



THE MAPLE LEAF

The Maple Grove Church of the Brethren Newsletter

continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

We had requests for the Newsletter so will try to update our readers.

With November over, here is a reminder of our Blessings we receive from our Lord and Savior.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Father,

At this Thanksgiving season we come in praise to **God**, thank you for earth's bounty, for love and friendship, too.

We're grateful for the freedom to come and go at will, to worship you each Lord's Day, our hungry souls to fill.

We're thankful for the Bible, which shows us right from wrong, and for your holy presence, which fills our lives with song.

We're grateful for so much, Lord, yet, grant us one request — to live each day with thankful hearts, that others might be blest.

Chris Ahlemann

**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His love endures forever.**

DECEMBER 2021

The following schedules are meeting to carry on the work of the church.

The Commissions and Committees have been meeting on their regular schedules.

Junior Church has been provided for children up through 6th grade every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. On 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sunday of the month, Pastor Steve has been providing Children's Chat during morning worship.

Bible Study held up at Agape Acres Apartments the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month from Noon – 1:30 pm. Watch the bulletin for changes.

CHOIRS

The following Choirs have been able to start their practice:

Bell Choir on Wed. evenings at 6 pm. and Chancel Choir on Wed. evenings at 7 pm. Notes of Praise will be contacted by Nik Beebe, the director.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CANTATA

Christmas Cantata – Our Christmas Cantata is going to take place on December 19th at 10:30 am. Christmas is always a wonderful time of the year. Everyone is welcome to come, watch, and hear our cantata of "How Great Our Joy". Bring your family and neighbors and friends to experience it with you. You won't want to miss it.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve Service will be held December 24 at 6:00 pm. Please mark your calendar for this glorious evening. Watch our bulletin for more information. Thanks!

NEW BIRTH

Ben and Sarah Freer are the parents of a son born August 5, 2021. His name is Wesley George Freer weighing 7 pounds and 1 ounce and 18 inches long. His grandparents are Scott and Jody Freer.

NEW MEMBERS

On November 21, 2021 we received four new members into our Maple Grove Church of the Brethren.

Jay Kettering, the son of Travis and Laura Kettering, was baptized by Pastor Steve.

Douglas and Pamela Musser and Stephen See were received by Letter of Transfer.

Our Congregation was happy to receive our new members into our Fellowship.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES

Throughout the month of December we will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves, socks and Peanut Butter. In the Gathering Room, place all these items in the Associated Charities food cart area. We need these items for children up through age 18 and Peanut Butter is a good family food item.

Associated Charities are always so thankful for the food and other items given to them.

CROP HUNGER WALK

Our CROP Hunger Walk, one thing that was certain, was the amazing support from the Maple Grove Congregation. We raised \$1,475, our highest total ever. Eight congregations participated in helping to raise \$6,782.52, far exceeding the \$6,000 goal. \$1,695.63 will remain here in Ashland County and be divided equally among our local hunger ministries (\$423.91). Thank you so much for helping to be a bright spot in a dark world for so many again this year.

THANK YOU

Dear Maple Grove Church of the Brethren,

A sincere "thank you" for all the prayers, well wishes, and cards that were sent to me over a period of 7 months of my illness! They were very much appreciated!

Besides the many prayers, my ever present help was my favorite Bible verse – Proverbs 3:5-6. I repeated it many times!

God is good! **Kay Morehouse**
(Susan Benner's mother)

THANK YOU to everyone that had a part in supplying food and helping with the Funeral Luncheon. Greatly appreciated!

Naomi Coble

Maple Grove Church,

Thank You for the prayers for my sister Janice. While she was here visiting us she had emergency surgery. She has returned to Florida and will have another surgery there.

Donna Keener

IN REMEMBRANCE

Our deepest sympathy goes to these families and friends on the loss of their loved one.

James (Jim) Leon Fish Date of Death
August 12, 2021

Danny L. Shank Date of Death
August 18, 2021

Carroll I. Koser Date of Death
September 9, 2021

Lonnie E. Cox Date of Death
September 13, 2021

Samuel J. "Sam" Thomas Jr. Date of Death
September 20, 2021

Ronald W. Smail Sr. Date of Death
October 2, 2021

Emma Joann Shopbell Date of Death
October 31, 2021

Robynne Shores Date of Death
November 24, 2021

We pray that God will continue to help these families in time of grief and sorrow.

FAIR FOOD TRAILER

With much work, we were able to support the Maple Grove Food Trailer at the Ashland County Fair. A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who assisted in any way with the Food Trailer this year. \$3,238.89 was raised and donated to the Property Maintenance Improvement Fund.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Let GOD be your guide in
NEW YEAR 2022

Church Ballot results – Term begins January 1, 2022

Church Moderator (2 yr. term) – Paul Bartholomew(2022)

Church Board Chair (2 yr. term) – Scott Freer

Assistant – Harold Keener

Church Clerk (2 yr. term) – Cathy Bishop

Church Treasurer (2 yr. term) – Natalie Wesner-Goschinski

Assistant – Nancy Keener

Financial Secretary (2 yr. term) – Daniel Kettering

Assistant – Karen Wynn

Nominating Committee (3 yr. term) – Annabelle Kettering

Nancy Keener

Agape Acres Board (3 yr. term) – Joe Steward, Arzonla Laurent

Willard Welch

Christian Ed. & Nurture Commission (3 yr. term) – Sarah Keib

Finance Commission (3 yr. term) – John Stutzman, Sharon Barr

Ministerial Commission (3 yr. term) – Willard Welch

Lynda Kysor

Mission and Service Commission (3 yr. term) – Erin Beebe

Trustee Commission (3 yr. term) – Lawrence Benner

Brian Canfield

Worship Commission (3 yr. term) – Jody Freer – Pat Welch

2022 Annual Conference Delegates (1 yr. term)

Scott & Jody Freer, July 10-14, Omaha, Nebraska

2022 District Conference Delegates (1 yr. term) – Erin Beebe,

Kate Beebe, Andrew Cuffman

August 12-13, Defiance, Ohio (Popular Ridge COB)

We want to thank all that said YES when asked to put your name on the Church Ballot and also for the Committees. Both of these Commissions/Committees were approved at Church Council October 17, 2021 and duties will begin January 1, 2022.

Thank You!

**Committees/Appointed by Church Board
Term begins January 1, 2022**

Altar and Flower

Pat Ames

Ashland Care Center Rep.

Janet Bright

Camp Representative

Erin Beebe

CROP Walk Representative

Susan Benner

Directory

Regina Stutzman

Food Bank Representative

Susan Benner

Bible in the School

April Ochier

Home Visitation

Jean Sprinkle

Messenger Agent

Laura Kettering

Property & Maintenance Improvement

Cindy Benner

Sunshine & Recognition

Bertha Rush

Sunday School Secretary

Arzonla Laurent

Ushers

Travis Bates

Ryan Barr

Charlie Sikora

Jared Greenawalt

He Has Promised

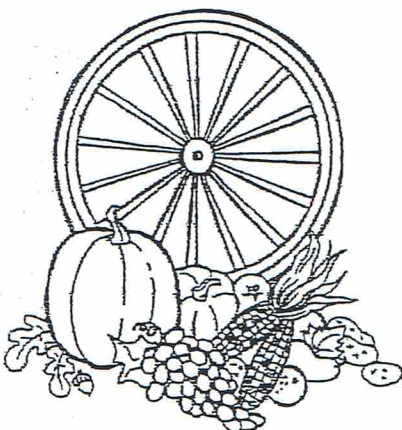
Do you sometimes feel forsaken —
All alone, with none to care,
When the burden on your shoulders
Seems too great for you to bear?

Are you wearied with the journey
And the sorrows you have known?
Talk it over with the Master —
You are really not alone.

Let your fainting heart take courage,
And your restless fears be still.
He has promised not to leave you,
And He never, never will.

— M.H. Goodman

HARVEST



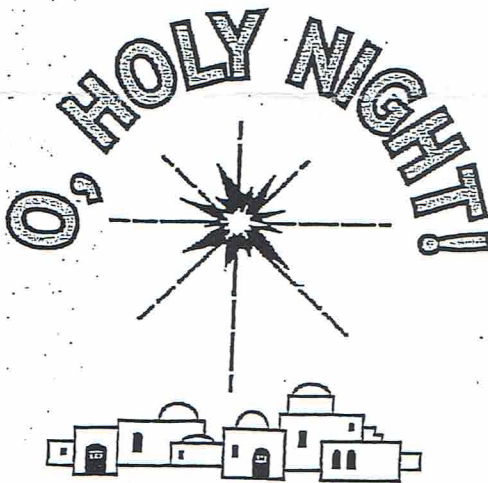
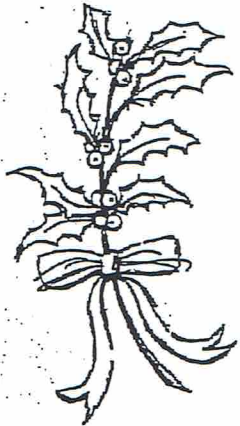
Pumpkins in the field row
Become filling in the pie.
Apples in the orchard
Are gleaned from trees on high.
Roses in the garden
Offer fragrance and delight
Raising spirits in the sunlight,
Lending solace in the night.
If plants from fields and gardens
Give themselves without reserve
Never questioning or doubting
Whether we deserve
To receive their bounteous blessings
Bestowed without complaint
Surely, we, the Father's first fruits
Can be shared without restraint.

— Paul Avinger

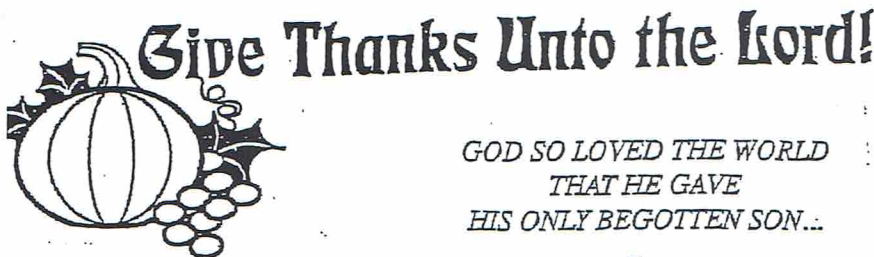
Maple Grove Church of the Brethren
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Ashland, OH 44805-9520
Telephone (419) 289-9341

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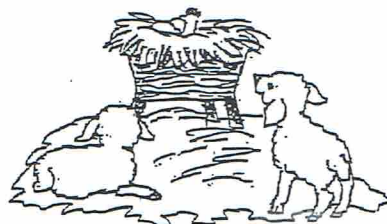
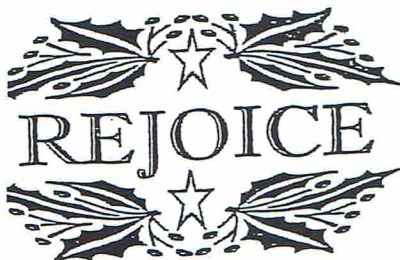
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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



*GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON...*



The Greatest Gift

Maple Grove Church of the Brethren
Pastor Steve Keib (567) 215-3552
E-mail: maplegrovecob@gmail.com
Youth Leader-Andrew Cuffman
419-651-2573
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Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.
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