



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  
 December 26, 2025

## December 28, 2025



Sharing:	Sophia Sommers
Worship Leader:	Cathy Arble
Song Leader:	Tom Lubbers
Offertory:	James Yoder
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

### GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

STJ #5 *Come and Be Light for our Eyes*

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Leader: In the wilderness, a voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**People: We have heard the call; we have watched for the light.**

Leader: The One we waited for has come—a gentle dove, a vulnerable child.

**People: We have seen the Christ child among the poor; we have heard the soft flutter of wings.**

Leader: This is how God arrives among us—not in power and might, but in vulnerable love.

**People: Your ways are not our ways, O God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who has come among us, the Lamb of God,  
 the light of the world.

**All: We stand in amazement—Christ has been revealed!**

Lighting of Advent Candle

Advent Song – Worship Team

*Hope is a Candle (Verse 5)*

Candle Litany

Reader: We have been waiting in the long, dark night, waiting for Your light of hope, peace,  
 joy and love to reveal itself and shine on us. Shine in us.

**All: Come, Light of the world. Amaze us.**

***May Your light shine through the dark, illuminating Your path,  
 illuminating our souls.***

### PRAISING

Praise Songs

*King of Kings*  
 HWB #299 *New Earth, Heavens New*

Offering – General Fund

**HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading

John 1:19-34 (CEB)

Sharing

***Sophia is sharing about her trip to Zambia***

**RESPONDING**

Song of Response

*Revival*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

**SENDING**

Sending Song

*Go Light Your World*

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)*

**UPCOMING SERMONS:**

January 4      Be Amazed: Come and See (Epiphany Sunday)

**Sermon Series: People of Courage in the Hebrew Scriptures**

January 11    Protecting the Babies (Exodus 1:8-22)

January 18    Pleading for Justice (Numbers 27:1-11)

January 25    Mediating Family Disputes (I Samuel 25 1-42)

February 1    Confronting a King (2 Samuel 11:26-12:15)

February 8    Celebrating the Courageous (Hebrews 11:29-12:2)

February 15   Remembering those who gave us Courage (Multi-Voice Sermon)



- Dec. 29 – Jan. 1 - Cindy is out of the office Monday-Thursday  
(Back in the office on Friday, January 2)
- January 1, 2026 - Happy New Year!
- Wed. – Jan 7. - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Thurs. – Jan. 8 - Maple Grove's night to supply volunteers @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8pm
- Sun. – Feb. 1 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting



**Offering on Sunday, December 21-Education Sunday**

**Attendance: 78**

General Fund	\$ 860.00
Education Fund	1,066.00
My Coins Count	578.50
Refugee Families	550.00
Total Offering	\$ 3,054.50



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✝ Pray for Sara Miller who was admitted to Mercy Hospital. She had little appetite and slept a great deal and tests were being done for a kidney issue. Her condition has stabilized and she is home from the hospital and recovering at St. Joseph's.

- ✝ Pray for Twila Miller whose sister Elnora Yoder passed away on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ✝ Pray for Paul Bontrager who will have knee replacement surgery on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ✝ 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 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.



Thank you for reaching out with food and kind texts following my surgery.  
Blessings, Clara Sommers

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### **Annual Congregational Business Meeting – February 1, 2026**

The Ministry of Administration has scheduled the Annual Congregational Business Meeting for Sunday, February 1. The meeting will begin after a lunch. An email will be sent to the chairperson of each committee and ministry requesting an updated report for 2025.

**MOA is requesting you turn in your reports to Cindy in the church office by Wednesday, January 14 – thank you!**

### **Acme Community Cash Back Program runs through February 15, 2026.**

If you shop at Acme, save your receipts and bring them into the church – a collection box is available under the mailboxes. Lake Township FISH can turn these in at the end of the program and Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.mgmennonite.org)

Facebook – Maple Grove Mennonite Church Group  
(send updates to Jill Liechty or Julie Yoder)

Myrri Byler: Pastor ([myrri.byler@gmail.com](mailto:myrri.byler@gmail.com))

- Office Hours: **Monday-Friday 8am-noon**

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

Cindy Fleming: Church Secretary ([Secretary@maplegrovemennonite.org](mailto: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	Library
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 <sup>th</sup> Grade)	Rooms 7-8
Youth (Grades 7-12)	Rooms 3-4
Post-High/Young Adults	Fellowship Hall