

Greater things

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 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)

Telling Your Story

from Ashley Litwiller, Minister of Worship & Youth/Administrative Assistant

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” ~James 1:5

This past Wednesday, three of us attended a Women’s Conference at Lincoln Christian University. The theme for the day was *Love Your Story...Embrace His Glory*. Each speaker shared from their own stories of abuse and loss and that it took them awhile to share their story with others. We were reminded we are flawed faithful followers and until we can love our own stories, we cannot fully embrace His Glory. We need to be well acquainted with ourselves in order to move forward.

When you are introduced someone new, what labels are read off of you? For me, in this season it is ‘youth pastor’, ‘college friend’, ‘Kevin & Lisa’s daughter’, ‘substitute’, and ‘coach’. Each of our stories are still being written and those labels continue to change. And sometimes the labels we wish we had hold power over us. Sometimes you’re labeled by your medical status or condition, your country, and what people physically see about you. I have a small frame my parents hung on my wall for 18 years labeling my name as ‘a peaceful heart’. Seeing that frame encouraged me to be a person someone could feel God’s peace through. I believe God has a purpose for each of us & we have to ask to know that purpose from Him, just like James says to in his book. We should not do anything without first spending time with and getting to know His story and glean wisdom from it.

My four years working in a college admissions office was such an inspiring time for me. My boss, Linda Cupples, is one of the most Jesus-like people I have ever met in my entire life. She oozed compassion, care, helpfulness, forgiveness, and love every moment in the office even when I failed her and at her home when she welcomed a group of college girls in to study

Return to the Garden by Kay Arthur. She taught me when someone walked into our office, our next right thing was to devote all our attention to this person and the small window we have into their lives and the small part we have been gifted of helping direct them towards their next right thing. And I also got a lot of practice sharing my story with others.

I am a flawed and faithful follower of Jesus. I do mess up and I will continue to do so, just as we all will. My flawed story is what God has given me to study, learn from, and share with those He puts in front of me. I don’t share my story out of pride or boast in what I’ve done. I share it because it is the lens through which I see and know Him. The old hymn reminds me my story is also my song that praises my Savior all the day long.

When I don’t understand my story, that is when I choose to go to God with some gut-level, unedited prayers. Our seniors, Meredith and Shelby, are going to have ample new opportunities to tell their stories to new faces and in new places. Do you know who God is asking you to share your story with next? No other human can tell you what your next right step is. Abram, Noah, Jonah, Naomi, Esther, Samuel, David, Solomon, and more asked for wisdom from God years ago. The disciples each looked to Jesus for wisdom on what the next right thing to do was.

We are commissioned to tell of Him. Your story is yours to share, we are just visitors who have the privilege and honor of hearing all the ways God has been revealed to you. I want to encourage us to learn and love our stories of hope, grace, pain, suffering, kindness, victory, and freedom. To tell someone our story is to tell of Him. (Yes, that is a Big Daddy Weave song).

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

Menno Haven Church Retreat Schedule May 4-5!

We are looking forward to our church retreat at Camp Menno Haven! Here is the schedule.

Saturday

- 10-11 am - Arrive and sign in at camp.
- 11-12 am - Hayrack ride around the camp
- 12 pm - Lunch in dining room
- 1-5 pm - Free afternoon of activities
(boating, hiking, fishing, relax)
- 5:00 pm - Dinner in dining hall
- 6:00 pm - Meeting in Lodge
(Sharing, hymn sing, group games, etc.)
- 8:00 pm - Snacks in dining hall
- 9:00 pm - Campfire or board games in lodge

Sunday

- 8:30 am - Breakfast in the dining hall
- 10:30 am - Worship in the lodge
- 12 pm - Sunday dinner in the dining hall
- 1:00 pm - Extended hack rack ride all around the camp property
- 2-4 pm - Rock Wall Climbing, volleyball, hiking, boating, games, etc.
- 4-5 pm - Check out and head for home

AMC Personal Profile: Meredith Schrock



After graduating from ALAH High School, I will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall to study Business.

What is your job? I work at Dick's Pharmacy in Arthur as a part-time Pharmacy Technician. My job consists of filling prescriptions, helping customers, and scooping ice cream.

What is your favorite bible verse? Isaiah 41:10, "Don't be afraid for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

Is there a time in your life when you have felt God's presence stronger than at any other time? During the 2016 mission trip when I had the opportunity to go with the youth group to Denver, Colorado.

Over your whole high school career, what will you remember most fondly? All the memories and experiences I had through youth group and the many extracurricular activities that I participated in. I will always remember our youth group adventures in Gertie (the church van), the mission trip, and convention in Orlando, FL.

What is your favorite meal? A home-cooked meal by my Grandma Edna Mae.

What is your favorite book? Anything Nicholas Sparks

What is your favorite song? "Haven't Seen It Yet" by Danny Gokey

If you could host a dinner party with three living people in the world, whom would you invite? Kenny Chesney, Michelle Obama, & Bill Gates.

First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

	Stewardship	Attendance
3/31/19	\$3,744	129
4/7/19	\$6,755	132
4/14/19	\$3,254	100
4/21/19	\$4,710	164

Article 13- Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective

Foot Washing

"We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to serve one another in love as he did. Rather than seeking to lord it over others, we are called to follow the example of our Lord who chose the role of a servant by washing his disciples' feet...Believers who wash each other's feet show that they share in the body of Christ. They thus acknowledge their frequent need of cleansing, renew their willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer their lives in humble service and sacrificial love."

Resource of the Month: Lord, Teach Me To Pray for Kids

"Bible study is serious fun! The *Discover 4 Yourself Inductive Bible Studies for Kids* help you find out for yourself what the Bible is all about and give you exciting ways to do it! These hands-on books help teach the basic skills of Bible study for a lifetime of discovering God's Word.

"Are you ready to train for a special mission?"

"Welcome to Camp MacHaven, the training facility for God's Special Forces. You have been selected for the elite A-team. Should you choose to accept the special mission, you and fellow A-team members will train for 28 days as communications specialists, learning the most important skill of all: how to pray.

Operation Prayer has started! So grab your gear and don't forget your training manual, the Bible. You will have a great adventure exploring a trail of questions, discovering secrets about life, understanding God's Word, and best of all, spending one-on-one time with your Commander-in-Chief God!"

This is a great new resource to our church library connecting with our theme of being Devoted to Prayer! You can find it on the foyer library shelf!

