



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 5, 2025

Looking Back—Facing Forward: 500 Years of Anabaptist Faith

**Sunday
June 8, 2025**



Message:	Nathanael Hofstetter Ressler
Worship Leader:	Gary Sommers
Song Leader:	Renee Koshmider
Offertory:	Worship Team
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #716 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Call to Worship

Leader: Through Christ, we have been reconciled to God.

People: *We are a reconciled people.*

Leader: And as people reconciled to God in Christ, we are a new creation.

People: *The old has passed away, the new has come!*

Leader: Therefore, let us be ambassadors of reconciliation, no longer viewing others through a human lens, but through the compassionate eyes of Christ!

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*Be Unto Your Name
Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

Offering – General Fund

King of Kings

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Reader's Theater

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:13-18 (CEB)

Message *"I'm a Christian too, but you're taking this way too seriously!"*

Reconciliation is the Center of our Work

RESPONDING

Song of Response

STJ #61 *How can we be silent?*

Confession & Words of Assurance

Leader: God, we confess the times we have chosen paths of practicality over faithfulness, when our fear keeps us from experiencing the depths of Your healing and reconciliation for ourselves, others, and the world.

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

Leader: God, we know that You will always forgive us. We have faith that Your Spirit will continue to move, leading us in the way of reconciliation, justice, and peace. Amen.

Graduation Recognition

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

VT #771 *We Have Been Sent by God*

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)



On Sunday, we recognize those who have or will graduate this year.

Our high school graduates include Isabelle Liechty, Braidon Miller & Luke Sommers.

- Isabelle graduated from Lake Center Christian School where she was on both the golf and bowling teams and participated in theater. She plans to attend Stark State College to study Nursing.
- Braidon graduated from Malvern High School where playing football, basketball and baseball have been a huge part of his life along with great friends. Moving on he is planning to work in some type of trade.
- Luke graduated Valedictorian from Lake Center Christian School. He enjoyed playing soccer and basketball throughout his years there. Luke is looking forward to attending Taylor University in the fall and is undecided on his major.

And Koby Miller graduated from Lawrence Tech University with an architectural degree. He will be working at Rembrandt Homes with his dad.

Our prayer for you as you walk this new path in life is that God gives you a clear sense of direction and that He blesses you along the way.



We celebrate with Vernon and Carol Sommers--after 55 years of giving leadership to the Hartville Kitchen, he is passing on his mantle, but of course he will remain involved and engaged in the business in a variety of ways.



- ✝ Pray for the family of Nelson Sommers. Nelson, who once attended Maple Grove, passed away earlier this week and the service held on Saturday. Vernon Sommers and Ann Raber are cousins. Please remember Nelson's wife Becky and daughters Olivia, Caroline and Victoria.
- ✝ Pray for John Raber who had knee replacement surgery on Wednesday and home recovering. Pray for healing, managing pain and lots of patience.
- ✝ Pray for Jeremy Graber, Kevin Graber's nephew, for his continued health struggles.
- ✝ Pray for others with health concerns: Junior Sommers; Alta Bates; Miriam Miller; Rachel Weaver; Herm Weaver; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; and Nancy Beachy's sister Alta.
- ✝ 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.
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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.

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 (hopefully in June) when as a congregation we can visit Behalt (Amish Mennonite Heritage Center) in Berlin to learn more about our Anabaptist past.

As part of Anabaptism at 500, Mennonite World Conference hosted a celebration of ecumenism, joy and confession of hope at the historic Grossmunster Church in Zurich on May 29. You can now access the service at: <https://mwc-cmm.org/en/500-the-courage-to-love/>
The link will remain on the website, making it possible to watch any time.

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 new books on Anabaptism for you to borrow:

- "Anabaptist Community Bible"
- "Drawing Near: A Devotional Journey with Art, Poetry & Reflection" -Eileen R. Kinch & John D. Roth, editors
- "Footsteps of Faith: A Global Anabaptist Devotional" -John D. Roth editor
- "Faith in Full Color: A Tapestry of Anabaptist Stories"-Compiled and written by Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi
- "Radicals and Reformers: A Survey of Global Anabaptist History" -Troy Osborne
- "Finding Ourselves in God's Story: Exploring Christian Faith and Life" -Michele Hershberger

Children's Books:

1. "Sparkling Peace" -Teresa Kim Pecinovsky and Hannah Rose Martin; Illustrated by Gabhor Utomo
2. "Stitched Together" -Aimee Reid; Illustrated by Kate Cosgrove
3. "A Light to Share: Stories of Spreading Love & Changing the World" -Natalie Frisk; Illustrated by Maria Diaz Perera



- Sun. – June 8 - Pentecost & Graduation Sunday
- Thurs. – June 12 - Scripture Reading & Prayer Time – 8:30am (SS Room #9)
- Maple Grove's Volunteer Night @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8 pm
- Sun. – June 15 - Father's Day
- Education Sunday
- Sun. – June 29 - Open House for Mary Hilmer's 90th Birthday – 2-4pm
- 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



Offering last Sunday, June 1

General Fund	\$ 11,210.25
Special Designations	9,050.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	250.00
Total Offering	\$ 20,510.25

Attendance: 60

Miscellaneous items that have been left in the kitchen are now by the mailboxes at the church.

Please stop by and claim any dishes/items that belong to you. These will be taken to the Thrift Shoppe after June 15th. *The Food Committee*



We have a close friend and colleague from China coming to visit this summer, along with her 10 year old son and 1 1/2 year old daughter (our "grandkids"!). We are looking for a place for them to stay, one bedroom is fine, where they would have some space, perhaps cook a bit on their own. Dates are July 10 to August 6. She will have transportation. --Ruthie and Myrrl Byler



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.
When: Sunday, June 29th, from 2-4pm. There will be cake!
No presents - just your presence will be more than enough!



The second Thursday of each month is Maple Grove's turn to supply volunteers at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe. Ministry of Outreach is encouraging volunteers to help with this. Men and women are needed Thursday, June 12, from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Yoder.

MOA needs your help: The Ministry of Administration is requesting a Check Request form be filled out when you need a check for expense reimbursement, to pay an invoice, or to disburse money from a fund. This will replace the Purchase Order form that has been used in the past. The form is available printed or in Excel. The printed copies are on the literature rack at the church with the form and instructions on one page front and back. The Excel form can be requested from Cindy Fleming in the church office. If you need help completing your Check Request, please contact Brenda LaTulippe or Cindy. Once the form is completed, please forward it to Cindy by placing in the mailbox outside the church office or via email and attach corresponding receipts/invoices. Cindy will review the form, come back to you with questions if necessary, and then forward to Gary/Charla Sommers for processing. Checks will be mailed to the address shown on the form. Please contact Cindy if you have any questions.



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.

- ✝ *In 2025, acute hunger is on the rise, affecting 343 million people across 74 countries.*
- ✝ *1.9 million people are potentially on the brink of famine, primarily in Gaza and Sudan.*
- ✝ *This is driven by conflict, climate change, and chronic inequality, impacting vulnerable populations globally.*

Your coins count! Ways to give:

- Mark your offering envelope "My Coins Count"
- Drop your change in the coin vortex at the church

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!

5 Sundays left to collect before the Relief Sale

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@maplegroovemennonite.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@maplegroovemennonite.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	