



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
May 9, 2025

Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith

**Sunday
May 11, 2025**



Message:	Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader:	Kami Sommers
Song Leader:	Ruth Yoder
Offertory:	Julie Yoder
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #23 *Come, Walk with Us*

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God,

People: *who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally,
teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.*

All: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #767 *God Loves All His Many People*

VT #558 *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*

Offering – General Fund

God, We Praise You for the Women

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reader's Theater

Cathy & Harry Arble, Kevin Graber, Sophia Sommers,
Julie Yoder, Miles Yoder, Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler

Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:16-20 (CEB)

Message

Why so Radical?

Poem

*What chains have I been asked to wear
– Becca J. R. Lachman*

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #549 *Be Thou My Vision* (Verses 1, 2, 4 & 5)

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

Mother's Day Blessing

SENDING

Sending Song

VT #375 *Joys are Flowing Like a River* (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

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-Voices 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 9th and his memorial will be on Saturday, May 24th, 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 recovering from open-heart surgery.*
- ✝ *Pray for Isaiah (Kristen Koshmider's friend) who will be having surgery the end of May.*
- ✝ *Pray for Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew, who is still in the hospital after receiving radiation treatments. Continue to pray for healing and strength for Jeremy.*
- ✝ *Pray for Nancy Beachy's sister Rose and brother-in law Jake who are both on Hospice. Jake has cancer and declining very rapidly, and Rose has non-alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver and is failing as well. Also pray for Nancy's sister Alta who has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure and pneumonia.*
- ✝ *Pray for others with health concerns: Marty Miller; Junior Sommers; Alta Bates; Miriam Miller; Herm Weaver; Rachel Weaver; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder.*
- ✝ *Pray for the Mykhaylyuchenko family - Vlad, Krystyna, Vlad and Emilia.*
- ✝ *Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé as he continues nursing school and pray for his immigration process.*
- ✝ *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.*



A huge thank-you to the church for the prayers, meals, cards, and the sunshine basket full of thoughtful gifts. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness and affection for us leading up to and throughout my surgery and recovery. We are so grateful for God's restoring love and healing, and for our family here at Maple Grove. - John and Renee Koshmider

On April 27 we began 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.

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| 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.

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.

➡ **Also on the table are books on Anabaptism 500 for you to borrow:**

- “Anabaptist Community Bible”
- “Drawing Near: A Devotional Journey with Art, Poetry & Reflection”
- “Footsteps of Faith: A Global Anabaptist Devotional”
- “Faith in Full Color: A Tapestry of Anabaptist Stories”



- 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
- Thurs. – May 15 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Sun. – May 18 - Secret Prayer Sister Banquet – 5pm
- Mon. – May 26 - Memorial Day (Church Office will be closed)
- Sun. – June 8 - Pentecost & Graduation Sunday
- July 11-12 - Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction @ Mt. Hope Event Center
- July 14-18 - VBS Week with Evermore Community Church
- Sun. – Aug. 24 - Church Sunday Out @ Lake Mohawk



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*



Offering last Sunday, May 4

Attendance: 70

General Fund	\$ 2,135.00
Education Fund	1,889.00
My Coins Count	1,041.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	225.00
Lake Township FISH	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 5,340.00



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 18th, 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 18th. 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.

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 - donate items that start with the letter of your last name. **Please bring items in by this Sunday.** 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. **Your coins count!**



60%

Of the 343 million people who are extremely hungry in the world right now, nearly 60% are women and girls

- In countries facing conflict and hunger, women often eat last and least – sacrificing for their families.
- In nearly two-thirds of countries, women are more likely than men to report food insecurity.
- But empowering women and girls can end hunger for good, and transform whole communities in the process.
(www.wfpusa.org/drivers-of-hunger/women/)

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!



Volunteers Needed @ Hartville Migrant Center: The Migrant Center is in need of the following:

- Nurses
- Drivers to transport patients
- Spiritual leaders or volunteers for monthly faith formation
- Gardener to plant and maintain flower beds

Please contact Leigh Ann Cruz or Ed Laubacher at 330-877-2983 or email hmcvolunteercoord@gmail.com.

Thank you from Lighthouse Ministries (cantonlighthouse.org)

Thank you to everyone who made our Annual Banquet a success! With awe and grateful hearts, we can share that we have met and exceeded our goal! Through your generosity, we will reach our budget for this fiscal year. The match will be leveraged to cover the anticipated shortfall in funding for '25-'26, to expand programming, and to dream big for our future! On behalf of all of us at the Lighthouse, thank you for believing in, and supporting, our mission to walk alongside youth and families in southeast Canton!

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	