

Greater *things*

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2020

Together

from Ashley Litwiller, Minister of Worship and Youth

There's a veil over us as children as we connect and interact with church. We only see the good and pretty and fun side of church and it's great! I think it is so helpful for us to grow in one area at a time until we are ready for a bigger picture. When I walked our youth through the Discipleship class a few years ago, we read through what it means to be Church together. They had some real good and tough questions in response to it and it's a great example of the changes that naturally happen as we grow. And I'm so excited about what this next group of children and youth are bringing into the church body.

This weekend, I have the gift of chatting with some of the young adult Mennonites in Illinois about doubt and one session will be on doubt and the church. Last year, there were headlines of abuse in the larger church and declining numbers of church attendance. That can be a huge turn off for some to want to join any church group. We can look from afar and see a picture we don't like and choose to walk away; God gave us free will so that is an option. But it's not the option God wants us to choose or the option that is truly best for us.

At the end of Acts 2, we're given a picture of what the church body was originally intended to be and how they worked together to be the Salt and Light of the Earth. In Matthew 18, we're given guidelines on how to handle disagreements and offences and doing so not as crusaders or prosecutors, but as a brother/sister seeking whole relationship with every member of the family. In Matthew 28, we're given the outreach focus all believers should be working towards. If we go back through the bible, there are times where God's people got off track and times where they were in the groove. But no where in His Word does it say to turn our back on the body of Christ.

It's not always going to be perfect because we are imperfect beings. Our church family's new theme of moving *Forward Together* is such a great focus for us in this time. Let's take the time to band together to move forward into this new decade as a group motivated to forward the Gospel to all corners of our reach. Let us surrender our anxiety of change (because change and Jesus are the only constants I know in this world) and be ready for the work God has set before us.

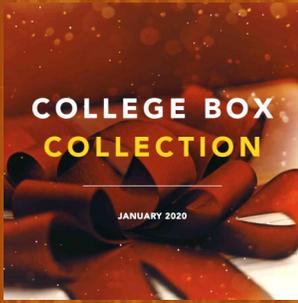
Minister of Administration & Community Life:
Glen Rhodes

Minister of Discipling:
Jeff Marner

AMC
arthur mennonite church

Minister of Outreach:
Lamar Miller

Minister of Worship and Youth:
Ashley Litwiller



This year we have 8 college students. 4 students who live away from home will be getting snack/food boxes and the other 4 who live at home and drive to class will be getting gas cards. Please help us to collect food/snacks and money to bless these college students. A tub will be

in the foyer for the food donations. Monetary donations can be put in Vera Yoder's box with designation for College Care Packages. Donations are due by January 26. This is the most students we have had in a while so the Community Life Commission needs lots of help. Thank you for helping!

We are excited about our upcoming Bi-Annual AMC Cruise Night. This time we are cruising south to the continent of Australia!

The evening will include a catered meal, games, door prizes and some great in house entertainment from various AMC friends. Sign ups for Cruise Night will begin during the month of January. Watch the bulletins for ongoing announcements.



AMC Cruise Night 2020

All AMC adults, youth, and junior high are invited to sign up. Depending on space we may or may not be able to open it up to others. Boarding passes are free but there will be an opportunity to help (donations) with the cost of the meal during the intermission time of the cruise. Sign up today!



AMC Personal Profile: Ervin Yoder

What was your first job?

I was sent to work by my Dad in construction for Amos Miller.

What is one of the happiest memories of your life?

When Amos asked me and Jake Chupp to buy his construction business in 1964 when we operated as C & Y Construction.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

We provided jobs for many, many employees who could then provide for their families.

What are some interesting facts about you?

When faced with closing the business 50 years later, my hair turned white for a month, probably due to dreading telling employees they would no longer have a job. However, we did accomplish turning over or selling each division to each manager and many have continued and expanded today. (OE Schrock, Coach House, CHI, Rueben's Mechanical, Schrock's Drywall.)

What is your favorite meal?

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

What is your best piece of advice?

Do what you enjoy - make it your life's work.

Article 20- Confession of Faith In a Mennonite Perspective

Truth

"We commit ourselves to tell the truth, to give a simple yes or no, and to avoid swearing of oaths.

"Jesus told his disciples not to swear oaths at all, but to let their yes be yes, and their no be no. We believe that this teaching applies to truth telling as well as to avoiding profane language. An oath is often sworn as a guarantee that one is telling the truth. This implies that when one has not taken an oath, one may be less careful about telling the truth., Jesus' followers are always to speak the truth and, in legal matters, simply to affirm that their statements are true.

"Jesus also warned against using oaths to try to compel God to guarantee the future. In faith, we commit our futures to God.

"Throughout history, human governments have asked citizens to swear oaths of allegiance. As Christians, our first allegiance is to God. In baptism we pledged our loyalty to Christ's community, a commitment that takes precedence over obedience to any other social and political communities."

First Fruit Giving *Giving God Our Best*

	Stewardship	Attendance
11/24/19	\$2,017	125
12/1/19	\$4,848	100
12/8/19	\$3,283	109
12/15/19	\$3,788	116
12/22/19	\$12,539	113
12/29/19	\$4,971*	85

*Building Fund