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 20, 2026

Sunday
November 22, 2026



Message:	Myrrl Byler
Worship Leader:	Scott Hyland
Song Leader:	Tom Lubbers
Offertory:	Sue Nisly
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song — HWB #89 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: God eternal and righteous One, who created the heavens and the earth, we gather to give You thanks,

People: ***For breath that fills us with Your life, for love that softens our hearts, for beauty revealed at every turn.***

Leader: Christ redeeming and forgiving One, who is always faithful and merciful, we gather to give You thanks,

People: ***For renewal, transforming our lives, for peace calming the chaos of our souls, for hope restoring our faith.***

Leader: Spirit sustaining, and compassionate One, who calls us into relationship with the living God, we give You thanks,

People: ***For caring when our hearts are aching, for friends supportive in times of need, for generosity lavish and overflowing.***

Leader: God who created the earth and the heavens, Eternal, Redeeming and Sustaining One, we gather to give You thanks,

All: ***We come with hearts full of gratitude, for all things good, we give You thanks for You.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs — *Living Hope*
You Are My King (Amazing Love)

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23 (CEB)

Message — ***Engaging Paul: Letters from Prison***

RESPONDING

Song of Response — VT #590 *I Know Not Why God's Wondrous*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song — *He Lives*

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 those who are traveling over the Thanksgiving holiday.*
- ✞ *And pray for those who are away from their families or alone over Thanksgiving.*
- ✞ *Pray for those dealing with cancer and pray for their families: Matthew Manchester, Paul & Lois Bontrager's son-in-law; Mike Kress, Sr.; Jade Liechty's mom Renee; and Nancy Beachy's friend's grandson Peter.*
- ✞ *Keep Shawn Miller (Sheryl Weaver and Betty Miller's nephew) in your prayers. He is facing a second surgery for a brain tumor.*
- ✞ *Pray for Paul & Ruth Miller and their family. Paul & Ruth used to attend Maple Grove. Ruth has been placed on Hospice.*
- ✞ *Pray for those with ongoing health concerns: Sylvia Miller; 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. 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"

Church Events

- Sun. – Nov. 22 - Christmas Choir Practice – 8:45-9:30am @ the Church
  - Last Sunday to collect for FISH Thanksgiving Outreach Project
- Mon. – Nov. 23 - Help decorate the church for Christmas – 9:30am
- Nov. 26-27 - Church Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Sun. – Nov. 29 - Last Sunday to collect for Lake Community Christmas
- Mon. – Nov. 30 - Return gifts for Lighthouse Ministries' Affordable Christmas Program
- Wed. – Dec. 2 - Ladies' Sewing & Comforter Knotting – Lunch provided!
  - Balance, Breathing & Blessings Class – 9am
- 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

- **There will not be a Balance, Breathing and Blessings class on Wednesday, November 25.** We will start back up the following Wednesday at 9:00. See Ruthie Byler if you have any questions.
- **The church office is closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27.** Cindy will be sending out the newsletter on Wednesday, November 25. Please have all items to go in the newsletter to Cindy by that Wednesday morning – thank you!
- **Help Needed**: Mary Hilmer will be moving into GentleBrook Homestead and will need help for the move. We're hoping to move her furniture and belongings on Tuesday evening, December 1st. If you would be available to help please call Myrrl Byler or Julie Yoder. Thank you in advance!

Attention all singers! Please join us to practice some Christmas songs that will be performed on December 20th and Christmas Eve. Our practices have changed to Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:30am on November 22 & 29 and December 6, 13 & 20.
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.

The ladies' sewing group will meet on Wednesday, December 2 – lunch provided!



Everyone is welcome to join us for a day of fellowship. ***Lunch will be provided!*** Spend the day or come for just a bit - we enjoy each other's friendship while we work! If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Miller, Sylvia Miller or Sheryl Weaver.



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

Maple Grove is collecting **boxed stuffing mix** for the Thanksgiving Community Outreach this year. **We have 242 boxes – our goal is 300!**

We are also collecting $10 gift cards to a local grocery store which will be given to the families to purchase their Thanksgiving meat of choice. You may also make a monetary donation by marking your giving envelope for FISH to go toward the project. 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 will be offering families the opportunity to shop for their children for brand new gifts. Maple Grove is collecting gift cards for this project, or you can purchase gifts online as listed below.

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.

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.

There are 17 tags left on the board!

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

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!



The church phone directory has been updated. Booklets have been placed in your mailboxes with extras on the literature rack, and a copy of the file has also been emailed out to the congregation. Please let Cindy in the church office know if there are any changes or if you need additional copies. *Thank you!*



Offering on Sunday – November 15 **Attendance: 62**

General Fund	$ 2,921.00
Education Fund	1,292.00
Refugee Fund	200.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	50.00
FISH Thanksgiving Project	50.00
Total Offering	$ 4,513.00



Lake Township Historical Society Annual Dinner & Silent Auction – December 4

On Friday, December 4, the annual dinner & auction will be held at the Hartville Kitchen. Doors open at 5:30 and dinner is at 6:30. Tickets are $45 per person and can be purchased by scanning the QR code on the flyer on the bulletin board at the church or contact Todd at 330-603-4279.

An Evening in the Village in Hartville – Sunday, December 6, 4:30-7pm

Bring your friends and family to enjoy a Hartville Christmas tradition – the annual tree lighting festivities! Spend your evening jumping from shop to shop enjoying open houses, listening to local choirs and musicians, and visiting with Santa. There is also a silent auction, cookie contest, kid crafts and activities, wagon rides, photo booth and so much more! Go to **www.discoverhartville.com/downtown** for more information.

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

In this edition, Executive Director Clair Good shares his observations after attending fall regional meetings, listen to a new podcast featuring stories from Karla Friesen, plus information and registration forms for the upcoming Annual Celebration in Florida in February.
Click on this link to read more: **https://conta.cc/4s67Qtq**. A copy of the newsletter is posted on the MDS mission bulletin board in the hallway at the church.

Advent at Home 2026: Free Prayers, Scripture Readings & Liturgies

Advent asks us to watch, wait and hope. This year, MC USA invites you to do that together. *God's Dream*, a free Advent resource featuring weekly Scripture readings, prayers, reflection questions, activities and music, gives you a simple way to gather friends, family, neighbors or a small group around scripture, prayer, conversation and song. The guide runs from the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, through Christmas Day. For more information and a copy of the Advent at Home resource, go to **www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/advent-at-home-2026/**
There are printed copies available on the literature rack 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.

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		