

# Greater *things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

## The Secret's Out

*from Ashley Litwiller, Minister of Worship & Youth*

There was a woman who asked Cecil Murphy if he wanted to hear a secret. The secret was “zebras have brown stripes, and not black.” “But Julie,” he blurted out, “that’s not a secret. Zebras have been around a long time and I knew...” “Well, I didn’t know until yesterday. And if I didn’t know, then it was still a secret wasn’t it?”

Murphy shares this story in his 7<sup>th</sup> book written in 1979. I picked up this book in 2018 when I was browsing through our church library one day. At first glance, I thought I read the title as Prayerbiotics, like probiotics that my doctor has me taking for my gastrointestinal health. But then when I flipped to the first page to start reading, it’s Prayerobics, like aerobics class for physical fitness. Either way you look at it, both reinforce the fact that prayer is essential for our spiritual health. My doctor says I can’t expect my stomach to heal as soon as I start taking the medications he tells me to. My coach says I can’t just expect to compete without first training how she tells me to for months in advance. Both take time and training to reach the goal, and usually there’s a time in between that feels like nothing I do is making a difference and we’re tempted to stop what was prescribed to us. There’s no secret to losing weight quickly or healing a wound. Both need time, perseverance, and faith in the end result.

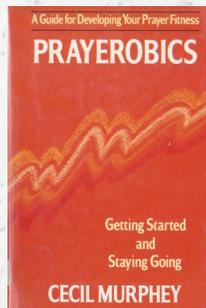
As a disciple of Christ, Jesus is my deliverer and healer. He taught me how to pray (Matt 6:5-14) and modeled when and how often to pray (Matt 19:13; Matt.

26:36; Mark 1:35; Mark 14:32; Luke 5:16 and more). From an early age, I was taught to pray and was told I should pray. In my teens, I started to rebel and say I KNOW how to pray, Mom, I just don’t want to! Even today, when I try to get the youth to pray, it’s an

awkward silence before someone finally steps up to do it. I think 8 minutes is my longest recorded waiting for youth to pray. Why do we not like to pray? We all have different reasons; the youth & mine usually for praying out loud is ‘I won’t pray correctly’.

When I’m out in the wild (what some refer to as real life away from church or social media), when people find out I’m a pastor, they start to say ‘I should go to church more, but...’ or ‘I should read my bible more, but...’ I usually just

nod my head because they seem to feel like they need to explain themselves to me when all I came in looking for was a latte. Murphy also shares in his book about a conversation he had with a friend. She said, “I know I ought to pray more, but I just can’t find the time... prayer really isn’t that important to me.” Another one said, “I don’t go to church as often as I ought, but... [wait,] That’s wrong isn’t it? I go as often as I really want to go. I guess my trouble is that I’ve not made the effort...I also think that I’m not quite sure I want to make a full commitment of myself to Jesus Christ.” His response to these statements were: “You don’t have to justify your prayer life to me. Just be honest with yourself and we can work from there.” (cont. on back)



Minister of Administration & Community Life:  
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:  
Jeff Marnar

**AMC**  
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:  
Lamar Miller

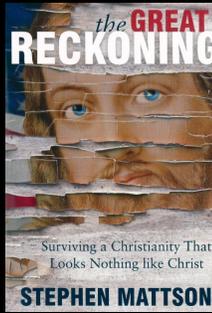
Minister of Worship and Youth:  
Ashley Litwiller

# Resource of The Month: The GREAT RECKONING

“Disillusioned? You’re not alone. Many followers of Jesus feel betrayed by a broken religion—one that loves political power, promises prosperity, and feeds on fear. The question before many Christians is no longer how their faith can survive within a secular culture. It’s how their faith can survive Christianity itself.

In the Great Reckoning, author Stephen Mattson writes out of the rubble of the failed American faith. Mattson offers hope for seekers looking for inspiration, solace for Christians fed up with an unsatisfying religion, and clarity for those sifting through the remains. Consider this a dispatch from the wreckage of American cultural Christianity, and an ode to the Jesus looking faith we seek.”

You can check this book out from the library shelf in the foyer today!



*Article 10 - Confession of Faith in a  
Mennonite Perspective*

## The Church in Mission

“We believe that the church is called to proclaim and to be a sign of the kingdom of God. Christ has commissioned the church to be his witnesses, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to observe all things he has commanded.

(continued from front) As we dive into our 2019 Theme: Devoted To Prayer, I want us all to remember that God literally sees right through us. Hiding a secret from him is impossible. Devoting ourselves to prayer can be a long and difficult habit to start, and especially continue or increase. And you don’t have to become like that one person you have in your mind who always has the most perfect prayer! Just start where you’re at.

If you’ve never prayed before, maybe start out with, ‘Hi God. Thanks. Amen.’ If you’ve been praying for years and are getting tired of it, try switching it up! There are many resources and helpful tips that we will share with each other in the coming months. The goal isn’t to pray perfectly, it’s just to start praying. We can do it; Let’s Go!

### Menno Haven Winter Retreat Dates

Young Adult  
Jan 4-6

Junior High  
Jan 11-13

High School  
Jan 18-20

### First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

	Stewardship	Attendance
12/2/18	\$7,196	126
12/9/18	\$4,060	144
12/16/18	\$6,538	126
12/23/18	\$11,288	127



## AMC Personal Profile: Eric Chupp

**How old are you?** I am 14 years old.

**What is your favorite verse and/or book of the Bible?** My favorite chapter is Psalm 23 and my favorite passage is the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

**Is there a time in your life when you felt God’s presence stronger than at any other time?** I felt God’s presence when I wanted to join youth group and when my grandparents died.

**Favorite Song in Church?** My favorite song is Together (I will sing with you, my brother, will you sing with me).

**What are your favorite hobbies?** They are farming, mowing, and hunting.

**What school do you go to and what is your favorite subject?** I go to Arcola JrHigh and my favorite subject is Art.

**What is an interesting fact about you?** I can speak some Amish but not much.

**What is your happiest memory?** My happiest Memory is the first time that I drove.