



*As branches connected to Christ the vine, we are also connected to each other.
Today we rejoice in receiving LeRoy Raber into membership here at Maple Grove.*

THE JOURNEY TO
PENTECOST

April 19, 2026



Message: Myrri Byler
Worship Leader: Kami Sommers
Song Leader: Ruth Yoder
Greeters: Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude
Welcome & Announcements
Opening Song
Call to Worship

Come As You Are

PRAISING

Praise Songs

*The River
Jesus Take All of Me*

Offering – Education Sunday (non-designated funds go to Education Fund)

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading
Message

John 21:15-19 (CEB)

Meeting Us Where We Are

RESPONDING

Song of Response
Congregational Sharing/Prayer
Receiving of New Member

VT #133 *My Jesus, I Love Thee*

SENDING

Sending Song
Benediction/Blessing
Postlude

STS #1 *Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness*

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)



✝ Pray for the family of Brian Miller, Maynard & Ruth Miller's son. Brian passed away on April 8th. Pray for his wife Traci and their family.

- ✝ 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.

Upcoming Sermons – Journey to Pentecost

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

WE NEED PICTURES!

- **I have an assignment for everyone for our morning worship service on May 3rd, which will be a celebration of spring, nature and new creation.** If you would take a few photos around your house of flowers, blossoms, birds, gardens, dirt, trees, mulch, squirrels, groundhogs, fountains, sunrise/sunset, pet cats and dogs--send them to me at 540-578-3376 or myrrl.byler@gmail.com. If you could do this in the coming week that would be great.—Myrrl
- **Ministry of Worship is inviting you to submit pictures for the worship service on Mother's Day.** These can be pictures of your own mother or of any mother figures in your life. They will be used in a looping reel that morning. Please send them electronically to Cindy in the church office by Mon., May 4th.



- 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
- Sun. – May 17 - Quarterly Collection for Lake Township FISH
- Sun. – May 24 - Pentecost Sunday
- Mon. – May 25 - Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)

Cindy will be out of the office on Friday, April 24, and the newsletter will be done on Thursday.
Please have all items for the newsletter to Cindy by Wednesday, April 22nd. Thank you!

From Ministry of Administration: Myrrl Byler has been affirmed as Maple Grove's Lead Pastor at ¾ time. Thanks to all who participated in the affirmation process. The responses were all affirmative except for two people who abstained from voting. Any questions, please see someone on the Ministry of Administration.

Conscientious Objector Status: The Selective Service System is making changes to the registration process for males aged 18 to 25. At present males need to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. By December registration will be automatic. Some believe that this will make it easier to bring back the draft, but congressional action is needed for that to happen. Females remain ineligible for the draft. It is important to have on file here at the church your declaration of Conscientious Objector (CO) status. You **do not** need to be a member at Maple Grove or even a regular attender to have a statement on file. Please check with Myrrl or Cindy on how to begin the process. For background, here is a statement from the Selective Service website:

"Beliefs which qualify a registrant for CO status may be religious in nature, but don't have to be. Beliefs may be moral or ethical; however, a man's reasons for not wanting to participate in a war must not be based on politics, expediency, or self-interest. In general, the man's lifestyle prior to making his claim must reflect his current claims."

Mennonite Central Committee has recently updated their online resource for young people to discern what it means to be a conscientious objector. Visit [Christian Peacemaker Registration | Mennonite Central Committee](#) to learn what it means, to explore resources or to register as a Christian Peacemaker.



Give soap full of hope - Help MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) collect bars of soap in April & May

MCC provides soap to hospitals, orphanages and refugee camps in countries where soap is expensive or difficult to source. There is a need for soap beyond what is supplied in kits. MCC Great Lakes invites you to take part in a special collection of bath soap and laundry soap. The Ministry of Outreach is asking for your help with this collection through April & May. The soap specifications are:

Bath soap specifications: NEW bars of soap

- 3 oz. or larger
- Please leave in wrapper.
- Please keep in mind that hotel soaps are too small.

Laundry soap specifications: NEW bars of laundry soap

- Brands such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote®
- Please leave in wrapper.
- Homemade laundry soap blocks 5 oz. or larger are acceptable.

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 | |



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!**

- This year, My Coins Count will raise money for **education**.
- Education can help end poverty. It gives kids the skills they need to survive and thrive, opening the door to jobs, resources, and everything else that they need to live full, creative lives.

We can make a difference in the world! The Ministry of Outreach encourages you to:

- Mark your offering envelope "My Coins Count"
- Drop your money in the coin vortex at the church
- Take a mission bank home & start collecting your change (banks are on a table at the church).

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.

Spring Cleaning & Outside Work Night at Church – May 13 @ 6:00 p.m.



The Building & Grounds Committee is planning a spring cleaning & outside work night at the church on Wednesday, May 13, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We'll need everyone's help to be able to clean the entire church as well as spruce up the outside in one evening. So bring your buckets, rags, ladders, wheelbarrows and shovels, and join us for an evening of work and fellowship. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Building & Grounds Committee:

Larry Hills, Jordan Miller & Marty Miller

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@maplegrovemennonite.org.



Offering on Sunday – April 12

Attendance: 60

General Fund	\$ 6,814.00
Charity Fund	50.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	1,200.00
Total Offering	\$ 8,064.00



Open Arms Hispanic Ministry is hosting a Stand Up Comedy Night Fundraiser on April 21.

The event will be held on Tuesday, April 21st, at Fairlawn Mennonite Church (8520 Emerson Road in Apple Creek). Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7pm. Join them for a fun, family-friendly evening while supporting their work in the community. Refreshments are provided. A free will offering will be taken for Open Arms Hispanic Ministry (www.open-arms.us).

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.

Hartville Migrant Center Workday – May 23

Terry Smith, the Property Manager at the Migrant Center, has scheduled a workday for Saturday, May 23rd, from 9am-12pm. You can stay for part of the time or for the entire 3 hours. Children are welcome to work alongside their parents. Please call or text Terry if you are interested at 330-354-6419 or email micmat6767@gmail.com. We really appreciate your help in getting our building and property summer-ready!

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

In this edition, read about the nine new homes in Douglas, Georgia, discover the miracle of riding a bicycle after a devastating hurricane, and a college student explains why he is inspired by the opportunity to serve others. Click [here](#) to read more. 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-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