

Greater things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2019

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)

Next Steps

From Glen Rhodes, Minister of Administration & Community Life

Ever since I first started attending Arthur Mennonite Church and became a member some 25 years ago I have been blessed and impressed by the sense of community, fellowship, and ministry that I have experienced and witnessed here in this church family. When I became a pastor and leader here at AMC those impressions grew even more. This is a reminder that no matter what we face denominationally, we are first a congregation and family together. Our mission, our focus, our calling, is first and foremost rooted in these people and in this community that we cherish and love. In the days ahead we must focus on our relationship with Jesus and our relationships with each other above all other things. What is Christ calling us to as believers at AMC?

A survey of the congregation this past fall showed that over 80% of the members at Arthur Mennonite Church had a desire to leave Mennonite Church USA and Illinois Mennonite Conference. After hearing those results the AMC Ministry Team discerned that an official vote needed to be taken on our future church affiliation. That vote will take place at a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 19 at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars for that date and plan to attend. The purpose of this article is to update you very briefly on some of the next steps being taken

by the AMC ministry team leading up to that meeting and vote. Our hope and prayer through this time however, is that our focus can remain on sustaining those bonds of relationship and mission that we cherish here in our local congregation.

At the last congregational meeting the question was asked, “Why do we need to leave?” While we are certainly under no requirement to leave our 16 year old denomination, much of the desire to do so stems from a theological direction that is at variance with our current confession of faith and our agreement with that confession. The affirmation of same-sex marriage by some churches is a concern, while others have shared concerns about the theological, social, and political stances of our denomination which distract from the mission of the church. Those in the survey who desired to find another Mennonite/Anabaptist affiliation are perhaps desiring one that focuses more on mission, outreach, and evangelism while remaining true and accountable to our current Confession of Faith.

The Ministry Team continues to meet weekly to discuss the many things that need to be considered leading up to an important vote such as this. We have been meeting with leaders and pastors of other possible affiliations, we have discussed the possible outcome of remaining with MCUSA, and we have considered the advantages and disadvantages of each...(cont. on back)

Minister of Administration & Community Life:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:
Jeff Marnar

AMC
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Minister of Outreach:
Lamar Miller

Minister of Worship and Youth:
Ashley Litwiller

(continued) scenario. We have made numerous contacts with Everence, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Disaster Service, and others to assure that our relationship with them could continue either way. Each of these ministries and organizations has assured us that they have continued relationships with other churches and conferences who have chosen to leave the denomination. In the next month or two the Ministry Team will be sharing a longer letter with the congregation that gives more specifics about the upcoming vote as well as future opportunities and possibilities for our church family.

In the midst of all these things that are changing around us, our love, care, respect, and concern for each other should be paramount. Of course the most important part right now is to pray. Pray over our congregation, pray over this decision, pray over the future work and ministry of Arthur Mennonite Church, and pray for all churches involved in these difficult but important decisions taking place around the country in many churches and denominations. This is a vote about affiliation, but our prayer is that no result can change the love, support, and mission, of what Jesus has called us together to accomplish for his kingdom in this world. May this be our prayer now and in the days ahead. Lord, be near us and walk this journey with us!

Resource of The Month: Echo Prayer App



First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

	Stewardship	Attendance
12/30/18	\$21,726	105
1/6/19	\$4,237	120
1/13/19	\$2,246	95
1/20/19	\$4,255	121

Article 12- Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

The Lord's Supper

"We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sign by which the church thankfully remembers the new covenant which Jesus established by his death. In this communion meal, the members of the church renew our covenant with God and with each other. As one body, we participate in the life of Jesus Christ given for the redemption of humankind. Thus we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

AMC

Personal Profile: Brittnay Yoder



My job is being a stay at home mom. I love to take Addi & Lucy on fun adventures and teach them at home. I also take pride in making my home a fun, cozy place where my family likes to be.

My favorite bible verse is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Right now, I **feel God's presence** more than I ever have. The older I get, the more I learn, the closer I become with God. I think both of the days I welcomed the girls into this world are the days I felt God's presence the most. They are both the greatest gifts I could have ever asked for.

Some of the happiest memories in my life are with one person. My Grandma Cindy and I shared so many happy memories together while she was here. She passed away in 2012. she was a great woman, who I looked up to,. We shared so many fun memories together from going to New York, to just hanging out and going on walks. She was my number 1 cheerleader always, and I could go to her for anything.

The most interesting facts about me is that I don't think people would know is that I played basketball in high school and made it all the way to state in the 3 point shooting contest. Also, that I love to run.

If I could host a dinner party with any three living people, it would be Joanna Gaines, Rachel Hollis and Ellen DeGeneres.

My very first job was a busser at Eagle Creek Resort.

My favorite inspirational quote is, "The 2 C's in life: choice, chance, change. You must make the choice, to take the chance, if you want to change anything."