

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)

Greater *things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020

Here I Am, Lord, Step By Step

From the AMC Ministry Team

During the worship service this past Sunday, January 26, Pastor Ashley Litwiller shared with the congregation that she has accepted a position with Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center as their new Program Director. Ashley will be at AMC through Sunday, March 29, which will be her last Sunday with us. Since some of our congregation is away from Arthur during the winter months we wanted to share both what was shared by Pastor Ashley when she announced this and also the response from the Ministry Team that was shared by Pastor Glen Rhodes following Ashley's announcement. Here is what was shared...

Ashley: When singing the hymn, Here I Am Lord, the lyrics: "I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart" have brought me to tears over the past year. Following where the Lord leads even if it's uncomfortable, is something I hope to always teach by example, and I wouldn't be the example AMC Youth need to see if I didn't follow the Lord's leading overall.

I wanted you to hear it from me first, I have accepted a full-time position at Menno Haven as their Program Manager. March 29th will be my last day here as your pastor. This date was decided, after working with leadership at AMC, time to put a plan in place for your ministry and give Menno Haven Programs the attention needed to begin prep for the busy summer season.

Please know this decision has not been made lightly or quickly, and certainly not without tears. A great deal of prayer has gone into this decision. My heart is heavy as I share this with you, but my spirit is at peace. I have loved my work with AMC and the many opportunities it has given me to form deeper relationships with you, but the Lord has made it clear to me that this season of ministry has come to a close.

As Program Manager for Menno Haven, I am committed to and look forward to remaining engaged with AMC as our ministries will continue to be linked. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you these past four years. Thank you for the trust you extended me, wisdom you imparted to me and the graciousness with which you embraced me. For all of this and more I will be forever grateful.

I am committed to doing all that I can to help the entire congregation celebrate, rather than lament, my departure. There is a season for everything, after all - and every season provides plenty of reasons to PRAISE our Lord! Be assured of my prayers as you seek to discern the Lord's desire for future leadership at AMC. I trust the Lord's plans for AMC are good, and I am confident He will lead you in discovering them.

(Cont. on back)

Minister of Administration & Community Life:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:
Jeff Marner

AMC
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:
Lamar Miller

Minister of Worship and Youth:
Ashley Litwiller

(Cont. from front)

Ministry Team (Glen, Jeff, Lamar): God leads us step by step, doesn't He? While this is a change that we weren't necessarily expecting, none of us can be certain of the next step that God is going to call us to take. We give thanks for Ashley and her ministry here at AMC for the past 4 years. This is also an opportunity for us to support Ashley in this new calling on her own life and ministry. Since she is going to Menno Haven we will see her quite often and we will continue to be in ministry together in that sense. But we want to enjoy these last couple of months with her here in Arthur and then send her off with our love and our blessing.

As a Ministry Team we want to assure you that we will work together with all of the various leadership teams here in the church to make this a smooth transition and to see that the various responsibilities that Ashley has had here in the church are covered as we move forward. We will make sure to communicate all of that clearly in the days ahead as different decisions are made and affirmed. We ask that you keep Ashley in your prayers and that you keep the transition here at AMC in your prayers as well.

Pastor Jeff Marnier then led us in a prayer to close this time during the worship service.

First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

	Stewardship	Attendance
1/5/2020	\$2,434	107
1/12/2020	\$5,570	102
1/19/2020	\$3,200	99
1/26/2020	\$2,076	112



AMC Cruise Night Saturday, February 8 — 6:00 pm —

This fun night of food, fellowship, and entertainment is a bi-annual event at AMC. Each time we pretend to cruise to a different location around the world. This year we are "cruising" to Australia. There will be a catered meal, souvenir pictures, door prizes, games, and some great in-house skits and music. Here are a few details to remember as you board the ship on February 8.

What to wear? You can dress however you like, but if you want to dress the part then Kaki, browns, or tropical might best reflect the Australian culture. Feel free to dress up as a well-known Australian figure/person as well.

What time to arrive? Arrive around 5:30 to 5:45 and pull your car up to the south entrance of the church. Friendly valets will park your car for you and put your keys in your church mailbox.

Souvenir Photo: A friendly photographer will greet you as you come in the door and take your picture for a souvenir of the evening. Those photos will be in your church mailbox within a week or two of the cruise.

Seating: You will be seated with friends and family around a round table with 8 people. Once you are seated if you want to trade with someone feel free to make that change.

Cost: There is no cost for the boarding passes to cruise night but there will be an opportunity during the intermission time for you to donate toward the catered meal and other expenses the church incurs for this event.

Bon Voyage 'Mates! Let's have a fun night TOGETHER at Cruise Night 2020.

Resource of the Month: Present Over Perfect

Leaving behind frantic for a simpler more soulful way of living By: Shauna Niequist

As she puts it: "A few years ago, I found myself exhausted and isolated, my soul and body sick. I was tired of being tired, burned out on busy. And, it seemed almost everyone I talked with was in the same boat: longing for connection, meaning, depth, but settling for busy...But over the course of the last few years, I've learned a way to live, marked by grace, love, rest, and play. And it's changing everything."

Present Over Perfect is an invitation to this journey that changed my life. I'll walk this path with you, a path away from frantic pushing and proving, and toward your essential self, the one you were created to be before you began proving and earning for your worth. Written in Shauna's warm and vulnerable style, this collection of essays focuses on the most important transformation in her life, and maybe yours too: leaving behind busyness and frantic living and rediscovering the person you were made to be. Present Over Perfect is a hand reaching out, pulling you free from the constant pressure to perform faster, push harder, and produce more, all while maintaining an exhausting image of perfection.



This book can be checked out from our church library. It can be found in the foyer book rack under the book of the month sign.