



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 18, 2025

*Our Easter Sunday service begins at 10:00 a.m. There will not be Sunday School classes.
All are welcome to join us for Easter breakfast at 8:30 before the service.*



Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025 *Christ Collides with Death*

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 #333 *Low in the Grave He Lay*

Call to Worship

Leader: The stone is rolled away!

People: Why look for the living among the dead?

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: No nonsense here! Christ collides with death, affecting the universe.

People: Christ collides with death, affecting each of us.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Our God, He is Alive
Easter Song*

Offering – *Education Fund*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Children's Time

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12 (CEB)

Message

Christ Collides with Death

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #346 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

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 linger in the shadows of fear and death, afraid to fully embrace the love You showed us through the resurrection.*

All: *We repent before each other and before You, our loving God. Please help us open our hearts to Your love. Help us fully live in the love You showed us in Jesus' death and resurrection 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 #361 Christ Who Left His Home in Glory

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 those alone or away from their family on Easter.
- ✝ 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 Marty Miller and Junior Sommers recovering from falls.
- ✝ 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.



Offering last Sunday, April 13

Attendance: 68

General Fund	\$ 3,831.75
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	150.00
MCC - Myanmar	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 4,031.75



- Thurs. – April 24- Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Sun. – April 27 - Anabaptism Series begins:
 - “Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith” -
 - Migrant Center Welcome Bags Collection Over
 - Higher Education Grant Applications Due
- Sun. – May 11 - Mother’s Day
 - Collection for Lake Township FISH – Letter Match Food Drive
- Wed. – May 14 - Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night @ Church – 6pm
- Sun. – May 18 - Secret Prayer Sister Banquet – 5pm
- Sun. – June 8 - Graduation Sunday
- July 14-18 - VBS Week with Evermore Community Church

Please note:

- Nathanael will be on vacation Wednesday & Thursday, April 23 & 24. Please contact Myrri Byler with any pastoral needs in his absence.
- Cindy will be out of the office on Friday, April 25, and printing the newsletters on Thursday.

Please have items for the newsletter to Cindy by Tuesday, April 22, this week – *thank you!*

On April 27 we will begin a series entitled, “Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith.”

This ten-Sunday series will explore the roots of our Anabaptist congregation and what we believe together. Each Sunday we will have a reader’s theater that will share a story from our Anabaptist past. Our prayer is that by learning more about and appreciating our past, we will be more faithful in the present and in the future.

April 27	- The Name on the Church Sign—Does it Really Matter?	-Pastor Myrri
May 4	- Power through Weakness Becomes Weakness through Power	-Pastor Myrri
May 11	- Why so Radical?	-Pastor Myrri
May 18	- Moving to the Promised Land	-Pastor Myrri
May 25	- An emPHAsis on a Different sylLABle: Jesus is the Center of our Faith	-Pastor Nathanael
June 1	- Menno Simons would’ve loved Ubuntu: Community is the Center of our Life	-Pastor Nathanael
June 8	- “I’m a Christian too, but you’re taking this way too seriously!” Reconciliation is the Center of our Work	-Pastor Nathanael
June 15	- Why am I still a Mennonite?	-Panel
June 22	- Anabaptist Movement Worldwide Today	-Pastor Myrri
June 29	- Looking Forward: Being Anabaptist in Hartville, Ohio	-Pastor Nathanael

We are waiting for a scheduled date (in May or early June) when as a congregation we can visit Behalt (Amish Mennonite Heritage Center) in Berlin to learn more about our Anabaptist past.

Higher Education Grants 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](#); paper copies are available on the literature rack at the church. **Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove’s Treasurer, Steve Miller, by April 27, 2025.**



Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night at Church – May 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

The Building & Grounds Committee is planning a spring cleaning & outside work night at the church on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We'll need everyone's help to be able to clean the entire church as well as spruce up the outside in one evening. So bring your buckets, rags, ladders, wheelbarrows and shovels, and join us for an evening of work and fellowship. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Building & Grounds Committee:

Larry Hills, Jordan Miller, Marty Miller & Savannah Hofstetter Ressler



Welcome Bags for the Hartville Migrant Ministry – due April 27

Maple Grove committed to donating 10 Single Adult Welcome Bags to the Hartville Migrant Ministry. Please bring your welcome bag items to the church by next Sunday, April 27. 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. 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.

Letter Match Food Drive for Lake Township FISH – due by May 11

The Letter Match Food Drive is a fun and engaging way to collect essential non-perishable items for those in need. Each participant donates items that start with the letter of your last name. Our collection will be on 2 Sundays – May 4 & 11. Brown bags will be available next Sunday to collect the items. You may also make a monetary donation for FISH by marking your giving envelope for FISH.



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!**

- ✝ 45 million children under 5 are severely hungry – meaning they've suffered from recent and life-threatening weight loss due to lack of nourishment.

[\(World Food Program USA - Fighting Hunger Globally\)](#)

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!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Outreach:
Sheryl Weaver, Howard Miller or Savannah Hofstetter Ressler



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.

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

In this edition, read about dedication of the Green Giant in North Carolina, meet a couple who is on their 60th MDS assignment, and read the latest on the MDS response to the spring ice storm in Ontario. Click [here](#) to read more. The newsletter is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

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.

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. 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 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	