

THE JOURNEY TO
PENTECOST

April 12, 2026



Message: Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader: Paul Bontrager
Song Leader: Renee Koshmider
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song

Holy Spirit

Call to Worship

Leader: Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

People: *We are in a surreal space, confused or uncertain between brokenness and new opportunities. What is and what can be.*

Leader: Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

People: *At times we, like disciples, are hiding behind closed doors with fear and doubts, waiting for Your appearance.*

Leader: And yet we affirm and find hope, knowing that You accept us where we are.

People: *Come into our midst now, penetrate into our questioning hearts bringing Your peace.*

ALL: As we worship today, refresh us, O God, empower us, filling us with Your gentle Spirit.

PRAISING

Praise Songs

VT #61 *You are Holy, You are Whole
Hymn of Heaven*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31 (CEB)

Message

The Thesis Statement

RESPONDING

Song of Response

VT #57 *Holy Spirit, Come with Power*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song

HWB #285 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Benediction/Blessing

Postlude

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. Myrri will place copies on a table at the rear of the sanctuary that you can pick up after the service.



✝ 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.

✝ 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 those whose lives and faith are deeply affected by violence, by oppression, by poverty, by prejudice and by opposition from political leaders and governments.

MC USA is encouraging congregations to pray this prayer, written by Amy Yoder McGloughlin on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021, as a way to join with congregations across the broader church in highlighting Jesus' peaceful resistance to empire/colonialism.

Holy God, You created us to love and to be loved. You created us in Your image and likeness, desiring humanity's connection and relationship to one another and Your creation. And yet, since the beginning, we've struggled to be at peace with each other. We have struggled to love ourselves and to love each other in the way You have deeply desired for us. Give us courage to love ourselves and our families with difficult conversations, with compassionate listening and with healthy boundaries.

Jesus Christ, You showed us the way of peace in Your words and teachings, and in Your life, death and resurrection. And yet, like Your disciples, our vision for Your shalom is too narrow. We have, at times, limited Your vision of peace to that of our own inner peace and security. We have forgotten that peace means wholeness for all people and creation. Give us courage to work in solidarity with the poor for a world where all have access to what they need; to create lasting shalom by loving and stewarding the earth You have created; to aid those who are fleeing terrible circumstances of violence; and to confront the powers that create unjust policies in our churches, in our community policing practices, in our education systems, and in our government structures.

Spirit of Life, You inspire and compel us towards creative peacemaking. Move us beyond our confessions, into creativity. Move us beyond our guilt, into inspiration. Move us beyond our shame into a fuller vision of shalom for Your world. Move us into being creators of peace in our communities, co-conspirators of wholeness in our churches, companions of peacemaking efforts on the borders, and in places of international conflict. AMEN

Upcoming Sermons – Journey to Pentecost

April 12	"The Thesis Statement"	John 20:19-31
April 19	"Meeting Us Where We Are"	John 21:15-19
April 26	"Commissioned to Make Disciples"	Matthew 28:16-20
May 3	"The Song of the Lark: A Celebration of Spring"	Psalm 104
May 10	"A Mother's Day Celebration"	Multi-Voice Sermon
May 17	"Why are you standing here, looking toward heaven?"	Acts 1:1-14
May 24	"And Where are You From?"	Acts 2:1-21



- Sun. – April 12 - My Coins Count Kick-off Sunday
 - Return ballots for affirmation of Myrri Byler as Lead Pastor
- Sun. – April 19 - Education Sunday (non-designated funds go to Education Fund)
- Sun. – April 26 - Migrant Center Welcome Bags Collection Due
 - Higher Education Grant Applications Due
 - Secret Prayer Sisters Banquet – 5pm
- Wed. – May 13 - Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night @ Church – 6pm



Welcome Bags - Hartville Migrant Ministry Welcome Bags – Return items by April 26

The Ministry of Outreach is asking the congregation for help with donating Welcome Bags to the Hartville Migrant Center. We have committed to donating 15 Single Adult Welcome Bags. To keep track of how many bags are being donated, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board at the church. Needed items are listed below – copies of this list are by the mailboxes. Items will be collected through the last Sunday in April. A box is available in the church lobby to collect the items. You may also donate to the project through the offering – the suggested monetary donation in lieu of items is \$50. Thank you!

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Twin sheet set (generic design) | - Shaving cream |
| - Pillow | - Deodorant |
| - Towel | - Toothpaste |
| - Wash cloth | - Toothbrush |
| - Body wash | - Shampoo/Conditioner |
| - Set of 4 razors | |

Ministry of Outreach kicks off "My Coins Count" Collection on Sunday, April 12!

My Coins Count offering will go to MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) at the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale & Auction on July 10-11 held at the Mt. Hope Event Center. Each year, coins and bills collected by children, families and churches along with matching funds adds up to more than \$600,000 toward MCC's work around the world. **Your coins count!** Mark your offering envelope for My Coins Count or drop your change in the coin vortex at the church.



- The global education crisis is a widening catastrophe, with over 250 million children out of school and roughly 800 million young people lacking basic workforce skills by 2030.
- Without adequate funding, education systems cannot provide the infrastructure, staff, or materials needed to function effectively.
- This year, through My Coins Count, you can help kids around the world get a good education.



The Secret Prayer Sisters Banquet is Sunday, April 26, at 5pm at the church.



Find out who your secret prayer sister has been! Please bring a small thank you gift for the person who has your name and has been praying for you over the past year. If you are unable to attend the banquet, please let Kami Sommers know. There will not be a Secret Prayer Sisters program for this year. Thank you to those who have participated in the program.



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 have been sent to Active Members via email or postal mail. If you have not received your ballot, please contact Cindy in the church office. **Ballots need to be returned by Sunday, April 12.** Ballots can be returned to the church by putting in the collection box at the church, emailing back to Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovementonite.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.**



Please note that updates have been made to the mailboxes in the church lobby and mailboxes have been rearranged. Your mailbox may have been moved!

If you do not have a mailbox and would like to have one, please let Cindy in the church office know. We also distribute information via email. If you would like to be included on the church email distribution list, please make sure we have your current email address by contacting Cindy at secretary@maplegrovementonite.org.



Offering on Sunday – April 5

Attendance: 95

General Fund	\$ 3,316.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	150.00
Lake Township FISH	50.00
Total Offering	\$ 3,516.00



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 at www.refugeofhope.org.

Lake Township Historical Society Fireside Chat – April 16

Join us for a special Fireside Chat exploring the history, traditions, and lived experiences of Amish life in Lake Township on Thursday, April 16, 7pm at Evermore Community Church. Guests are invited to arrive early to view selected displays and visit informally with the speakers. Featured speakers are LeRoy Yoder, Marion Coblentz, Emma Miller and Ross Miller. Each speaker will reflect on their unique experiences connected to Amish heritage, community, and change within the township.

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.

Hartville Migrant Center Annual Spring Supporters Event – May 4 @ 6pm

The Hartville Migrant Ministry is growing! See how you can be a part of our exciting endeavors. Join us on Monday, May 4, at 6pm (3980 Swamp Road in Hartville). Appetizers will be served.

Click on this link to RSVP: <https://evite.me/HYvsSqUX2p>

Gospel Echoes Team Annual Prison Ministry Banquet – May 5

The banquet for Gospel Echoes Team is Tuesday, May 5, at the Hartville Kitchen at 6:30pm (doors open at 6pm). There will be music, dinner, prison testimonies and ministry updates. It is the primary focus of Gospel Echoes Team Prison Ministry Association to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with prison inmates. A freewill offering will be received for the ministry. For reservations, contact Joe & Patricia Hochstetler at 330-206-6655 or Dale & Myra Miller at 330-815-2539. See the poster on the bulletin board at the church with more information.

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.

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-50'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