

March 22, 2026
5th Sunday of Lent



Message: Cathy Arble
Worship Leader: Jill Liechty
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers
Song Leader: Tom Lubbers & Harry Arble
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

VT #227 *Here I am to Worship (Light of the World)*

Call to Worship

Here we are. It is still Lent and we may wish to skip this part.

*We don't really want to remember the violence or hear the horrible cries, "Crucify! Crucify!"
(We get enough of that from the news.)*

*And we really don't want to think we might be among those voices, or consider our own
Complicity in such things.*

But it is Lent. So we are here.

And we tell the story again, trusting that God will meet us in it.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

TMH #164 *Were You There (Verses 1, 3, 4)*
Lead Me to the Cross

Confession Poem

Jesus, things don't always turn out the way we expect. Or want.

*And sometimes your choices (or the choices of our neighbors or family members or politicians)
really don't agree with us.*

We hate to admit it, but we feel for the angry crowd.

*In our fury, we too can become so consumed, so focused on who or what we are opposing,
that we turn away from the things that matter most.*

"We have no king but the emperor!" we find ourselves saying.

And only after we hear our voice do we realize how distorted our allegiance has become.

God, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Offering – General Fund

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

John 19:1-16a (CEB)

Readers' Theater

"A Religious Leader's Truth"

Message

Dwelling in Dissonance: Complicity and Innocence

RESPONDING

Song of Response

The Wonderful Cross

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY

Subscribers to Leader are welcome to photocopy, adapt & project worship materials.

Songs used with permission: CCLI 465314

HWB- Hymnal Worship Book (blue)

STJ-Sing the Journey (green spiral)

TMH – The Mennonite Hymnal (red)

STS-Sing the Story (purple spiral)

VT-Voices Together (purple)

Several people have asked for printed copies of sermons. Myrrl will place copies on a table at the rear of the sanctuary that you can pick up after the service.



✝ Pray for Dan and Jeanne Zimmerly Jantzi who lost their home (Orrville) to a fire while they were in Arizona this week. Jeanne spoke at Maple Grove last fall. A GoFundMe page has been set up on Jeanne's Facebook page by their son.

- ✝ Pray for those with health concerns: Twila Miller; Miriam Miller; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Alta Bates' sisters Katie and Leona; Nancy Beachy's friend's grandson, Peter, with cancer and her sister Hazel on hospice; and Mike Kress who has 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.
 - ✝ As we hear and see the images and stories of bombings and violence, may we continue to pray for peace, for those who work for peace, and for the many millions whose lives are filled with fear and uncertainty. For the parents of Darius Meraj who live in Iran, for the Mennonite churches in Columbia and their brothers and sisters in Venezuela. For the families of our Ukrainian friends, for Christians, including Mennonite churches affected by violence in various African countries. Also, for a Mennonite church in Myanmar that was recently bombed. A deacon, treasurer and two youth leaders were killed, and 11 other church members needed emergency medical treatment. In a message from the church, they have asked all international Mennonites to pray for them. God have mercy.
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The last scheduled fellowship meal is on Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00pm.

The meal will be chicken sandwiches, salads, chips and dessert. Monetary donations for the food are welcome but not required. Please plan to join us on Wednesday night for a time of fellowship!

*Thank you to our Food Committee – Kami Sommers, Ruth Hills & Vee Miller,
for putting together the Wednesday night meals!*



Our season of Lent this year is meant to prepare us for Holy Week as we take a slow, intentional journey through the second half of the Gospel of John. *The entire season of Lent is framed by the experience of Holy Week, inviting us to linger in the intensity of the final week of Jesus' life, to dwell in the dissonance.*

March 29 – Lent 6	“Palm Sunday”	John 19:16b–22; 12:12–27
April 2 – 6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Communion & Footwashing
April 3	Good Friday	
April 5 – Easter Sunday (Breakfast @ 8:45 / Service @ 10am)	“Death and Resurrection”	John 20:1-18

Maundy Thursday Service: On Thursday, April 2nd, we will celebrate communion together as well as demonstrate our commitment to a servant’s life by washing feet. A light meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the service following immediately after the meal.

We invite all believers to come to this service, giving thanks for Christ’s life, death, resurrection and the gift of Salvation.

We encourage you to prepare your hearts for this time.

Our Easter Sunday Celebration on April 5th will begin with sharing breakfast

together at 8:45 a.m. followed by worshipping together at 10:00 a.m. (please note gathering time is 8:45 instead of 8:30 this year). No Sunday School classes.



If you are planning to join us for Easter Sunday breakfast, the Food Committee asks you please sign up and note how many are attending from your family – a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board at the church. *This is only for planning purposes – all are welcome to join us for breakfast Easter Sunday whether you are signed up or not!*

There are also sign-up sheets for breakfast items if you would like to bring something to share.

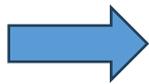
During Lent, Stations of the Cross are available in Sunday School Classroom #1 (on the Education side of the church). This will be a place to come and meditate and pray during the Lenten season.

The Lenten Guided Prayer has a playlist to accompany the Prayer Guides. To access it, you will need to create a free Spotify account if you do not already have one. Access the playlist at [Dwelling in Dissonance](#). Please see Julie Yoder if you have any questions.



A BIG thank you to Miles Yoder for helping with the scroll we used for last week's visuals that went along with Myrri's sermon. We appreciate your help!
 Vee Miller & Sheryl Weaver, Visual Coordinators

From MCC-Great Lakes: Thank you for making the 2026 Ohio MCC Comforter Bash a great success! Despite a power and water outage, we knotted a total of 348 comforters thanks to the help of 587 volunteers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. MCC is grateful for your part in providing warmth and hope to people around the world.



The Ministry of Administration is following through on the Ministry of Congregational Care's recommendation that we move forward with the vote of affirmation on Myrri Byler as Maple Grove's Lead Pastor at a ¾ time contract.

Ballots are in the mailboxes of Active Members for Sunday, March 22. **Please check your mailboxes on Sunday.** Ballots not picked up on Sunday will be emailed to you or mailed to your home if you do not use email. **Ballots need to be returned by April 12, 2026.** Ballots can be returned to the church by putting in the collection box at the church, emailing back to Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovenennonite.org, or dropping off or mailing to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Ministry of Administration: Dan Dutcher, Brenda LaTulippe, Jade Liechty, Steve Miller, Scott Sommers, Adam Weaver.

Higher Education Grants from Maple Grove for 2026-2027 School Year

In an effort to encourage our members to pursue a Christian education that emphasizes the Anabaptist vision, Maple Grove has available a grant program for students enrolling in colleges and seminaries maintaining the Mennonite Anabaptist vision. Copies of Maple Grove's policy and the application form can be accessed from Maple Grove's website by clicking [here](#). There are paper copies available on the literature rack in the foyer or contact Cindy in the church office. **Any interested students should return the application to Maple Grove's Treasurer, Steve Miller, by April 26, 2026.**



Offering on Sunday – March 15

Attendance: 55

General Fund	\$ 1,311.00
Education Fund	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 1,361.00



Refuge of Hope Spring Banquet – April 14 @ Hartville Kitchen

The Spring Fundraising Banquet for Refuge of Hope is Tuesday, April 14th, at the Hartville Kitchen with doors opening at 5:30 and a complimentary dinner at 6pm. Join us for a milestone celebration – 25 years of hope and God’s faithfulness at work through Refuge of Hope! As part of this celebration, we invite you to contribute to Refuge of Hope. To confirm your attendance and reserve your seat, please RSVP by April 2nd at www.refugeofhope.org or call Beth Knox at 330-453-1785.

Lighthouse Ministries’ Annual Fundraising Banquet – April 23 @ Hartville Kitchen

Please join us on Thursday, April 23, at 6:30pm at the Hartville Kitchen for our Annual Fundraising Banquet, an evening centered on the students of Southeast Canton and the inspiring work unfolding through Lighthouse Ministries! Thanks to generous sponsors, there is no cost to attend, but there will be an opportunity to give at the conclusion of the program as we work toward our \$75,000 goal before our fiscal year ends on May 31. Consider arriving a little early or staying a bit afterward, as our student-run businesses will be open both before and after the program! Doors open at 5:45pm. For more details and to reserve your seat visit www.cantonlighthouse.org/banquet. If you are unable to attend but would still like to help us reach our goal, please visit www.cantonlighthouse.org/give to make your donation.

Lake Township FISH 4th Annual Golf Classic – May 15

You can support Lake Township FISH and their efforts to serve the Lake Township community while enjoying a beautiful day of golf at Sable Creek Golf Course on Friday, May 15. The outing provides funding to Lake Township FISH. For every \$1 donated, FISH can provide 3 meals to people in need in our community. For more information and to register, go to www.laketownshipfish.org.

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

In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King reflects on 22 years of service with MDS, learn how you can get involved with the MDS family program and you can relive the experience of our Annual Celebration online. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/4qvNRmn>

A copy of the newsletter is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

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