



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
June 27, 2025

Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith

Sunday
June 29, 2025



Message: Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader: Kami Sommers
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

HWB #6 *Here in This Place*

Call to Worship

Leader: From the dawn of Creation, to this very day, and into all eternity...

People: *God, You are faithful.*

Leader: We are grateful for Your Church, for all of Her history, and for the 500 years of history we celebrate as Anabaptist Christians.

People: *God, we desire to be faithful to You.*

Leader: We desire to be faithful to You by being disciples of Jesus, by living in intentional Christ-centered community, and by being ambassadors of Your reconciliation.

People: *God, help us be faithful!*

Leader: May the Spirit lead us in the Way of Jesus, that we might experience healing and hope in our lives. And that through us, all people would be reconciled to You through Christ Jesus.

All: ***Amen.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs

STJ #106 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

STJ #52 *Jesus, Help us Live in Peace*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reader's Theater

Scripture Reading

Romans 12:3-5, 9-21 (CEB)

Message ***Looking Forward: Being Anabaptist in Hartville, Ohio***

RESPONDING

Song of Response

The Jesus Way

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: God, we are imperfect people. By the words we have spoken and left unspoken, by the actions we have done and left undone, we have fallen short. We desire to be transformed, by the power of the Spirit, more and more into the image of Your Son.

People: *Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.*

Leader: God, You have promised us mercy and made a way for us through Jesus Christ. As we joyfully accept Your forgiveness and grace, help us be filled with the power of the Spirit to live lives faithful to Your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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-Voices Together (purple)	



✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Arrie Ledsome; John Raber; Junior Sommers; Alta Bates; Miriam Miller; Rachel Weaver; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Nancy Beachy's sister Alta; and Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew.

✝ Pray for the Mykhaylyuchenko family - Vlad, Krystyna, Vlad and Emilia, and the Khodyrieva family - Ludmila, Diana and Anastasia.

✝ Pray for Alexis Deuzoumbé as he continues nursing school and pray for his immigration process.

✝ Pray for peace and justice throughout the world. Pray for those affected by violence in Ukraine, Gaza, Myanmar and Sudan, and the conflicts in the Middle East.



Pastors Nathanael & Myrrl would like thank those who were involved with the 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith sermon series. Thanks to Vee Miller for the wonderful Anabaptism @ 500 banner we enjoyed the last several weeks. Thank you to the readers who participated in the Reader's Theater portion of the services, and to those who shared on June 15: Lura Bowin, Vee Miller, Gene Robinson, Kevin Graber and Howard Miller. And thank you to our faithful Worship and Song Leaders and Worship Team who lead our services and provide us with beautiful music each Sunday, and our Ushers and those in the sound booth who help our services run smooth. We appreciate all of you!



Offering last Sunday, June 22

Attendance: 74

General Fund	\$ 1,751.00
Special Designations	5,350.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 7,151.00



Mary Hilmer is turning 90 on June 30th! Her family is hosting an open house here in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate and we'd love to have all of you join us on Sunday, June 29th, from 2-4pm. There will be cake! No presents - just your presence will be more than enough!



- Wed. – July 2 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Thurs. – July 3 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Fri. – July 4 - Church Office Closed
- July 8-12 - Pastor Nathanael attending MC USA Convention in Greensboro, NC
- Thurs. – July 10 - Maple Grove's night for Volunteering at Thrift Shoppe – 6-8pm
- July 11-12 - Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction @ Mt. Hope Event Center
- July 14-18 - VBS Week with Evermore Community Church – 9-11:30am
- Sun. – Aug. 24 - Church Sunday Out @ Lake Mohawk

The church office will be closed next Friday for Independence Day. The newsletter will be finalized on Thursday. Please have all items for the newsletter to Cindy on Tuesday if possible. Thank you!

Moises & Anna Update – a copy of their recent newsletter is posted on the bulletin board at church.

At the end of 2024, Maple Grove began a monetary drive to help Moises and Anna be able to build a house on property that was donated to them by the Spencer family. To date through offerings and funds committed, we have \$ 50,000.00 to send them for the house project. The first payment of \$9,000.00 has been transferred and is being used to bring utilities into the property and to purchase cement blocks. In an email recently from Moises, he gave this message to Maple Grove.

- Our Casa, our Ranch - is possible because of you guys. You didn't just give a gift; you gave us belief.
Thank you, Maple Grove, in partnering with Moises and Anna in their home building project—Perry Miller

Nominees for Maple Grove Ministries – Ballots due back to the church by Monday, June 30

Ministry of Gifts Discernment has sent ballots to Active Members for affirmation of the nominees for open ministry positions that begin September 1, 2025. **Please check a box for each person listed on the ballot and return to the church by Monday, June 30.** A box is available by the mailboxes at the church to collect the ballots or you may return them to Cindy in the church office. Any questions, please contact a member of the Ministry of Gifts Discernment: Vee Miller, Charla Sommers, Vernon Sommers, Jr., or Michael Yoder.

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

Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship while we knot 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.

On April 27 we began a series entitled, “Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith.” This Sunday is the last service of this series. Below are the titles of the

messages if you would like to view any of the services on the church website.

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 still waiting for a scheduled date (hopefully in July) when as a congregation we can visit Behalt (Amish Mennonite Heritage Center) in Berlin to learn more about our Anabaptist past.

As we celebrate Anabaptism 500, we invited you to share Bibles, books, hymnals, etc., about your family’s history. These items along with books purchased for the library about Anabaptism are on display on the table in the church lobby. These will be left on the table for a few more weeks for any to look over. Thank you to those who brought items in to share.



MCC School Kit Challenge – 25,000 School Kits to Help 25,000 Kids

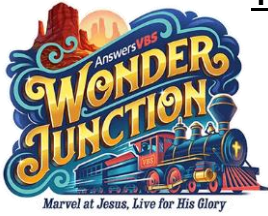
MCC is having a challenge for 25,000 school kits to be donated during the month of August. Notebooks and pencils are treasures for families around the world who have been forced to flee their homes or struggle to afford basic school supplies. Whether you assemble 1 or 100 kits through the School Kit Challenge, your generosity will help kids around the world to learn and grow. The Ministry of Outreach will be collecting items for the school kits during the month of July and is planning to gather to assemble the kits during Sunday School on August 3rd in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help with this project, please bring in the needed items and place on the table in the church lobby, or you may donate through the offering and mark your offering envelope “School Kits.”

MCC School Kit Items (new items only) – copies of this list available on the table at the church:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 4 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small **all-metal** pencil sharpener, one or two holes

Registration is open for Vacation Bible School which is the week of July 14-18 from 9am-

11:30am at Evermore Community Church. VBS is for preschoolers age 4 through 5th grade. Please register for the grade that your child has recently completed when registering. Registration is limited and ends July 1st so sign up today at [Wonder Junction VBS 2025 - Evermore Community Church](#)



If you see a waitlist for the grade you are registering for, please contact Kim Weaver and she will see about getting your child(ren) added.

- Maple Grove will be supplying snacks for the week of VBS. Sign-up sheets will be available soon for donating snacks and for volunteering. If you have any questions, please see Kim Weaver.



Ministry of Outreach Project – My Coins Count Collection for Food

My Coins Count offering will go to Mennonite Central Committee (www.mcc.org) at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction on July 11-12 @ the Mt. Hope Event Center (8076 SR 241, Millersburg).

So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, you should do it all for God's glory.
(1 Corinthians 10:31 – CEB)

Your coins count! Ways to give:

- Mark your offering envelope "My Coins Count"
- If you have been collecting your change, please bring it into the church and drop your change in the coin vortex or set your bank or bag of change beside it.

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!

2 Sundays left to collect before the Relief Sale – June 29 & July 6

BAKERS NEEDED: Items needed for Relief Sale Swiss Pantry. This year, we'll be concentrating on single serve items for people to enjoy (ideas: cinnamon rolls, cookies, dinner rolls, bread, cupcakes, pies). We cannot accept items that require refrigeration. We may divide and repackage your plates of baked goods. Be sure to include a list of ingredients due to allergy concerns (per the Health Dept.). Bring to the Relief Sale on Friday evening or Saturday morning. Contact Kami Sommers with questions. **Also needed are volunteers to work the stand - a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Contact Sheryl Weaver or Holly Miller if you have any questions about working the Swiss Pantry stand.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Egg rolls are one of the most popular items at the Relief Sale. Help is needed with preparing and rolling the egg rolls, and manning the egg roll stand at the Relief Sale. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the church lobby or you may call or text Pam Blough at 330-705-4720.

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|-------------------|---|------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, July 9 | – | Prepare the filling at Hartville Kitchen |
| Thursday, July 10 | – | Roll egg rolls at the Hartville Kitchen |
| Friday, July 11 | – | Volunteer at the stand - Mt. Hope Event Center |
| Saturday, July 12 | – | Volunteer at the stand - Mt. Hope Event Center |



Click [here](#) to go the Relief Sale website for information on the event. Copies of the Relief Sale brochures are available on the literature rack.

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: 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	