Plan – copies are available by the mailboxes. All are invited to join, whether you come every week or just once in a while. If you have any questions, please see Clara Sommers or Pastor Nathanael.

Diaper Shower for Tim & Violet: The Ministry of Outreach is having a diaper shower for Tim Miller (Miriam Miller's son). If you would like to participate, please bring in diapers to the church. Any size diapers - newborn to toddler. We will be collecting till March 2nd. Any questions, please contact a member of MOO: Sheryl Weaver, Savannah Hofstetter Ressler, Howard Miller. Thank you!



Family Ministry has scheduled a game night at the church for Sunday, March 9, from 4:30-7:30pm. All ages are welcome! We'll have pizza at 5:30. Bring your favorite game to play and come enjoy the fellowship time! If you have any questions, please contact a member of Family Ministry: Barb Dutcher, Betty Miller, Holly Miller & Marsha Miller



Please pray for MCC staff and the communities in Kentucky and West Virginia that are experiencing catastrophic flooding. Torrential rain last weekend filled creeks and rivers, causing significant flooding. Our staff report that most residents are without power and water. Appalachia Build staff are working with partner churches at our sites in Kimball, West Virginia, and Elkhorn City, Kentucky, that are serving as temporary shelters. Support MCC's efforts in the region: mcc.org/donate-appalachia Learn more about MCC Appalachia Build: mcc.org/appalachia-build

Join the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on February 28 - March 1!

A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Fairlawn Mennonite Church to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Dates: Friday, February 28 (9am-8pm) and Saturday, March 1 (9am-2pm)

Location: Fairlawn Mennonite Church - 8520 Emerson Rd, Apple Creek, OH 44606

The Hartville Thrift Shoppe thrives with our volunteers. Would you have a few hours a week or month to join our team? We are currently looking for help in the following areas: cashiers, purses/accessories, electronics, and the Movies and Music department. But you're welcome in any area and there are many. It's fun and fellowship (sometimes even food!) and for good causes. Tours and orientation/introduction to our store and ministry are available. Hours are as flexible as you need them to be. Join us in our work to support MCC and local charities. Contact Julie, Volunteer Coordinator at 330-877-2769 X1308, or fill out a volunteer information form on our website at hartvillethriftshoppe.org.

Men Seeking God – Testimonies at Christ Foundation

Local Christian businessmen will share their testimonies at Christ Foundation (1010 Sunnyside St. SW, Hartville) to encourage unbelieving men who are searching for answers about God. The first testimony will be given by Lewis Yoder (Executive Director, Christ Foundation) on Saturday, March 1st. Doors open at 8am, and testimonies begin promptly at 8:15am. There will be testimonies given every other week after that. Howard Miller will be sharing his testimony as well but the date has not yet been set. All are welcome—but we are encouraging everyone to invite your unbelieving friends. For any questions, please email, Dave Tournoux, psalm911ct@aol.com.

In 2025, Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is celebrating 75 years of bringing people home after a disaster. In celebration of Mennonite Disaster Service's 75th anniversary, we are inviting church sewing circles and individuals who enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting, or weaving to join us by creating wall hangings or prayer shawls for our Housewarmer Project during the month of February! The Housewarmer Project provides quilted wall hangings and prayer shawls to disaster survivors whose homes have been rebuilt or restored by MDS. The wall hangings and prayer shawls are presented to the homeowner at the dedication of the home. These handmade gifts are a lasting symbol of compassion and of coming home. Housewarmer Project information, guidelines, and mailing instructions for completed wall hangings and prayer shawls can be found at [Housewarmer Project – Mennonite Disaster Service](#).

The February 2025 edition of *On the Level* is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service.

In this edition, an update on the MDS response to the LA Wildfires and recent flooding in Kentucky plus a recap of our 75th Anniversary celebration last week in Wichita, KS. Click [here](#) to read more. A copy of the newsletter is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

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.

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org by Wednesday each week – thank you!

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-12pm**

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

- **Office Hours:** **Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday – 8am-1pm**

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	