



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))



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

Newsletter dated  
January 2, 2026

**January 4, 2026**  
**Epiphany Sunday**



<b>Message:</b>	Myrrl Byler
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Gary Sommers
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Renee Koshmider
<b>Greeters:</b>	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

### GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #282 *Come and See*

Opening Prayer

### Call to Worship

Leader: The invitation has been spoken: "Come and see."  
The door to a stable stands open. The way is before us.

**People:** **We heard the call. Now we step forward in wonder; ready to follow, open to the unexpected.**

Leader: "You will see greater things than these," Jesus says.

**People:** **We stand in amazement, waiting to be changed.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us by name, who sees us as we are and leads us into new life.

**All:** **We come, ready to follow, ready to see, ready to be amazed!**

### Lighting of Christ Candle

STS #15 *Hope is a Candle*

Candle Litany

Reader: We celebrate as we reflect in amazement at what You have done.  
You muted the flames of our fears with hope.

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

Reader: You resurrected the dry bones of our spirits with peace.

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

Reader: You quenched our thirsty souls with living water of joy.

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

Reader: You came to be among us, to show us the way in love.

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

Reader: You have called us to follow You and walk the path of mercy and grace.

**People:** **Glory to God in the highest! You amaze us!**

**All:** **Lead us forward so that we too may carry Your Christ-light into the world!**

## **PRAISING**

Praise Songs

HWB #102 *To God Be the Glory*  
*May the Peoples Praise You*

Offering – General Fund

## **HEARING GOD'S WORD**

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12 (CEB)

Message

***Be amazed: Come and See***

## **RESPONDING**

Song of Response

VT #540 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

## **SENDING**

Sending Song

STS #32 *Oh, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

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)



- † Pray for Kevin Graber and his family on the passing of his brother, Jerry Graber, on December 26<sup>th</sup>. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at Maple Grove with calling hours at 10am and service at 11am. Pray the family may find comfort and peace through Jesus at this time of loss.
- † Pray for Sara Miller who is back home at St. Joseph's after being hospitalized. Pray for strength for her recovery.
- † Pray for Ruth Yoder who is dealing with sciatica pain.
- † Pray for others with health concerns: Twila Miller; Miriam Miller; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Alta Bates' sister Leona; Mike Kress who has cancer; Nancy Beachy's friend's grandson, Peter, with cancer; Myrri's nephew, Brian Byler, who needs surgery to repair his mitral valve; and Kevin Graber's friend Bob Downerd who recently had his leg amputated and lost his home to a fire.
- † 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.

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



January 11	Protecting the Babies (Exodus 1:8-22)
January 18	The Daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-11)
January 25	Mediating Family Disputes (I Samuel 25:1-42)
February 1	Confronting the King (2 Samuel 11:26-12:15)
February 8	The Faith of the Courageous (Hebrews 11:32-40)
February 15	People of Courage (Hebrews 12:1-2; Multi-Voice Sermon)



- Wed. – Jan 7. - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting
- Thurs. – Jan. 8 - Maple Grove's night to supply volunteers @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8pm
- Wed. – Jan. 14 - Annual Reports due back to Church Office
- Sun. – Jan. 18 - Youth Mentor Event @ Spins Bowling in Akron – 5pm
- Sun. – Feb. 1 - Annual Congregational Business Meeting
- Sun. – Feb. 15 - Acme Community Cash Back Program ends
  - Bring your Acme receipts to the church



### Offering on Sunday, December 28

Attendance: 63

General Fund	\$ 19,754.00
Moises	5,000.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	<u>50.00</u>
Total Offering	\$ 24,804.00

### The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, January 7

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.

**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. People of all ages are WELCOME on Thursday, January 8, from 6-8pm. Park around back, come in through the Volunteer door and ask for Denise when you arrive. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Yoder.

### Youth/Mentor Event – Sunday, January 18

A Youth /Mentor event has been scheduled for Sunday, January 18 at 5pm at Spins Bowling in Akron for pizza and bowling. If you have any questions, please see Kim Weaver or Ruth Yoder.



## 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 lunch. An email has been 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!**

### From Ministry of Gifts Discernment

*The following members have agreed to serve on committees beginning January 1, 2026.*

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term Expires end of year</b>
Building & Grounds (3-year term)	Larry Hills (agreed to another term)	2028
Charity Committee (7-year term)	Perry Miller (agreed to another term)	2032
Family Ministry (2-year term)	Holly Miller (agreed to another term) Dawn Hyland	2027 2027
Food Committee (2-year term)	Vee Miller	2027
Ushers (2-year term)	Sam Miller	2027

*Thank you to those who came off committees the end of 2025: Barb Dutcher on Family Ministry, Harold & Nancy Beachy on Food Committee, and Mitch Mann and Larry Hills as Ushers.*

*Ministry of Gifts Discernment appreciates everyone's willingness to serve!  
Ruth Hills, Charla Sommers, Vernon Sommers, Michael Yoder*

### 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)

Myrrl Byler: Pastor ([myrrl.byler@gmail.com](mailto: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](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