

Jesus said to his followers:
“... if you have faith in me,
you will do the same things that
I am doing. You will do even
greater things, now that I am
going back to the Father.”
(John 14:12)

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Greater Things

Arthur Mennonite Church · 710 East Park Street · Arthur, IL 61911 (217) 543-2781 · arthurmennonite.org

AMC Menno Haven Retreat Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 24th

10-12	Arrival at Menno Haven
11-12	Hayride offered
Noon	Lunch
1-5 pm	Activities - hiking, boating, fishing, volleyball, basketball, etc.
2-3 pm	Climbing wall open
5 pm	Supper
6 pm	Hayride offered
7 pm	Group activities in lodge
8:15 pm	Snacks
8:30 pm	Campfire and songs

Sunday, Sept. 25th

7 am	Charter bus leaves AMC
8 am	Breakfast at camp (for overnights)
10:30 am	Morning Worship
Noon	Sunday dinner
1-5 pm	Activities - hiking, boating, fishing, volleyball, basketball, etc.
2-3 pm	Climbing wall open
4 pm	Charter bus leaves for Arthur

The Need to Retreat

By Glen Rhodes,
Minister of Administration and Community Life

I was recently reminded of the several times in the gospels that Jesus got away from the crowds, the healings, the pressures of life, and retreated to a quiet place to rest and pray. In reality he was following the rest that is encouraged in Genesis 2 where it says, “*By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.*”

Our daily and weekly activities are often filled with things that cause us fatigue, stress, worry, and anxiousness. There is reason that God set aside a day for us to rest, recharge, and rethink our busy schedules. The Sabbath is a time for us to retreat from the normal and look to God. It is a time for worship, prayer, and thankfulness. It is a time to encourage each other and bless each other in this journey through life that we share. As I said in a recent sermon “it is not a day to become legalistic about like the religious leaders did in the New Testament, but it should be treated different than the other days of our week.”

Along with the rest and refocus of Sunday we also need to be intentional about finding retreat. If we don't “get away” from these

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THOUGHT & VISION

From the AMC Ministry Team

Commands to Delight In

From Jeff Marner,
Minister of Discipling



Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands give me delight. Psalm 119:143

Is that the belief we have? How often are we sold a different tail by our culture? Does a church that is peculiar to the world around it have anything to offer?

As parents we know that constraints protect our kids from absolute ruin. We hope our commands and those borrowed from the Bible will help our children be useful and competent and honorable. The world, when it doesn't believe the Bible is malicious, usually views it as a book that strips life of any fun while trying to parent us toward boredom.

The author, assumed to be King David, saw the commands of God as a delight. He was passionate about his love for God with dance. He was also passionate in remorse when confronted by his own sin. He conquered giants and was hounded by the king he loved. He was peculiar and certainly an attractive representative of his god.

The world and culture bog us down the negativity and act as if while life is as hard as it is how can more regulation bring anything but more suffering. Culture tells us to drop all inhibitions and do what feels good in the moment. We're encouraged toward service of self and don't recognize it as slavery to sin.

Trouble and distress come and that's when the foundation you've built your life upon comes in handy. Drowning your sorrows is no cure and no long term solution. An assurance of God's love was the basis for his delight.

As the church we share that delight with the world. When trouble comes we can lean on the church body if we need a reminder of the delight that is found in God. I'm reminded of the famous Acts 2 church that was so alive with God's love and love for each other that it couldn't help but be spilled over to the world around it and attract more and more people. These people had generous spirits so none among them were left wanting.

It's my hope that we as a church embody that same love. Like David we will see the freedom and joy that comes in service of the one true king.

Retreat . . .

(Continued from page 1)

other things, they will tend to keep finding us and distracting us from the true rest that we need. Just like it is hard to get away from our smartphones it is also hard to get away from other things unless we leave them behind.

Some of my best memories of growing up are when my church family would go away for the weekend to a church retreat in the mountains of New Mexico. I am usually not very good at remembering things from my past but I do remember many things about those church retreats. These are times that form our families, our children, our fellowship with one another, and our appreciation to Christ for bringing us together for these purposes.

Our church family here at Arthur Mennonite is offering an opportunity for you and your family to retreat, to be refreshed, and to create some meaningful memories. On September 24-25 we will be having a church retreat weekend at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center in Tiskilwa, Illinois. Many activities are planned for both days and lodging and meals are provided by the camp at a cost. I would like to encourage you to attend both days if at all possible. Truly get away and enjoy God's creation and God's people.

For those who cannot make it up to Menno Haven on Saturday we are offering a charter bus that will leave the church parking lot at 7:00 am on Sunday, September 25. We will have our worship service at Menno Haven that day and no services will be held here at the church building. You can sign up for both days or the charter bus on the Community Life bulletin board in the foyer.

Think about your need to retreat. Think about your need to connect with others in our church family. Think about this opportunity to create memories for your children. Think about the blessings you could experience from this time together.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture

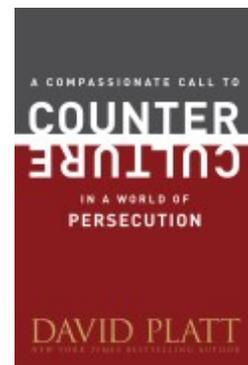
by Jessica Kelley

Poverty, Same-Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Immigration, Persecution, Abortion, Orphans, Pornography—how are we supposed to respond to all of this?

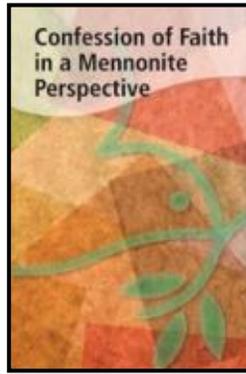
In this companion piece to Counter Culture, David Platt provides Biblical support and practical action steps to help Christians take a courageous and compassionate stand on some of the most controversial issues of our time, and highlights dozens of ways individuals and churches can get involved at both the local and international level.

The stage is set for the God of the universe to do the unthinkable, the unimaginable, the shocking, and the scandalous. And he wants you to be a part of it. It's time to take a stand for Christ, join the fight against injustice, and counter culture!

This book is available for checkout from the book rack in the foyer.



CONFESSION OF FAITH IN A MENNONITE PERSPECTIVE Article 9 ~ The Church of Jesus



Editors Note: This is the ninth in a monthly series. Each month we will include one of the twenty four articles from the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective so that we can all be refreshed in what they express.

We believe that the church is the assembly of those who have accepted God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The church is the new community of disciples sent into the world to proclaim the reign of God and to provide a foretaste of the church's glorious hope. The church is the new society established and sustained by the Holy Spirit. The church, the body of Christ, is called to become ever more like Jesus Christ, its head, in its worship, ministry, witness, mutual love and care, and the ordering of its common life.

We acknowledge the church as the society of believers from many nations, anointed for witness by the Holy Spirit. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, divisions between nations, races, classes, and genders are being healed as persons from every human grouping are reconciled and united in the church.³ In times of suffering as well as tranquility, the church depends on the Spirit's presence and power, rather than on the power or benevolence of government, for its preservation and mission.

The church is the assembly of those who voluntarily commit themselves to follow Christ in life and to be accountable to one another and to God, while recognizing that the church is imperfect and thus in constant need of repentance. The church's identity as God's people of faith is sustained and renewed as members gather regularly for worship. Here the church celebrates God's boundless grace, reaffirms its loyalty to God above all else, and seeks to discern God's will.

The church is the household, or family, of God. Commitment to one another is shown in loving one another as God loves, in sharing material and spiritual resources, in exercising mutual care and discipline, and in showing hospitality to all. The church welcomes all people who join themselves to Christ to become part of the family of God.

We believe that the church as the body of Christ is the visible manifestation of Jesus Christ. The church is called to live and minister as Christ lived and ministered in the world. As many members belong to one body, so all believers have been baptized in one Spirit into the one body of Christ. There are varieties of gifts and ministries in the church, all given for the common good. Believers are to love each other and to grow toward the likeness of Christ, who is the head of the church.

The church exists as a community of believers in the local congregation, as a community of congregations, and as the worldwide community of faith.

FIRST FRUIT GIVING *Giving God Our Best*



	Stewardship & Attendance	
	Attendance	Offering
7/31/16	143	\$5,171*
8/7/16	116	\$2,903
8/14/16	145	\$6,726
8/21/16	121	\$2,144

*Fifth Sunday offering to camp fund

*He makes me
lie down in
green pastures;
He leads me
beside quiet
waters.
He restores
my soul;
~Psalm 23:2-3*

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Rob & Kim Weber	Sept. 1
Darrel & Janet Gingerich	Sept. 12
Les & Marlene Helmuth	Sept. 14
Andy & Lynn Marner	Sept. 29
John & Alta Yoder	Sept. 29

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Karen (Lamar) Miller	Sept. 3
Brittney Yoder	Sept. 3
Jim Yoder	Sept. 5
Jillian Marner	Sept. 14
Lonnie Schrock	Sept. 14
Floyd Wood	Sept. 15
Bernadine Yoder	Sept. 15
Ray Shunk	Sept. 15
Makai Marner	Sept. 17
Dawson Miller	Sept. 22
Delilah England	Sept. 22
Katrina Taylor	Sept. 22
Dorothy Kauffman	Sept. 24
Travis Schrock	Sept. 24
Maise Yoder	Sept. 25
Marie Schrock	Sept. 26
Alicia Yoder	Sept. 29
Cliff Yoder	Sept. 30

Congregational Meeting

Sept. 11th
6 p.m.



Fingerfood fellowship
after the meeting

**Elevator
Fundraiser Meal**
Sunday, Sept. 18th
Right after Worship
Hosted by the
Homebuilders Fellowship Group

**Inside
Cleaning!
Night**



Wednesday, Sept. 21st
Starting at 5 p.m.
Come and go as your schedule allows!

GETTING TO KNOW: Gary Miller An AMC Personal Profile

*Gary and his wife Ashley have three boys,
Christian (11), Waylon (3), and Rowen (1).*



What is your job and what does it consist of?

I own my own business hanging and finishing drywall. I learned this from my father and started my business when I was 20 years old.

What is your favorite verse and/or book of

the Bible? John 15:22 *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? To be honest the time in my life when I felt God's presence the most is not one that I feel comfortable sharing here.

What hobbies do you enjoy? I collect and restore cast iron. I have a Griswold waffle iron that I'm partial to. I also enjoy playing the electric guitar.

What are some interesting facts about you? I can cook nearly any dish with the exception of Jell-O.

What would you say is your favorite meal? A ribeye with a baked potato and salad, at a restaurant, so I don't have to clean it up.

What is your favorite author or book? Right now I don't get to do as much reading as I used to but I would say my favorite author is Louis L'Amour.

If you could host a dinner party for any three living [or dead] people in the world, whom would you invite? That is easy. I would invite Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and Luther Perkins. I like my music a little rowdy.



AMC
arthur mennonite church



AMC Ministers: All of Jesus' followers here at Arthur Mennonite

Minister of Administration and Community Life:	Glen Rhodes	glenr68@gmail.com	273-5026
Minister of Discipling:	Jeff Marner	wookiee_77@hotmail.com	273-5089
Minister of Outreach:	Lamar Miller	lmillerpm1@yahoo.com	369-8237
Minister of Youth and Worship:	Ashley Litwiller	ashlit234@gmail.com	309-303-5159

Submit articles and content ideas to editor Melissa Schrock at 578-2522 or by email to arthurmennonite@gmail.com