



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



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

Newsletter dated
December 19, 2025



Please join us Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for our Christmas Eve service.
(The service will be live-streamed.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025



Message:	Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader:	Gary Sommers
Song Leader:	Lois Bontrager
Offertory:	Renee Koshmider
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #241 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning was love, and love was with God, and love was God.

People: **We gather in awe and amazement, watching and waiting for Love to come down.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **We wait with hope, longing for the gentle light of love to fill the world.**

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

People: **We have seen His glory, Love embodied among us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who moves among us, the Christ who draws near, the Spirit who shines in our hearts.

All: **The Light is coming!**

We tremble in excitement and uncertainty. Watching, waiting, for Love to be born.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Advent Song – Worship Team

Hope is a Candle (Verse 4)

Candle Litany

Reader: We have been wandering in the long, dark night, looking into the vastness, looking for even a glimmer of light, to usher in Your Love.

All: **Come, Love of the world. Come amaze us.**

May Your Love dispel the darkness and reveal Your path of grace and mercy, inviting us to journey with You.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #227 Here I am to Worship
STJ #44 The Love of God

Offering – Education Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-18 (CEB)

Message

Be amazed: Love Comes Down

RESPONDING

Song of Response

STJ #31 *He Came Down*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

Solstice/Memory Tree Recognition

SENDING

Sending Song

VT #247 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy and adapt worship materials.

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)



November 30 – Be Amazed: Hope in the Furnace (First Sunday of Advent)

December 7 – Be Amazed: Peace in the Valley of the Bones
(Second Sunday of Advent)

December 14 – Be Amazed: Joy in the Desert (Third Sunday of Advent)

December 21 – Be Amazed: Love Comes Down (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

December 24 Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm

December 28 Be Amazed: God Among Us (Sunday after Christmas)

January 4 Be Amazed: Come and See (Epiphany)



- Sun. – Dec. 21 - Education Sunday (non-designated funds go to the Education Fund)
- Dec. 24 & 25 - Church Office Closed – Merry Christmas!
(Cindy is working Monday, Tuesday & Friday the week of Christmas.)
- Dec. 29 – Jan. 1 - Cindy is out of the office Monday-Thursday
(in the office on Friday, January 2)
- January 1 - Happy New Year!
- Sun. – Feb. 1 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Don't forget your Secret Prayer Sister over the holidays!

Solstice/Memory Tree

A list of the names on the tree is available in front of the library where the tree is displayed.



Offering on Sunday, December 14, 2025

General Fund	\$ 4,661.00
Refugee Families	200.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 4,911.00

Attendance: 62



- † Pray for Myrrl's nephew, Brian Byler, who needs surgery to repair his mitral valve.
- † Pray for Nancy Beachy's friend's grandson, Peter, who has incurable cancer.
- † Pray for Kevin Graber's brother, Jerry (and family) who is being discharged from the hospital to St. Lukes with hospice. Also remember Bob Downerd who recently had his leg amputated and then lost his camper home to a fire.
- † Pray for others with health concerns: Betty Miller; Clara Sommers; Twila Miller; Miriam Miller; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Alta Bates' sister Leona; Mike Kress with cancer.
- † Pray for safe travels for those who are traveling over the holidays; and pray for those who are away from their families or alone over the holidays.
- † 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 the families and most vulnerable who suffer from war and violence in our world. For those in Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, and especially remember the people of Gaza whose suffering is difficult to even comprehend--may our prayers help them to know they are not forgotten.

As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to save your Acme grocery receipts.

Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH. The program runs through February 15, 2026. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project!

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

In this edition, U.S. Board Chair Wayne Yoder shares his observations from the past year, learn how determination brings disaster survivors home in Ohio, and see what volunteers have accomplished this year. A copy of the newsletter is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

As we close out the year, Lighthouse Ministries invites you to invest in the bright futures of youth in our community! As you think about your end-of-year giving, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the Lighthouse as we continue offering safe, high-quality, and holistic opportunities for the youth of Southeast Canton. Every gift provides students with an encouraging environment to discover their God-given gifts and potential to impact the world around them. You can donate easily at www.cantonlighthouse.org/give or by mailing a check to Lighthouse Ministries at 1931 3rd St SE, Canton, OH 44707. The Holiday Match has been met, but our goal still is to raise \$60,000.

Ongoing News @ Maple Grove

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.

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at
secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org by Wednesday each week – thank you!

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 Jill Liechty or Julie Yoder)

Myrrl Byler: Pastor (myrrl.byler@gmail.com)

- Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-noon

**Myrrl can be contacted at any time during the week by text, phone or email.*

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary (Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org)

- Office Hours: Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday – 8am-Noon

Ministry of Congregational Care: Paul Bontrager, Harold Beachy, Jill Liechty, Myron Weaver

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 (up to 6 th Grade)	Rooms 7-8
Youth (Grades 7-12)	Rooms 3-4
Post-High/Young Adults	Fellowship Hall