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 6, 2026

Mission Sunday
November 8, 2026

Worship Service:	Myrrl Byler & Cathy Arble
Song Leader:	Lois Bontrager
Offertory:	James Yoder
Greeters:	Alta Bates & Arrie Ledsome

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Song — VT #227 *Here I am to Worship*

Call to Worship & Prayer

Leader: We lift our eyes to the hills - from where will our help come?
All: ***Christ above us.***
Leader: Christ never slumbers or sleeps
All: ***Christ be with us.***
Leader: Christ is our keeper. Our shade and comfort.
All: ***Christ defend us.***
Leader: Christ keeps us from all evil and keeps our lives.
All: ***Christ within us.***
Leader: Christ keeps our going out and out coming in, journeying with us throughout our lives.
All: ***Christ beside us.***
Leader: Christ before us. Christ within us. Christ defend us. Christ be with us.
All: ***Christ beside us. Christ above us. Christ beneath us. Christ be with us. Amen.***

PRAISING

Praise Songs — VT #625 *Far Above the Noise of Life*
VT #412 *My Soul Cries Out*

Offering – General Fund

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Message — ***Mission History - Focus on Ireland***

RESPONDING

Song of Response — VT #398 *Thy Word is a Lamp*

Congregational Sharing/Prayer

SENDING

Sending Song — VT #297 *You are Salt for the Earth*

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)



✞ *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. 15	"Engaging Paul: Confrontations in Ephesus" (Acts 18:8-10)
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"



- Sun. – Nov 8. - Christmas Choir Practice – 5pm @ the Church
- Wed. – Nov. 11 - Balance, Breathing & Blessings Class – 9am
- Thurs. – Nov. 12 - Maple Grove's night to Volunteer @ Thrift Shoppe – 6-8pm
- Sat. – Nov. 14 - Men's Breakfast @ the Hartville Kitchen – 8am
- 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" – meet 6:30pm

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 8, 15, 22 & 29 and December 6 & 13. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lois Bontrager or Ruth Yoder.

The second Thursday of each month is Maple Grove's turn to supply volunteers at the Hartville Thrift Shoppe. Ministry of Outreach is encouraging volunteers to help with this on Thursday, November 12, from 6-8pm – all ages are welcome! Park around back, come in through the Volunteer door and ask for Denise when you arrive. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Yoder.

Men's Breakfast - November 14
Meet us on Saturday, November 14th, at 8am at the Hartville Kitchen to get together for food and conversation. Lee Yoder will share this month. The plan is to meet once a month. Contact Perry Miller if you have any questions.

Maple Grove Evening Out – December 11 (Please reply by November 11)
Together with Ministry of Worship members, we would like to invite anyone at Maple Grove who would like to see "A Christmas Carol" (presented by the Players Guild at Kent State Stark Campus) to gather at the church (we can arrange pick up) at 6:30 on Friday evening, December 11, for a 7:30pm performance. The Ministry of Worship will cover the cost of the tickets (if you want to make a donation, that is fine). Please let Cindy or Myrrl know (by email/phone/in person) by Wednesday, November 11, so tickets can be purchased.



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 will also collect $10.00 gift cards to local grocery stores to give to each family to purchase their Thanksgiving meat of choice. Aldi, Marc's, Acme, Giant Eagle, and Sommer's Market are all great options. The collection Sundays are November 8, 15 & 22. You may also make a monetary donation by marking your giving envelope for FISH and Ministry of Outreach will purchase gift cards or stuffing mix as needed to meet our goal.

- The Thanksgiving Outreach will be at FISH headquarters at 13155 Market Ave N. Here is the link to sign up to volunteer on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 23 & 24: **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 1

General Fund	$ 3,285.00
Charity Fund	50.00
Alexis Deuzoumbé Mission	150.00
My Coins Count	396.00
Refugee Fund	1,543.00
Total Offering	$ 5,424.00

Attendance: 70

***Rejoice!* Devotional Magazines have been placed in the mailboxes for the winter quarter (Dec.-Feb.).** *Rejoice!* is a quarterly devotional magazine published by MennoMedia. If you would like to be added to the list to receive this magazine, or if you currently receive and no longer wish to receive it, please contact either Sami Miller with Ministry of Education or Cindy in the church office.

Our Daily Bread devotionals for December-February are now available on the literature rack at the church. Please help yourself!

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@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		**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		