



Informal Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes - 9:30a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
(Online at [www.mgmennonite.org](http://www.mgmennonite.org))



Maple Grove  
Newsletter

*Disciples of Jesus,  
Revealing His Kingdom  
Through Love, Spiritual Growth,  
and Service Together*

Newsletter dated  
April 24, 2025

## Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith

**Sunday**  
**April 27, 2025**



<b>Message:</b>	Myrrl Byler
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Scott Hyland
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Tom Lubbers
<b>Greeters:</b>	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

### **GATHERING**

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #25 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

Call to Worship

Leader: But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.

People: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Leader: "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

People: *The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.*

**All: *It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.***

### **PRAISING**

Praise Songs

VT #419 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

VT #435 *Blessed Assurance*

Offering – General Fund

### **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Reader's Theater

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-17 (CEB)

Message ***The Name on the Church Sign-Does it Really Matter?***

### **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

VT #575 *Faith of the Martyrs*

## Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

**All:** *Therefore, relying on the love and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, we courageously confess our sins together.*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## SENDING

Sending Song

VT #416 *Beyond a Dying Sun*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

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-Voces Together (purple)

There will be a memorial service at Maple Grove for Norm Miller, the brother of Sara Mae, Morris, and Lewis. Norm passed away on April 9<sup>th</sup> and his memorial will be on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, with visitation from 2-4pm and a service at 4pm. Please keep the family in your prayers during this time of loss.

✝ Pray for Renee Koshmider who is having open-heart surgery on Friday, April 25.

✝ Pray for Isaiah (Kristen Koshmider's friend) who will be having surgery.

✝ Pray for others with health concerns: Marty Miller; Junior Sommers; 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.



- Sun. – April 27 - Migrant Center Welcome Bags Collection Due  
- Higher Education Grant Applications Due
- Thurs. – May 1 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Wed. – May 7 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Thurs. – May 8 - Maple Grove's night to Volunteer @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8 pm
- 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

**On April 27 we begin a series entitled, “Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith.”** This ten-Sunday series explores 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:<br>Jesus is the Center of our Faith                                     | -Pastor Nathanael |
| June 1 - Menno Simons would’ve loved Ubuntu:<br>Community is the Center of our Life                                   | -Pastor Nathanael |
| June 8 - “I’m a Christian too, but you’re taking this way too seriously!”<br>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.*

**As we celebrate our series on Anabaptism at 500, we invite you to bring Bibles, books, hymnals or something that has been in your family for some years and passed on to you.**

Perhaps you can include a 3x5 card or note that explains and shares the history. A table is set up in the church lobby in front of the sanctuary where these can be displayed; 3x5 cards are on the table for you to use for sharing your family history.



**Offering last Sunday, April 20-Education Sunday**

**Attendance: 124**

General Fund	\$ 4,103.00
Education Fund	110.00
Charity Fund	100.00
Lake Township FISH	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 4,363.00



**Are you interested in exploring baptism and/or membership at Maple Grove?**

If so, we would love to discuss that with you. Classes will be offered soon. Please reach out to Pastor Nathanael if you would like to learn more. *Ministry of Congregational Care*

**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



### **The Secret Prayer Sisters Banquet is Sunday, May 18, at 5pm at the church.**

Find out who your secret prayer sister has been! Please bring a small thank you gift for the person who had your name and has been praying for you over the past year.

This will also be an opportunity to join Maple Grove's Secret Prayer Sisters group and have a prayer sister to care for throughout this next year. **If you would like to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board at the church and note if you are attending the banquet.**

If you are interested in joining but unable to attend the banquet on May 18<sup>th</sup>, please note that on the sheet and a form will be given to you to fill out beforehand that will need turned into Kami Sommers or Cindy in the church office by May 18<sup>th</sup>. Names will be randomly selected for your secret prayer sister the week after the dinner and Cindy will advise you by either email or through your mailbox of who your prayer sister is. And a revealing banquet will be set up for the following May to find out who your secret prayer sister has been for the year. If you are attending the banquet this year but do not wish to join the group next year, please make a notation of that on the sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact Kami Sommers.



### **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!**

- ✚ The world is in the midst of a global hunger crisis – the largest in recent history. ([World Food Program USA - Fighting Hunger Globally](#))
- ✚ Up to 757 million people worldwide are facing chronic hunger. That means 1 in 11 people are not consuming enough food to lead an active, healthy life.
- ✚ 343 million people are facing extreme hunger.
- ✚ 44.4 million people are on the brink of starvation or worse.
- ✚ 1.9 million people are facing catastrophic 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 – 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 Sunday, April 27. Click [here](#) for a list of the needed items for each welcome bag. 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 are available at the church to collect the items. You may also make a monetary donation for FISH by marking your giving envelope for FISH.



**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](http://mcc.org/Myanmar).

**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](http://mcc.org/kidron-mrc-dedication)

### **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 30<sup>th</sup>** to [director@laketownshipfish.org](mailto:director@laketownshipfish.org) or PO Box 611, Hartville, Ohio 44632.

**Camp Luz is needing to fill several summer staff positions!** The ministry that takes place at Camp is crucial to furthering the gospel. Positions needed: Cabin Leader, Cook and Housekeeping. Requirements: having accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, be at least 16 years old, complete staff training, a desire to share Christ, and committed to a high standard of behavior. Staff are not required to serve the whole summer, but are certainly welcome to! If you know someone that would be able fill this need, please encourage them to apply at [www.campluz.com/summer-staff](http://www.campluz.com/summer-staff).

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at [secretary@maplegroovemennonite.org](mailto:secretary@maplegroovemennonite.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:pastornathanael@maplegrovemennonite.org))

- **Office Hours:** **Monday 9am-1pm; Tuesday thru Thursday-8am-12pm**

Myrrl Byler: Associate Pastor ([myrrl.byler@gmail.com](mailto:myrrl.byler@gmail.com))

- **Office Hours:** **Friday 8am-2pm**

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary ([Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org](mailto: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	