



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
March 14, 2025



Lent 2 – March 16, 2025

Christ Collides with our Condemnation

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Lois Bontrager
Children's Time: Julie Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #6 Let's Walk Together

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ collides with our thoughts to condemn others.

People: Put them in their place.

Leader: Who is more guilty of wrongdoing?

People: Do you condemn? Should I condemn?

All: For Your reign, O God, transform us as we worship You.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*His Mercy is More
The Jesus Way*

Offering – Education Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35 (CEB)

Message

Christ Collides with our Condemnation

RESPONDING

Song of Response

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Confession & Words of Assurance

All: Loving and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You.

Leader: We have not loved You with all our thoughts, words, and actions.

People: We have sinned through what we have chosen to do and what we have chosen to neglect.

Leader: We have not fully accepted Your love for us. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

People: We are quick to pass judgment and to assume Your authority to condemn others.

All: We repent before each other and before You, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to Your love. Help us shake free from our quickness to condemn so we may better share Your peace in Your world, rejoicing in Your name. Amen.

Leader: Now hear these words of assurance: God tells us that we are created in God's image. God created us for relationship with God and each other. In this, we know that God will never break our relationship. God's steadfast love endures forever.

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

HWB #343 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*
(Verses 1, 2, 3 & 5)

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy, adapt, and project the Lenten 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-Voces Together (purple)



✝ Pray for Alta Bates who is recovering from back problems.

✝ Pray for Miriam Miller who is dealing with some heart issues.

✝ Pray for those recovering from surgery: 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 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.



• Wed. – March 19

- Wednesday Night Meal – 6pm

- Lenten Guided Prayer Time & Sharing – 7pm

• Thurs. – March 20

- Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #1)

- Comforter Knotting @ Thrift Shoppe – 5-8pm (RSVP to Julie)



Offering last Sunday, March 9, 2025

Attendance: 76

General Fund \$ 4,744.50

Ukrainian Refugee Family 100.00

Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission 50.00

Total Offering \$ 4,894.50



There are still a few 2024 year-end giving statements by the mailboxes. The statements are in envelopes marked with your offering number. If you would like your giving statement mailed to you, please contact Cindy in the church office. Thank you!



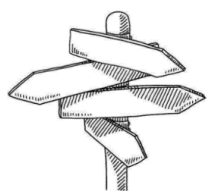
Dear Maple Grove Mennonite Church,

We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your faithful support of Metanoia Missions. Your church has played an **essential role** in the history of Metanoia and Belén Ministries in Nicaragua. From the very beginning, Maple Grove has stood with us, sowing into this mission and impacting countless lives through your generosity, prayers, and partnership. Thanks to your support, our **Food Security, Leadership Development, and Gift of Mobility** programs continue to bring real change. Children are receiving nourishing meals, pastors are being equipped to lead their communities, and individuals with disabilities are gaining mobility and independence. Your investment in this work has left a lasting legacy in Nicaragua. We are truly grateful for all you have done and continue to do. May God bless your church abundantly as you bless others!

With appreciation, Moises & Ana Arauz, Directors, Metanoia Missions



March 19 & 26	- Wednesday Meal	6:00 p.m.
and April 2 & 9	- Lenten Guided Prayer Time	7:00 p.m.
April 13	- Palm Sunday	
April 17	- Maundy Thursday	6:30 p.m.
	Light meal followed with service of Communion & Footwashing	
April 18	- Good Friday	
April 20	- Easter Sunday Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
	- Worship	10:00 a.m.



Lenten Guided Prayer Gatherings & Wednesday Night Meals

The Lenten Guided Prayer we will be using during the Lenten season is titled "Christ Calls at the Crossroads." The prayer guide for the week of March 16th is "Christ Calls Us to Compassion." Paper copies of the prayer guide for the week of March 16th are with the newsletters on the table at the church.

The prayer guide for the whole Lenten Season was emailed to the congregation on February 25th and paper copies of this are available by the mailboxes.

Please join us Wednesday, March 19th, to share a meal and share your experiences with the prayer guide. The meal is at 6:00 p.m. and we will be having pasta this week. Monetary donations for the food are welcome. The sharing time is after the meal at 7:00 p.m. 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

Stations of the Cross Coloring pages are available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

Each set of coloring pages includes two versions. A simplified version for some of the younger artists (and those who prefer less detail to color) and a detailed version. Please help yourself!



Ministry of Outreach Kicks-Off “My Coins Count” Collection on March 16!

My Coins Count offering will go to MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction on July 11-12 @ the Mt. Hope Event Center. Each year, spare change collected adds up to more than \$600,000 toward MCC's work around the world.

Your coins count! Maple Grove donated \$58,073 at last year's Relief Sale for water projects (which included a \$20,000 match).

- This year, My Coins Count will raise money for **food projects** to help improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable families around the world.
- Mission banks are available to collect your change – help yourself to a bank on the table in the church lobby.



Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Annual Kick-off Meeting – March 17

It's the official start to our 2025 (60th) year! Join us at Kidron Mennonite Church (3987 Kidron Road) on Monday, March 17th, at 6:00 p.m. We'll be hearing firsthand stories about MCC's work as well as updates for the 2025 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction. Light refreshments will be provided.

Comforter Knotting @ the Hartville Thrift Shoppe – March 20

As part of the Great Winter Warm-up with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the Thrift Shoppe is having a night of making comforters on Thursday evening, March 20, from 5pm-8pm. This is to help MCC meet their goal to collect 7,000 comforters by the end of March. Learn more about MCC's project at mcc.org/great-winter-warm-up. **Volunteers are needed!** Please RSVP to Julie Yoder at 234-978-2285 so we know how many to expect and plan for. Hope to see you there!!

Open Arms Hispanic Ministries Banquet Fundraiser – March 27

Join us for a night of delicious food for a good cause! This is going to be an opportunity for us to continue supporting our Latino brothers and sisters. The fundraiser is on Wednesday, March 27, at 6pm at the Kidron Community Center (4434 Kidron Road, Kidron). Please RSVP to 330-988-5142.

Refuge of Hope Spring Banquet @ Hartville Kitchen – April 8

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. 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 refugeofhope.org/events/spring-banquet or call Beth at 330-453-1785.

Love Our Community Brunch with the Easter Bunny – April 12

This year, LOC is bringing a fresh twist to their Easter celebration! Instead of the Easter egg hunt, they are thrilled to introduce a brand-new event that brings our community together while supporting local food, clothing, and shelter needs. Join LOC for the 1st Annual Brunch with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 12, at the Hartville MarketPlace & Flea Market. Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets. 100% of the proceeds support the mission of Love our Community (www.loveourcommunity.net).



Lighthouse Ministries' Annual Fundraising Banquet – April 24

Join us on Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 pm at the Hartville Kitchen for our Annual Fundraising Banquet! It will be a fun-filled evening celebrating the work of the Lighthouse and, of course, celebrating the students we work with! Thanks to our sponsors there is no cost to attend but there will be an invitation to give at the end of the evening. Our fiscal year ends May 31 so our goal is to raise \$70,000 to meet our budget. The banquet will also mark the grand opening of our student-run businesses! Come ready to meet our entrepreneurs and to do some shopping at the end of the evening! Doors open at 5:45. Register today at cantonlighthouse.org/banquet. If you are unable to make it but still want to help us reach our goal, visit cantonlighthouse.org/give to make your donation.

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, book scanner, 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!

Ongoing News @ Maple Grove

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.

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. Extra cards are on the literature rack.

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	