



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
April 11, 2025



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday observes Jesus's triumphant and joyful entrance into Jerusalem, marked by jubilant crowds waving palm branches, which symbolize victory over sin, peace, and eternal life.

On Maundy Thursday, we will celebrate communion together as well as demonstrate our commitment to a servant's life by washing feet. A light meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the service following immediately after the meal.

We invite all believers to come to this service, giving thanks for Christ's life, death, resurrection and the gift of Salvation. We encourage you to prepare your hearts for this time.

Our Easter Sunday Celebration will begin with sharing breakfast together at 8:30 followed by worshipping together at 10:00 a.m. (There will not be Sunday School classes.)



Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025

Christ Collides with Our Expectations

Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Jill Liechty
Song Leader: Renee Koshmider
Children's Time: Julie Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #313 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Call to Worship

Leader: As we worship this Palm Sunday, Christ collides with our expectations.

People: **Have we not collided enough?**

Leader: In deep compassion, our Lord sets out a mission of full life.

People: **Form us fully, Jesus.**

Leader: "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens."**

All: ***Our Lord, it is time for You to work in and with us as we worship You!***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
He Reigns*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time
Scripture Reading
Message

Luke 19:29-44 (CEB)

Christ Collides with our Expectations

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #804 *There is More Love Somewhere*

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 our expectations, and we do not make space for You to challenge them.*

All: *We repent before each other and before You, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to Your love. Help us let go of our narrow expectations 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

Jesus Paid It All (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

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 the family of Norm Miller, the brother of Sara Mae, Morris, and Lewis. Norm was in the hospital in Sarasota, Florida, with stage 4 cancer and passed away on Wednesday.*
- ✝ *Pray for Marty Miller who fell and broke 2 bones in her hand and pray for Junior Sommers who fell and broke a vertebra in his back. Pray for healing for both Marty and Junior.*
- ✝ *Pray for Renee Koshmider who is having open-heart surgery on April 25.*
- ✝ *Pray for Isaiah (Kristen Koshmider's friend) who will be having surgery.*
- ✝ *Pray for others with health concerns: Larry Hills; Alta Bates; Miriam Miller; Herm Weaver; Rachel Weaver; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew.*
- ✝ *Pray for the Mykhaylyuchenko family - Vlad, Krystyna, Vlad and Emilia.*
- ✝ *Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé and his wife Gloria & their family.*
- ✝ *Pray for Tracy and Monita who work at Orrvilla Retirement Community and whose status of being here legally is being challenged and face potentially going back to Haiti.*
- ✝ *Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and Sudan.*
- ✝ *Pray for those affected by natural disasters, especially for the people of Myanmar, and those involved with the relief and recovery efforts.*

We will keep the church informed if a memorial service is planned locally for Norm Miller.
If you would like to send Sara Mae Miller a card on the passing of her brother, her address is:
St. Joseph's Senior Living, 1882 Knob Street, B-6, Louisville, OH 44641



Offering last Sunday, April 6

Attendance: 75

General Fund	\$ 9,600.00
Education Fund	20.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	2,200.00
Migrant Center Welcome Bags	550.00
My Coins Count	51.00
Total Offering	\$ 12,421.00

Tickets are now on sale for Lake High School's presentation of "Into the Woods."

James Yoder is performing in the pit orchestra for the musical this weekend on Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, at 7pm and Sunday, April 13, at 2pm. Tickets can be purchased a Lake High School's website <https://lmhs.lakelocal.org/> or contact James.

Kids' Club/Jr. Youth Event – April 13

On Sunday, April 13, the Kids' Club & Jr. Youth will go see "The King of Kings" movie. Please see Adam or Kim Weaver if you have any questions.



- Thurs. – April 17- Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
 - Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 p.m.
 - ✝ Light meal followed with service of Communion & Footwashing
- Sun. – April 20 - Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m.
- Easter Service @ 10:00 a.m. (No Sunday School classes)
- Sun. – May 11 - Collection for Lake Township FISH
- Wed. – May 14 - Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night @ Church – 6pm
- July 14-18 - VBS Week with Evermore Community Church



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 to bring in something to share.**
Please sign up this Sunday or call Cindy in the church office and she will gladly sign you up.

Lenten Guided Prayer for Week 6 – "Christ Calls Us to Choose Peace"

The prayer guide for the week of April 13th was emailed to the church and paper copies are available on the table in the church lobby with the newsletters. There will not be a Wednesday meal and gathering this week, but Ministry of Worship encourages you to use the guide this week.

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!**



Global Hunger Crisis in 2025

Nearly one in 11 people around the world go to bed hungry each night, a crisis driven largely by conflict, climate change, and chronic inequality.

[World Hunger Facts | Action Against 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.

Myanmar earthquake response from MCC: In the wake of the magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) will be responding with local partners to provide cash assistance for immediate medical needs, food and water. The situation is made even more challenging by ongoing conflict and civil war. The healthcare system has collapsed, roads are impassable, and electricity services are scarce. **Donate today to provide relief to families in need:** mcc.org/Myanmar.

Lighthouse Ministries' Annual Fundraising Banquet – April 24 – RSVP BY APRIL 14

Join us on Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 pm at the Hartville Kitchen for our Annual Fundraising Banquet! 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.

The deadline to RSVP is April 14. If you are unable to make it but still want to help us reach our goal, visit cantonlighthouse.org/give to make your donation.

You're invited to join MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) for the building dedication of the new MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron, OH on Sunday, May 4 from 2-4 p.m.

We are grateful to all the churches and individuals who have supported this building project over the past several years. Please join us as we dedicate this building and the many kits and comforters that will pass through these doors spreading relief and hope to people around the world. Self-guided tours, activities and light refreshments will be offered from 2-4 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. We look forward to celebrating together! More information at mcc.org/kidron-mrc-dedication

Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry Banquet – May 6

The banquet for Gospel Echoes Team is Tuesday, May 6, at the Hartville Kitchen at 6:30pm. There will be music, dinner, prison testimonies and ministry updates. Tickets are \$15 and a freewill offering will be received for the ministry. For reservations and for information on sponsoring a table, contact Denise Miller at 330-313-0706 or Joe & Patricia Hochstetler at 330-206-6655. See the poster on the bulletin board at the church with more information.

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.

Lake Township FISH Cookbook Fundraiser – We need your help!

FISH is looking for recipes to include in a cookbook being put together as a fundraiser. Cookbooks will go on sale this summer; all funds raised from cookbook sales will go toward the building renovations for FISH. Please send one or two or ten of your favorite, simple recipes to share with our community! Submit recipes by April 30th to director@laketownshipfish.org or PO Box 611, Hartville, Ohio 44632.

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. 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](http://IVEP—For hosts | Mennonite Central Committee). Thank you for considering this great opportunity!

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 on the literature rack. 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**

Myrri Byler: Associate Pastor (myrri.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	