



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 28, 2025

**Sunday
March 2, 2025**



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Michael Yoder
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeter: Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements
Opening Song
Call to Worship

The River is Here

PRAISING

Praise Songs

Offering – General Fund

*Shine, Jesus Shine
Goodness of God*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture
Message

Exodus 34:29-35 (CEB)

God's Transforming Light

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer

HWB #371 *Let There Be Light, Lord God*

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

HWB #102 *To God Be the Glory*

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)



During the worship service next Sunday, Kami Sommers will be sharing on what she learned about the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and her experiences on her recent trip to India.



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- ✝ Pray for Alta Bates who is dealing with back issues and waiting to have some tests done.
 - ✝ Pray for those recovering from surgery: Sylvia Miller, 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 safe travels for Isabelle Liechty and a group from Lake Center who are going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic leaving Saturday, March 1st, and returning Saturday, March 8th.
 - ✝ 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.
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The Sewing Committee would like to thank the youth for making comforters on Sunday. The comforters turned out great and are on display on the stairs up to the Fellowship Hall.

The Ministry of Administration would like to thank Clara Sommers for updating the first aid kits at the church. There is a small first aid kit on the Education side by the kitchen area, and one with more supplies in the kitchen in the first cupboard on the left when you enter the kitchen from the Fellowship Hall. Appreciate your help with this Clara!

Dear Maple Grove Mennonite Church,

Thank you so very much for partnering with Hartville Migrant Ministry to provide free medical care to our local migrants/immigrants! Since 1962 we have been serving the health care needs of our neighbors who have no insurance. We would not be able to do so without generous partners like you! God Bless, Ed Laubacher-Director of Hartville Migrant Ministry



- Wed. – March 5
 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
 - Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm
- Thursday – March 6
 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #1)
- Fri. & Sat. – March 7-8
 - Annual Conference Assembly of Ohio Conference @ Berlin Mennonite Church
- Sunday – March 9
 - 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



Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 9th.



Offering last Sunday, February 23

Attendance: 72

General Fund	\$ 4,875.25
Lake Township FISH	50.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	150.00
Total Offering	\$ 5,075.25

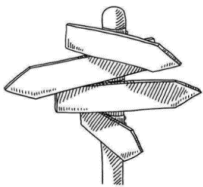


We are entering into the Lenten season, a time of repentance and surrender. A time where we are particularly mindful of Jesus' journey toward the Cross and, eventually, His Resurrection. This year the Lenten theme from the Leader magazine, a publication of MennoMedia, is Christ Collides. As we seek to journey in faithfulness along the Way of Jesus, the content and character of Christ's teachings collide with our everyday lives. These collisions are challenging, encouraging, convicting, and healing. In this year's Lenten theme, we hope to embrace where Christ Collides in our lives and in our world that we might more faithfully follow Him toward God's vision of healing and hope for all people!

In Christ, Pastor Nathanael



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 was emailed to the congregation and paper copies are available by the mailboxes at the church. Each Sunday, the prayer guide for that week will also be available with the newsletters. The first Sunday of Lent is March 9th.

Please join us on 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

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, March 5



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we knot comforters and quilt in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a lunch and spend the day, or come for just a bit. We enjoy each other's friendship while we work! Please contact Twila Miller, Margaret Miller or Sheryl Weaver if you have any questions.

The second Thursday of each month is Maple Grove's turn to supply volunteers at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe.

Ministry of Outreach is encouraging volunteers to help with this. Men and women are needed Thursday, March 13, from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Yoder.

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



St. Paul Catholic Church is hosting a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning, March 2nd, from 8am-1pm to benefit Hartville Migrant Ministries.

We invite you to join us for breakfast and fellowship! If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute to the medical care of our neighbors, please go to [Hartville Migrant Ministry](#)

Refuge of Hope Spring Banquet – April 8 @ Hartville Kitchen

The Spring Fundraising Banquet for Refuge of Hope is Tuesday, April 8th, at the Hartville Kitchen with doors opening at 5:30 and dinner at 6pm. Joins us for an inspiring evening of fellowship, gratitude, and renewal as we present our solution-driven vision for creating lasting change in the lives of those we serve. Admission and dinner are free. As part of this celebration, we invite you to contribute to Refuge of Hope. To confirm your attendance and reserve your seat, please RSVP by March 31st at [Spring Banquet | Refuge of Hope](#) or call Beth at 330-453-1785.

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.

The Hartville Thrift Shoppe is anticipating hosting another IVEP'er this next year and we will be looking for host families. You could either host for the entire year or for just 6 months. The International Volunteer Exchange Program is an MCC program designed to bring young people here from countries outside the US and Canada. As MCC considers potential hosts we look for people who can warmly welcome IVEP participants, help them navigate a new cultural context and are interested in expanding their own personal worldviews. Hosts often learn to understand their own culture in a new way when they see it through the eyes of someone who's experiencing it for the first time. One of the hosts from last year here in Ohio just returned from Central America where they went to visit their IVEP'er in their home country. Bonds are made and family can be expanded. So if you have any interest in exploring this possibility, please contact Phil Stauffer or Julie Yoder at 330-877-2769. You can learn more about it at the MCC website [IVEP — For hosts | Mennonite Central Committee](#). Thank you for considering this great opportunity!

Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for two free webinars: MCC has various curriculums that can be used by churches and constituents in a variety of ways. In this series of virtual workshops, MCC staff will showcase these curriculums and give examples of how they might benefit congregations.

- **Loaded Conversations & Fear Not - March 6 from 9-11:30 a.m. EST:** In a culture that is dominated by fear, division and violence, churches are grappling with how to talk about and think about gun ownership and gun use. *A Loaded Conversation* invites churches to explore a faithful response to this reality of violence involving guns. *Fear Not: Creating a plan to respond to active violence* helps congregations in the U.S. consider what they believe about situations of active violence and how they can respond effectively and faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ. Register at: mcc.org/loaded-fear-webinar
- **Embracing Beloved Community - March 6 from 1-3:30 p.m. EST:** Embracing Beloved Community dives into the ways God calls the church to embrace diversity. The curriculum is designed for congregations new to this topic to journey together in an exploration of the sin of racism and Christ's vision for the Kingdom of God on Earth. Register at: mcc.org/embracing-beloved-webinar

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.

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, 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-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

Children's Ministry	Rooms 3-4
Youth (Grades 9-12) & Post-High	
Youth Room in Basement	