MAPLE GROVE MENNONITE CHURCH

Informal Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes - 9:30a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
(Online at www.mgmennonite.org)

Maple Grove Newsletter

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

Newsletter dated November 13, 2026

Sunday
November 15, 2026

Worship the LORD

Message:	Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader:	Adam Weaver
Song Leader:	Ruth Yoder
Offertory:	Harry Arble
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song — STJ #49 *Rain Down*

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: We gather today to hear of the Kingdom of God, spoken boldly and clearly in our midst.
People: ***Our trust is in the living God.***
Leader: The world around us may be shaken, and the idols of this age may clamor for our attention, yet we hold fast to The Way of Jesus Christ.
People: ***Our trust is in the living God.***
Leader: By the hands of the Lord, the broken are healed, the oppressed are set free, and extraordinary grace is poured out upon us.
People: ***Our trust is in the living God.***
Leader: Come, let us worship the One who reigns over all—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: ***Our trust is in the living God! Amen***

PRAISING

Praise Songs — VT #528 *God, Bless the Work Your People Do*
VT #178 *God of Wonders*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading — Acts 19:1, 8-12,23-28 (CEB)
Message — ***Engaging Paul: Confrontations in Ephesus***

RESPONDING

Song of Response — VT #420 *God of the Bible*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song — VT #812 *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

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)

Printed copies of the sermon are available on a table at the rear of the sanctuary that you can pick up after the service.



✞ *Pray for Sylvia Miller who is dealing with a torn Achilles tendon.*

✞ *Pray for those dealing with cancer: Jade Liechty's mom Renee, Matthew Manchester, Paul & Lois Bontrager's son-in-law; Mike Kress, Sr.; and Nancy Beachy's friend's grandson Peter.*

✞ *Pray for those with ongoing health concerns: Lura Bowin; Twila Miller; Miriam Miller; Mary Hilmer's brother Harold Yoder; Alta Bates with a shoulder injury and her sisters Katie & Leona and her nephew Ray Alan Miller & his wife Jolene; Harold & Nancy Beachy's daughter Kim with heart issues; Arrie Ledsome's son Larry; Cathy Arble's niece Stephanie and Dave Smucker recovering from transplants; and Joe Weaver's father-in-law Joe Krakowski.*

✞ *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.*

✞ *Pray for those affected by natural disasters around the world, and those involved with the relief & recovery efforts.*

Worship Schedule

Nov. 22	"Engaging Paul: Letters from Prison"
Nov. 29	First Sunday of Advent – "God Dreams of Hope"
Dec. 6	Second Sunday of Advent – "God Dreams of Peace"
Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent – "God Dreams of Joy"
Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent – "God Dreams of Love"
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service – 5:30pm
Dec. 27	First Sunday after Christmas – "God Dreams of Surprises"
Jan. 3	Epiphany Sunday – "God Dreams of Protection"

From Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale Board

The Relief Sale Board would like to thank Maple Grove Mennonite Church for participating in the 2026 My Coins Count for Education campaign. At our recent Relief Sale Wrap-Up Meeting, our Treasurer reported that $434,000 will be sent to MCC from this year's sale. My Coins Count contributed $197,959 of that total, and we are grateful for Maple Grove's generous gift of $57,153.65 toward this effort.

2026 Giving Challenge Highlights:

- By Region: Northeast Ohio led with over $153,000, while Central Ohio contributed nearly $43,000.
- By County: Stark County congregations combined to contribute $114,247, followed by Holmes $42,903 and Wayne $38,409.
- Top Congregation: Maple Grove Mennonite Church led the way with $57,153.65!

Thank you again to everyone who supported MCC's educational work around the globe. We look forward to partnering with you in 2027 when our theme will be My Coins Count for Water!



- Sun. – Nov. 15 - Christmas Choir Practice – 5pm @ the Church
- Wed. – Nov. 18 - Balance, Breathing & Blessings Class – 9am
- Sun. – Nov. 22 - Last Sunday to collect for FISH Thanksgiving Outreach Project
- Mon. – Nov. 23 - Help decorate the church for Christmas – 9:30am
- Sun. – Nov. 29 - Last Sunday to collect for Lake Community Christmas
- Mon. – Nov. 30 - Return gifts for Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas Program
- Fri. – Dec. 11 - Maple Grove group outing to see "A Christmas Carol" @ North Canton Player's Guild - Meet @ church 6:30pm/Play starts 7:30pm

Welcome Ladies! Balance, Breathing and Blessings class every Wednesday morning at 9:00.
Focus is on improving movement and balance for older bodies. Breads and coffee time afterwards! Contact Ruthie Byler if you have any questions.



Attention all singers! Please join us to practice some Christmas songs that will be performed on December 20th and Christmas Eve. Our practices are Sunday evenings from 5-5:45pm at the church on November 15, 22 & 29 and December 6 & 13.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lois Bontrager or Ruth Yoder.



We are decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, November 23, starting at 9:30 in the morning. Please join us - extra hands will make it easier and take less time for everyone. Come if you can!
See Sheryl Weaver or Vee Miller if you have any questions.



Collection for Lake Township FISH Thanksgiving Outreach – due by Nov. 22

Maple Grove is collecting **boxed stuffing mix** for the Thanksgiving Community Outreach this year.

The goal is to collect 300 boxes of stuffing mix – we currently have 98 boxes!

The last Sunday to donate is November 22. You may also make a monetary donation by marking your giving envelope for FISH and Ministry of Outreach will purchase stuffing mix to meet our goal. Or you may donate a $10.00 gift card to a local grocery store which will be given to the families to purchase their Thanksgiving meat of choice. Want to volunteer with the project on November 23-24? Go to **https://laketownshipfish.volunteerlocal.com**

Any questions, please contact a member of Ministry of Outreach: Sheryl Weaver, Howard Miller, Gene Robinson. *Thank you so much for your support to make this event a success!*



Lake Community Christmas – Donations due by Sunday, November 29

The Lake Community Christmas program is dedicated to providing joyful holiday experiences for families in need in Lake Township. We partner with local churches and organizations, including Lake Township FISH, Love Our Community, and Lake Local Schools to identify families who could use extra support during the holiday season. With your help through volunteering or donations, we can make a difference in the lives of families in our community.

This year's event is being hosted by St. Jacob's Lutheran Church. We will be offering families the opportunity to shop for the children for brand new gifts. Please remember to choose gifts of *quality over quantity* as we aim to provide families with an opportunity to shop for items they would not normally have access to.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Purchase gift cards for $10, $20, $40 or $60 – see the gift tags on the table in the church lobby and take a tag for the amount you would like to spend – gift card ideas are on the back of the tags.
  - **Label gift card(s) with gift amount & return to the church with the tag by Sun, Nov. 29.**
- You can easily shop the online wish lists that are linked on Lake Township Fish's website at **https://laketownship.wixsite.com/communitychristmas**. Options to purchase items from Amazon, Target and Walmart are available. When you purchase through these sites online, the items will be shipped straight to us to make it easier on our donors.

As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to save your Acme grocery receipts.

Acme will give a percentage of the cash back amount printed on the bottom of each receipt to FISH. The program runs through February 15, 2027. A box is available under the mailboxes for the receipts – thanks for your support of this project!

Deck the Halls & Stock the Store



Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas program is for families in the southeast neighborhood of Canton surrounding the Lighthouse. In purchasing presents for kids, the real gift you are offering is dignity that comes with a parent's ability to provide for their children. The Ministry of Outreach partners with Yoder-Bontrager Insurance Agency on this project.

- The lists of gifts you see on the board in the church lobby were generated by responses to surveys that were distributed to parents and caregivers of the children who use the Lighthouse services.
- The presents you purchase will be sold at an affordable price in a "store" run by the Lighthouse. Affordable means the gifts are marked down to at least 75% off the purchase price.
- Please make sure that every gift has the purchase price listed somewhere on the packaging.
- Please tape the tag on the gift.

All gifts should be returned UNWRAPPED by Monday, November 30.

There are many concerts and events in the area during November and December.

Below is a list including if someone from Maple Grove is participating:

Sunday, November 22: Canton Youth Symphony Concert (James Yoder)
- 7pm, Zimmerman Hall

Thursday, December 3: Point of Grace and Jason Gray "Comfort and Joy" concert
- 7pm, Hartville Kitchen

Thursday, December 10: Lake High School Orchestra Concert (James Yoder)
- 8pm, Performing Arts Hall

Saturday, December 12 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 13 at 3pm:
Canton Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert
- Zimmerman Hall

Tuesday, December 15: Lake High School Choir Concert (James & Miles Yoder)
- 7pm, Performing Arts Hall

Friday, December 18 at 7pm and Saturday, December 19 at 1pm and 7pm: Summit Choral Society Christmas Candlelight Concert (Lois Bontrager)
- Saint Bernard Catholic Church, Akron

Sunday, December 20: Horizon's Band (Harry Arble)
- 2pm, Johnson United Methodist Church in Barberton



Offering on Sunday – November 8 **Attendance: 60**

General Fund	$ 7,321.00
Total Offering	$ 7,321.00

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.

To include something in the newsletter, please email Cindy Fleming at secretary@maplegrovemennonoite.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:	Harold Beachy, Paul Bontrager, Brenda LaTulippe, Myron Weaver
Prayer Chain:	Kami Sommers

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AVAILABLE

Adult Classes		Children/Youth/Young Adult Classes	
Women's Class	Library	Children's Ministry (up to 6th Grade)	Rooms 7-8
Men's Class	Room 9-Hallway	Youth (Grades 7-12)	Rooms 3-4
Mixed Intergenerational Class	Room 2-Education Side	Post-High/Young Adults	Fellowship Hall
Mixed 30's-50's Class	Basement		