

Greater Things

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Mennonite
Church
USA

The Year of... Your Bible

from Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration and Community Life

The year 2018 is straight ahead of us. It's hard to believe that it was 18 years ago that we welcomed in the new millennium. But here we are, ready to make the year ahead the best it possibly can be. How will you celebrate, grow, and mature in your Christian faith this year?

Throughout each year there are various days and months that are designated for special recognitions. There is autism awareness month (April), there is a month that adoption is recognized (November), and many more. Even certain days are recognized. March 20 is World Sparrow Day, and October 5 is World Teacher's Day. That's just the tip of the iceberg. Ice cream, peanuts, milk, they all have their day as well. But what about a whole year?

The Ministry Team at AMC is encouraging all of us to make 2018 the year of your Bible. Not "the" Bible, but "your" Bible. Where is it? How long has it been since you spent time reading it? Which translation do you prefer (King James, NIV, The Message, NRSV)? And what form do you prefer (Book, audio, phone app, tablet, computer)?

There has been a growing problem in our country and culture now for some time. It has to do with a disconnect between the people and God's Word. Even Christians and God's Word. In a recent article in Mennonite World Review, Jeffrey MacDonald wrote, "Americans are spending less time with their Bibles and ascribing less authority to it." A recent Barna Group poll found that American's who read

their Bible at least once a week fell from 46% in 2009 to 37% in 2017.

The Bible is just as powerful and life-changing today as it has ever been, but we must read it, absorb it, live it, and share it, for it to make a difference in our lives and in our world. Yes, we maybe have read it before, but the Holy Spirit can bring new life, new insights, and new wisdom from scripture each time we read it or hear it.

I will be sharing more about this during the message on Sunday, January 7, but we would like to encourage everyone to find a new way to engage God's Word in this year ahead. I will have some ideas for you that Sunday, but in whatever way possible, let's make 2018 the year of your Bible.

Minister of Administration & Community Life:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:
Jeff Marner

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Minister of Outreach:
Lamar Miller

Minister of Youth and Worship:
Ashley Litwiller

AMC Personal Profile

Meg Yoder

Meg and her husband Steve have three children, Owen (10), Jack (8), and Wren (1).



What is your job and what does it consist of? I took after my father and joined the insurance industry about 10 years ago. In the simplest terms possible, I am a commercial (business) insurance agent at Insurance Providers Group in Champaign, IL. I primarily handle new business within our agency, getting quotes for our prospective clients, negotiating terms/pricing, and maintaining insurance carrier relations.

What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible? Psalm 16:8 *I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time?

I would say right now, in the season of life that I am currently in. Life has been full of curveballs, but always with great blessings shortly around the corner. It almost seems as if it is His way of keeping us focused on what's important and not to get too caught up in the struggles as there is always so much more to be thankful for. Our God is so good.

Do you have a favorite book or author? "The Street Lawyer" definitely makes it in the top three and most other John Grisham novels.

What is the happiest memory of your life? The day I got to see our Wren for the first time without her feeding tube, oxygen, and monitor wires. It was like a thousand bricks lifted off of our shoulders and felt like we were seeing her for the first time all over again.

What would you say is your favorite meal? Dessert.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? My marriage.

What are some interesting facts about you?

- I grew up on a horse farm in a small town just outside of Danville, IL. I was in the United States Pony Club and participated in "Pony Games" (YouTube it, it's way cooler than it sounds- or maybe not, I leave that for you to decide). I also participated in show jumping and loved trail riding with my dad.

- I was a total tomboy growing up. My dream job has always been to be a farmer. This still rings true...If I could, I would live, eat, and sleep, agriculture and farm life.

- I have 6 siblings (4 brothers, 2 sisters) and my family much resembles that of "Modern Family." The Yoder's are my idea of peace on Earth.

Reign of God

*We place our hope in the **reign of God** and its fulfillment in the day when Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather his church, which is already living under the reign of God. We await God's final victory, the end of this present age of struggle, the resurrection of the dead, and a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace for ever and ever.*

Article 24 from Confession of Faith
in a Mennonite Perspective
Summary Statement

First Fruit Giving

Giving God Our Best

Stewardship Attendance

11/26/17	\$3,246	89
12/3/17	\$6,109	143
12/10/17	\$5,043	141
12/17/17	\$3,327	135
12/24/17	\$6,809	112

"Journey to Bethlehem"

More pictures from the Dec. 17th Christmas program can be found on the AMC website

