



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 28, 2025



Lent 4 – March 30, 2025

Christ Collides with our Selfishness

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Lois Bontrager
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #9 *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

Call to Worship

Leader: As we worship, Christ collides with our selfishness.

People: Lord, stir our beings as we turn to You.

Leader: Lord, shake our perspective as You work in our lives.

People: Help us center on You!

All: *We are persuaded to listen to You as we worship this day, our living God.*

PRAISING

Praise Songs

Lead Us Back

VT #584 *Jesus, Be the Center*

Offering – General Fund

Poor Man Lazarus

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 16:19-33 (CEB)

Message

Christ Collides with our Selfishness

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #745 *God, Whose Giving*

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 cling to what we have and trust in material things, ignoring the needs of those around us.
All: We repent before each other and before You, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to Your love. Help us loosen our grip on what we have and challenge the selfishness of our society with open hands 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

VT #568 *Christ Has No Body Here but Ours*

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 Ruth & Larry Hills' grandson Hudson who is recovering from surgery to replace a pacemaker put in at birth which he has outgrown.
- ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Alta Bates, Miriam Miller, Herm Weaver, Rachel Weaver, Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder, and Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew.
- ✝ Pray for Tracy and Monita, full-time caregiver employees from Haiti that work at Orrvilla Retirement Community where Myron Weaver works. Their status of being here legally is being challenged and could be revoked. Pray for them in the challenges and uncertainty they face regarding potentially going back to Haiti. Pray that this potential ruling is reconsidered.
- ✝ 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.



We would like to thank the church for the use of the Fellowship Hall for a baby shower and the gifts that were given from the congregation. We are grateful for your generosity! Violet & Tim Miller

Offering last Sunday, March 23

Attendance: 52



General Fund	\$ 2,440.00
Rivette – Haiti Mission	5,000.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	50.00
Love Our Community	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 7,540.00



- Sun. – March 30 - Birthday Celebration for Vlad after church @ Tlaquepaque
- Wed. – April 2 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Lenten Guided Prayer Time & Sharing – 5:45pm
- Wednesday Night Meal – 6pm
- Thurs. – April 3 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Thurs. – April 10 - Maple Grove's night to Volunteer @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8 pm
- Sun. – April 13 - Kids' Club/Jr. Youth – "The King of Kings" movie



Mark your calendars for VBS this summer – July 14-18!

It will be combined with Evermore Community Church again this year. More details will follow. If you have any questions, please see Kim Weaver.



April 2 & 9	-	Lenten Guided Prayer Time	5:45 p.m.
	-	Wednesday Meal	6:00 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 (No Sunday School)	10:00 a.m.



Our Easter Sunday Celebration will begin with sharing breakfast together at 8:30 a.m. followed by worshipping together at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School classes).

If you are planning to join us for Easter Sunday breakfast, the Food Committee asks you please sign up and note how many are attending from your family – a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the church. *This is only for planning purposes – all are welcome to join us for breakfast Easter Sunday whether you are signed up or not!*

➤ There are also sign-up sheets for breakfast items if you would like to bring something to share.

Lenten Guided Prayer Gatherings & Wednesday Night Meals

THE PRAYER TIME GATHERING HAS CHANGED – IT WILL BE BEFORE THE MEAL AT 5:45pm



The Lenten Guided Prayer we are using during the Lenten season is titled "Christ Calls at the Crossroads." The prayer guide for the week of March 30th is "Christ Calls Us to Disrupt Binaries." Paper copies of the prayer guide for this week are with the newsletters on the table at the church. Copies of the prayer guide for the whole Lenten Season are available by the mailboxes.

Please join us Wednesday, April 2nd, 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 hot dogs/coney dogs/sloppy joes this week. Monetary donations for the food are welcome. The prayer time gathering has changed and is now going to be held before the meal at 5:45 p.m. Please note that everyone is welcome whether you come for the meal only or come for the prayer time and the meal.



Birthday Celebration for Vlad Senior – March 30 after church

Join us to celebrate Vlad's birthday on Sunday, March 30th, after church at Tlaquepaque in Oakwood Square (2682 Easton St NE) around 12:15 pm. We have the patio room reserved. Dessert will be provided, purchase your own lunch. We hope you can make it! If you have any questions, see Lois Bontrager or Ruth Yoder.

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, April 2

Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we knit 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, April 10, from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Yoder.

Kids' Club/Jr. Youth Event – April 13

On Sunday, April 13, the Kids' Club & Jr. Youth will go see "The King of Kings" movie. Mark your calendars - more details will be available closer to the date. If you have any questions, please see Adam & Kim Weaver.

Higher Education Grants from Maple Grove for 2025-2026 School Year

In an effort to encourage our members to pursue a Christian education that emphasizes the Anabaptist vision, Maple Grove has available a grant program for students enrolling in colleges and seminaries maintaining the Mennonite Anabaptist vision. Copies of Maple Grove's policy and the application form can be accessed from Maple Grove's website by clicking [here](#). There are paper copies available on the literature rack in the foyer or contact Cindy in the church office. **Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove's Treasurer, Steve Miller, by April 27, 2025.**



Ministry of Outreach Project – My Coins Count Collection for Food

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. This year, My Coins Count will raise money for food projects around the world. **Your coins count!**

- ✚ *According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, about one person out of 11 around the world does not have enough food to lead a healthy life.*
- ✚ *In the U.S., nearly one in seven people struggle with hunger.*

Share the love of Jesus with a hungry world! Ways to give:

- Mark your offering envelope "My Coins Count"
- Drop your change in the coin vortex at the church
- Take a mission bank home & start collecting your change.

Maple Grove has an offer of matching funds for My Coins Count up to \$20,000. For every dollar donated, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000. So if the church can raise \$20,000 – we'll have \$40,000 to give to MCC at the Relief Sale!

Welcome Bags for the Hartville Migrant Ministry

The Ministry of Outreach is asking the congregation for help with donating Welcome Bags to the Migrant Center. We have committed to donating 10 Single Adult Welcome Bags. To keep track of how many bags are being donated, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at the church. Click [here](#) for a list of the needed items for each welcome bag – copies of this list are available by the mailboxes at the church. Please bring items in by April 27. A box is available in the church lobby to collect the items. You may also donate to the project through the offering by marking your offering envelope “Migrant Welcome Bags.” The suggested monetary donation in lieu of donating items is \$50.



Everence Workshop on Medicare – April 1 at Maple Grove

Everence can help make Medicare an easy step. Join Everence for a workshop and gain confidence about moving to Medicare. The workshop is on Tuesday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Maple Grove Mennonite Church. Topics will include signing up for Medicare (how, when and where); what Medicare covers (and does not cover); and Parts A, B, C and D in easy-to-understand language. The workshops will be presented by Everence professionals and there will be plenty of time for your questions. To register, or for more information, contact Kelly Troyer at 800-986-9988 or northeastohio@everence.com.

Love Our Community Brunch with the Easter Bunny – April 12

This year, Love our Community 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).



Lake Township FISH 3rd Annual Golf Classic – May 9

Support Lake Township FISH and their efforts to serve the Lake Township community while enjoying a beautiful day on the course on Friday, May 9, at Paradise Lake Country Club. What better way to entertain your clients or provide a fun outing for your employees than the FISH golf outing? Start your round with the shotgun start at 8am and enjoy a sandwich at the turn. Then at the conclusion of the round, relax during lunch and the awards presentation. Visit www.laketownshipfish.org/ltfishgolf or email events@laketownshipfish.org for more information.

Thank You from Hartville Thrift Shoppe: *A sincere thank you to any and all of your congregants who participated in our Comforter Knotting at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe on March 20th. In just about 3 hours we were able to complete 7-1/2 comforters! We hope to complete the one that is partially done and one other that is already bound. If anyone would be able to help with those please contact Julie Yoder at the store. These will then be sent on to our MCC Great Lakes folks to be added to the goal of sending out 7000 comforters for the Great Winter Warm Up! We had wonderful help - from frames and supplies to tearing down and cleaning up. There were 19 knotters and we had so much fun together! We plan to do this again in the future and will let you know when that is set. Our IVEP'er from Zambia has shared her experience with their country receiving comforters and school kits and what that did for them. What a wonderful blessing it was to hear how our efforts here in Canada and the US are helping others and the impact it actually has on so many. Bless you and thank you for helping!*

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

Ongoing News @ Maple Grove

Morning Scripture Reading and Prayer: Join us on Thursday mornings in SS classroom #9 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.

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**
Myrrl Byler: Associate Pastor (myrrl.byler@gmail.com)
- **Office Hours:** **Friday 8am-2pm**
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	