
Maple Grove Mennonite Church

February 14, 2021

10:30 AM Worship Service

*If you desire prayer, those wearing white ribbons are available to pray with you.
If you are new to our church and want additional information about Maple Grove, please
see Alan or an usher for a visitor packet after the service.*

Prelude	Worship Team
Welcome & Opening	Jared Byler
Worship in Song	Worship Team
Scripture Reading	II Kings 2:1-12
Sermon	“Like Father, Like Son” Alan Kauffman
Response Song	
Final Blessing	
Visitors & Church Announcements	
Share & Prayer	
Sending Song	

February 7, 2021

Offering	Mission	Attendance
\$2,614.00	\$100.00	WS: 40

This Week

Monday, Feb. 15, 6:00 PM – Council Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 17, Noon – 1:30, Hope Collective in FH

Next Week’s Text: Mark 1:9-15

Looking Ahead:

March - My Coins Count offerings each Sunday

April 1 - Maundy Thursday Service

April 11 - John Schmid here

Prayer Concerns:

- ◆ Our two church families to pray for this week: Sue, Veru & Regan Farrell and John S. & Dorothy Yoder.

- ◆ Willard Yoder Sr. and Ken Hartzler were in the hospital this past week. Continue to keep them and the families in your prayers.
- ◆ Council meets virtually tomorrow evening to continue to discern services in the future. Pray for them.
- ◆ Pray for our Mission Visioning, Search Committee, and the formation of the Implementation Team. All of these are working at different aspects of our congregation's future.

Praise Notes:

- ◆ Today is Valentine’s Day. Give thanks for God’s love and others who love you!
- ◆ This Tuesday goes by many names: Pancake Day, Pancake Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Donut Day. If you have a sweet tooth, Tuesday is a day for praising God. If you are on a diet, just smile, try to be happy with the rest of us and praise God for something else!
- ◆ Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, a day we are reminded of our mortality. Praise God that death is no longer the last word, but only the threshold we cross to something better.

Primary Department kids sledding at John & Joyce Rheam's house today from 2:00-4:00. Please bring your sled(s)! Call Lisa Rheam with questions.

Maple Leaf articles are due next Sunday the 21st. Lynn will pick up church mail after 3 pm on that day. You can email her at plpeachey51@gmail.com. The focus is on "childhood stories". BUT recipes, Maple Grove memories, scripture reflections, etc. are always welcome. Thank you. Lynn

The **Everence Sharing Fund** provided \$5992.16 in matching funds to support special needs in our church and community last year. Herb Zook serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact him for more information.

It's not too early to start saving your change! **My Coins Count** offerings will be collected each Sunday in March. More details coming next week.

Implementation Team Congregational Announcement

I wanted to give you all an update on where we are at in the Mission Visioning process. After meeting with Conrad and Jacob Kanagy, and with the approval of the Council, we are forming a five member ad-hoc group that we are calling an Implementation Team. The main goal of this team is to use the results of the survey questionnaire and the listening sessions and come up with a succinct mission statement that reflects Maple Grove's mission based on God's calling for us. After creating a mission statement, this team will then spend time dreaming, reflecting and developing action ideas based on the mission statement. The team will then submit a 1-2 page recommendation to the Council, including but not limited to: a succinct mission statement, 2-3 simple and short-term steps intended to be used to integrate the mission statement into church culture and mindset. This group is ultimately responsible to Council.

Once formed, the Implementation Team will spend three to five months brainstorming not only what our mission statement could be, but also some short-term, practical steps for how we would carry out our mission. I am looking for 4 other volunteers who, like me, have a passion to explore and articulate what God's mission for Maple Grove could be. You do not have to be a member to join me in these tasks, just someone who finds this work important and is excited about the possibilities it could produce for Maple Grove. If you are interested, please talk to me before March 15! Also, if this is not your gift, feel free to encourage others to volunteer who you believe might be an asset to this team. Council will then discern and select the Implementation Team from those that have volunteered.

Thanks for considering this important congregational work.
Jason Yoder

Remember to check out the book Alan mentioned a few weeks ago, **Scrappy Church**, by Thom Rainer. It is a quick, but stimulating read as it relates to the Missional Visioning process we are going through. Please take time to check this out from the library (both books are on the rack by the library door) and become acquainted with, and dream about ways God may be calling and leading us to become in our missional future together.

For the month of February we will be collecting **tooth paste, tooth brushes and bath soaps** for Shelter Services.

Our day to contribute **soup and boxed macaroni/cheese** to Backyard Club is Monday, February 15. Please have your donations on the bench in the foyer by 10:30 that day.

Reminder: Individuals and couples may sit at both ends of open pews. Family groups and those with whom you are comfortable may feel free to fill a pew. Ushers will be available to help find seating when needed.

New to the Bulletin Board

Thank you letter from the meat canner for our \$3,000 donation



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Pastor: Alan Kauffman
Ministers: Everyone

“Gathered to know Jesus, sent to make Jesus known”

LENT/EASTER DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
GOING DEEPER
WEEK 1 – FEBRUARY 17 – 21, 2021

The season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, with Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter. The Christian observance of Lent began in the third century as a time to prepare candidates for baptism at Easter. It was an imitation of Jesus, who spent 40 days in the wilderness before beginning His earthly ministry. Today, Christians devote 40 days (excluding Sundays), often focusing more intentionally on spiritual disciplines and caring for others. Often this means needing to give something up to create space for something better. This year, the Worship Committee decided that rather than invest lots of planning into our Sunday morning services, we would give some direction to our weekly or daily times with God and provide some structured guidance for that.

So starting this week (Wednesday), and continuing each week through Lent, there will be an insert in the bulletin that will give some daily direction to prayer and Bible reading. Each week will have a theme, inviting us to go deeper into some aspect of our life. We trust this will be a meaningful journey for our congregation.

Following is a prayer I found that can help us prepare for the season of Lent:

It is customary, Lord to give something up during the season of Lent. What would you have me do without? I who have so much. TV? Social Media? Cigarettes? Sweets? Swearing? The list is endless and I could give up all those things for the span of 40 days quite easily and almost painlessly. But what difference would it make other than making me feel 'holier' than my friend who makes no such sacrifice or it becoming really more about me instead of You?

What would you have me do without? I who have so much. Selfishness? Conceit? Anger? Pride? I fear before I ask, that the answer might be 'yes' and the giving up would be all too real, Lord. It would be difficult, painful, sacrificial, a real cross to carry for 40 days,and more.

Alan Kauffman on behalf of the Worship Committee

Lent is typically a time of the year when we choose to give something up. Our purpose for giving something up is to gain something even better. You may have to give something up in order to use this devotional guide during Lent and Easter. We hope you do. Pay attention to the who or the what that “takes a seat” in your thoughts each day and consider what God may be trying to teach you or ask of you.

Each week’s guide will contain (to be read every day): 1. A thought for the week; 2. A scripture for the week; 3. A blessing for the week; 4. A closing thought/action prompt for the week; and each day will have a specific prayer directive. (Each week, Sunday’s prayer will be a prayer someone else has written.) We hope the repetitive nature of this guide helps to drive the words deeper into your spirit.

This guide is designed to be used every day. However, don’t quit if you are not able to use it every day. If you can only use this 3-4 times a week or less, you can include the daily prayer directives from other days you missed so you are still praying for each thing every week. We hope you enjoy this Lenten/Easter time with God.

THEME – DEEPER HUMANITY

THOUGHT FOR EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: We have been created from dust and will one day return to dust. We come into the world with nothing and leave the same way. These thoughts can depress us or motivate us to make the most of our time on earth. Things like beauty and strength and happiness are fleeting. Invest the moments God gives you in what truly lasts. Everyone will die, but not everyone will truly live.

SCRIPTURE READING FOR EVERY DAY THIS WEEK –
Psalm 90:1-12

DAILY PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

WEDNESDAY – Today is Ash Wednesday. A day we reflect on our mortality. Offer a prayer of thanks to God for giving you today.

THURSDAY – The death of a loved one creates a hole of grief that nobody can fill. Pray for those in your life and neighborhood who are experiencing this loss.

FRIDAY – Pray that Maple Grove and the church around the world can be a place where people can experience abundant life.

SATURDAY – Pray for those around the world for whom the choice is their life or their faith in Jesus.

SUNDAY PRAYER – May this not just be ‘another day’ but one where, as I open the door to what is an orchestra of bird song in this beautiful, if fragile world, that somehow I connect with you, who gifted us this temporary home, and yet still daily walks with us even when we think we’re alone. For such gracious and enduring love we offer this, our heartfelt thanks.

BLESSING FOR EVERY DAY THIS WEEK – May you be blessed so that you would wake before you die! God has given you today. Experience the lavish gift God has given you of your 86,400 seconds to spend today. Don’t spend carelessly. Don’t be frugal. Live generously, investing in what shall outlast you and may you reap what you sow.

FINAL THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY– (Take a few moments to quietly reflect on what God’s Spirit may be saying to your spirit.) How do you really feel about your impending death? What is one thing you can do today to make today count?